

**Title: Crossing the Salt Barrier by Using a Reliable DP Vessel**

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***Abstract***

In 2007, Petrobras made one of the most important discoveries in its history: a mega oil bed in the Tupi area, off the Southeastern coast of Brazil. To get there, a salt barrier that is two kilometers thick needs to be crossed. The exploration equipment needs special care because the salt formation becomes pasty at high temperature. This huge challenge makes a Dynamically Positioned vessel the right tool to be used by Petrobras at that field although the risk of losing position, either through a blackout situation or due to a system failure that brings it the fame of “intrinsically unsafe”. The purpose of this work is to describe the trials techniques that Petrobras DPPS carries out as part of its safety program to increase the *reliability* of DP vessel operations and, as a consequence, to reduce the number of *incidents* especially in *critical* locations. Also, the presentation will highlight the importance of carrying out acceptance and annual trials to get the expected results.

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