

DP Conversion of Existing Drilling Semi-Submersibles

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Abstract

This paper is intended to present the novel “DP Add-On” concept allowing dynamical positioning upgrade of any existing two-pontoon drilling semi-submersible to meet IMO DP Class 3 regulations, with focus on cost and schedule control.

The evolution of this concept has been matured through the experience gained in connection with deep-water DP-upgrade of “Petrobras 23”, as well as other previous conversions GVAC have been involved in. The conversion of the “Petrobras 23” to a dynamical positioned drilling unit for operation in water-depths up to 6,300 feet is briefly presented.

It should be noted, that the drilling industry has seen limited number of DP-upgrade of existing MODU’s. However, due to the increased requirements for deepwater drilling units, there is an increasing interest within the industry for deep-water DP-upgrades.

The “DP Add-On” concept proposed for a typical Aker H3 or Pacesetter Semi-submersible is shown and results of engineering work performed so far is presented. The cost difference between DP Class 3 and DP Class 2 is discussed.

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