Acteon Group Ltd
Ferryside, Ferry Road
Norwich, Norfolk NR1 1SW, UK

T: +44 1603 774 174
F: +44 1603 774 175
W: www.acteon.com

Registered in England No. 4231212

Press release

For immediate release: 12 February 2009

Acteon companies scoop innovation award

Acteon companies 2H Offshore, Claxton and Subsea Riser Products (SRP) have won a prestigious innovation award for their collective work on the world's first high-pressure, high-temperature, full-bore, drilling riser system for Venture Production plc.

The award, presented by the East of England Energy Group (EEEgr), saw the Acteon companies succeeding over seven other contenders with diverse technologies.

The new riser, born from aligning the unique experience found within Acteon companies, uses shrink-fit flange technology to negate the issues inherent in working with high-pressure, high-temperature grade materials.

Using a weldable grade of steel such as 65 ksi would require a pipe wall thickness of around 75mm; welding pipe this thick is extremely difficult. Welding is not the only difficulty: the weight of a complete riser string of this thickness would be enormous. Going to a high-strength steel would reduce the wall thickness and the weight, but would make welding impossible.

The shrink-fit process allows the flanges to be attached without welding by using induction heating coils. These heat the flange body, enabling the pipe to be stabbed into it, before it is cooled.

Venture plan to use the innovative riser for a high temperature, high-pressure drilling programme in 120 m of water. This means the riser will have up to 13 main sections (not including stress and tension joints), each 9 metres long, connected by bolted flanges. The question in this case was how to attach the flanges to the pipes.

The award was collected by Laura Claxton, managing director, Claxton, who praised the passion and commitment of the inter-company team that worked on the riser with Venture, and thanked EEEgr for its ongoing support of the energy industry in the eastern region.

For more information please contact
Paul Alcock, Acteon Group Ltd, Vice President
T: +44 (0)1603 227 012
F: +44 (0)1603 774 175

Acteon provides the international offshore oil industry with specialised engineering services focused on linking subsea services. Acteon companies are 2H Offshore, Aquatic, CAPE Group Ltd, ChainCo, Claxton Engineering Services Ltd, Conductor Installation Services Ltd (CIS), Fluke Engenharia Ltda, InterAct PMTI, InterMoor, International Mooring Systems

(IMS), Large Diameter Drilling (LDD), Mirage Machines Ltd, MENCK GmbH, Seatronics Ltd, Subsea Riser Products (SRP), TEAM Energy Resources Ltd, and Trident Offshore Ltd.

2H Offshore, an Acteon company, specialises in the analysis, design, procurement and integrity monitoring of complex marine riser systems. The company is established at the leading edge of technology for deepwater developments, where risers are subjected to complex loading conditions and operating regimes, and has pioneered response-monitoring techniques aimed at enhancing riser performance.

Claxton, an Acteon company, is the leading supplier of engineering and services for shallow water, jackup depth markets. The company draws on over two decades of industry experience to provide services for well systems, structures and pipelines across the lifetime of a field – from pre-drilling to drilling, production and decommissioning. Claxton provides first-class tailored engineering and holds a large “on-call” rental inventory. A hallmark of Claxton is the responsive service that, alongside numerous field-proven innovations, has built the company an enviable reputation.

Subsea Riser Products (SRP), an Acteon company, designs and delivers offshore riser products for critical drilling and production applications. Its range of specialist products provides significant advantages, including reduced overall cost, improved levels of performance, reliability and project-enabling delivery scheduling. Through its core strengths of innovative mechanical design and high-performance materials, together with advanced manufacturing methods, the company delivers optimum value-for-money products that yield enhanced system integrity.