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Session 3

Operator Training

Dynamic Positioning Operator Training : Abstract

By: Greg Navarre
Global Marine (Houston)

Session Planner

Greg Navarre *Global Marine (Houston)*

Abstract**DYNAMIC POSITION OPERATOR TRAINING**

Dynamic Positioning, since its inception as a technique in the 1960's, has undergone continual technological evolution. Formal training schools have been in existence since the 1970's and as with the systems themselves, have undergone similar evolution to meet the needs of today's operating requirements.

The downturn in offshore activity in the late 1980's caused a lull in construction of DP vessels and the loss of some very capable people to other industries. A significant number of those individuals are permanently lost to the offshore industry are no longer available to operate today's new systems. The current flurry of activity, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico, along with the sustained growth in Brazilian waters has spread the remaining expertise thin and created a demand for the training of new operators.

There are vessel owners building and contracting dynamically positioned vessels for the first time in their history. With little or no in-house expertise in actual operations and at the same time committed to delivering flawless operations, they must train a new cadre of DP operators and supplement the staff with a group of seasoned experts, trained on their competitors hulls. The experienced D.P. vessel owners are experiencing a loss of some of their best operators to the new owners.

A key group of new and experienced D.P. vessels owners, equipment suppliers and end users (vessel clients), conscious to the realities of today, saw a need for additional training tools and a heightened awareness of DP systems. The group became the MTS Training Sub Committee. Their work is detailed in this report and is available for use by the DP industry.

The vision of the group was to develop a new training syllabus that would meet regulatory guidelines and encompass current knowledge of modern DP systems, include a significant expansion of the topics addressing drilling operations, pipe laying operations, diving operations and crisis management. The MTS approved syllabus will be used by vessel owners, operators, charterers and equipment suppliers as a guideline for enhancing existing curriculums at approved facilities and accreditation of new facilities. The syllabus will also serve as a guideline for those vessel owners that chose to supplement post training school experiences with continued training on the specific vessel or for those companies that will continue to rely on a complete in-house training program. The committee was careful to include topics previously taught by certain owners, at their in-house programs, to ensure that new syllabus met the requirement of those select companies that had not previously relied on industrial training facilities