

Centek Radically Reduces Deep Drilling Costs

a report by

David Allen and Cliff Berry

Practical PR and Sales and Marketing Manager, Centek Limited

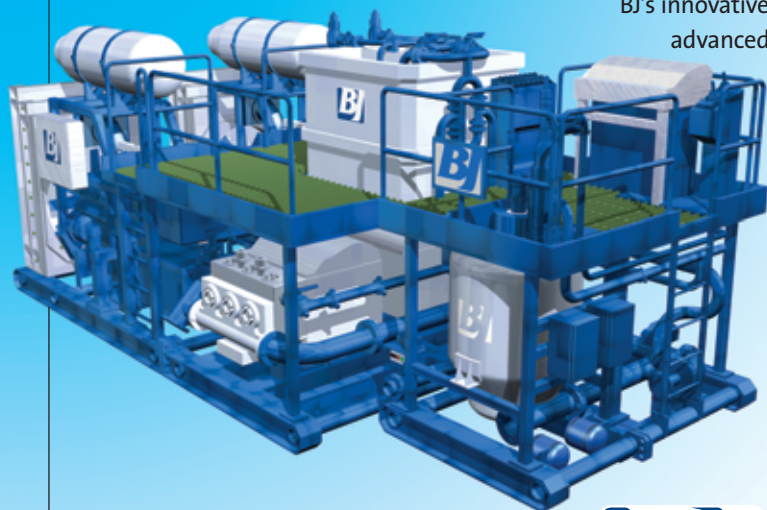
Centek Ltd, the UK-based centraliser manufacturer, together with Protech in the US, has successfully introduced the Centek CT (Close Tolerance) centraliser to operations in the Gulf of Mexico. The Centek CT centraliser system is claimed to bring deepwater drilling operators cost savings of up to two-thirds compared with using centraliser subs. The Centek CT centraliser produces these savings through its robust and flexible single-piece construction, combined with low friction and low drag. A characteristic of deepwater wells is reduced tolerances, as operators must run casing through an existing casing; this means that the centraliser has to be flexible enough to compress fully in order to pass through the close restriction yet, once in the open hole, expand fully back to gauge with no permanent set occurring. The CT centraliser has been successfully trialled over a six-month period in the Gulf of Mexico by BHP Billiton and by Chevron in its Tahiti Project.

"The CT centraliser reduces run-in-hole time because you have less drag as it is pulled into the well and time is further saved by one less make-up," says Cliff Berry, Sales and Marketing Manager at Centek Ltd. "The CT centraliser is important because it brings new technology to the problem of close tolerance centralisation in deepwater operations, producing a cost saving of up to two-thirds when compared with a centraliser sub."

Because of the close tolerances involved, the CT centraliser does not use conventional steel stop collars on the outside of the liner casing. Instead, the end-bands are notched, allowing low-friction, composite limiting blocks to be inserted; this ensures that the centraliser is pulled into the well rather than pushed. As a result, drag is reduced. Centek normally manufactures centralisers from 4mm sheet steel, but to reduce clearances with the CT this can be cut down to as little as 2.5mm. A ring gauge on all fitted components also has to pass over the end-band. Conventional inline centralisers, or centraliser subs, are expensive to produce, mainly because of the cost of threading both pin and box ends. In comparison, the CT centraliser is merely slipped onto the pipe and the limiting blocks attached. The Centek CT centraliser uses Protech Centerform's CRB Carbon Fibre/Ceramic Composite material for the limiting blocks, which are moulded directly to the casing to form a permanent stop that will not slip. This allows the centraliser to be placed at the optimum position on the casing joint to accommodate automated pipe-handling systems, and it is installed in the pipe yard before shipping to the rig. Speedy installation makes for quick turnaround and eliminates the need to maintain expensive stocks of centraliser subs. www.centekltd.com

Seahawk™

New-Generation Cementing Technology.



BJ's innovative modular Seahawk twin cement units combine advanced precision slurry density control with unmatched physical and operational flexibility. The result is a line of high-performance, skid-mounted offshore cementing and well control units that improve reliability for routine and complex cementing operations.

The modular Seahawk design facilitates installation in a range of areal shapes for efficient deck space utilization. Advanced automation and optional higher-horsepower diesel or electrical power units are available.

To put a Seahawk on your rig, call your BJ cementing expert or visit our website.

BJ Services Company



Phone: 713-683-3400

www.bjservices.com

Want more info? Look for this icon on our website.



™Trademark of BJ Services Company ©2007 BJ Services Company. All rights reserved.