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The Largest Barge Drilling Unit in Gulf of Mexico Nearing Completion

Source: Coastal Drilling

Coastal Drilling announces that Rig 22, a 3000 HP posted barge, is nearing its completion in the SEMCO Shipyard. Coastal Rig 22 will be leaving the SEMCO Shipyard after 17 months of construction. The undertaking of building this rig has been quite a feat for Coastal Management and the engineers at SEMCO. The drilling rig is the largest posted barge rig built in many years. Rig 22, as Coastal Rig 21, were built targeting the "Deep Gas" prospects.

Rig 22 boasts a 2 million pound mast and will be able to drill to a depth of 35,000 feet utilizing 5-1/2 inch drill pipe. Drilling to these depths creates other issues that have to be addressed in a drilling rig such as the mud system. Rig 22 has a 2,200 barrel mud capacity, 5 King Cobra linear motion shakers, and will be able to process 2,500 GPM. Rig 22 has 3- 1,600 HP mud pumps with 7,500 PSI fluid ends. All high pressure piping is 7,500 PSI, except the choke manifold that is 15,000 PSI. Rig 22 will also be utilizing a 750 Ton Canrig Top Drive, 47 ½ in rotary, and a National Iron Rough Neck. Instrumentation and drillers house were designed and equipped by Petron Industries with the latest in monitoring equipment. Crew capacity for Rig 22 is 60 people. The hull size is 250 feet long by 70 feet wide and a hull depth of 18 feet. The depth of the hull coupled with 10 feet of post, enables this rig to work in depths offshore up to 26 feet.

Coastal Drilling Management, in understanding the need of the customer, has added a cementing unit to Coastal Rig 22. BJ Services, a major provider of cementing services, brought their expertise and knowledge to the table. In the transition zone of the Gulf of Mexico, this will enable the operator to save hundreds of thousands of dollars in weather time alone. Rig 22 has 3,600 cubic feet of cement storage and BJ is providing the RAM, a DC drive double pump skid. BJ Services will also have a cementer staying on the rig at all times.

Mr. Chris McClanahan, President, said, "Congratulations to Coastal Drilling Manager, JR Lofton, and SEMCO Shipyards for a job well done. This project will add great value to our industry and bring more New Iron into the aging fleet of drilling rigs."

Noteworthy to announce is that MMS (Minerals Management Services) personnel have toured Rig 22 while in the SEMCO Shipyard. They were pleased to see new iron coming to work and mentioned that Coastal was the first inland barge driller to invite them to inspect their rig. Coastal Drilling has shown they are willing to go the extra mile to provide the best of equipment and comply with the governing bodies of the Gulf of Mexico. Rig 22 will be working the transition zone of the Gulf of Mexico.

Coastal Drilling Company will have 3 drilling barge rigs in the coastal areas of Louisiana and Texas. Rig 20, a 1,500 HP drilling rig, was the first rig built, and is currently working for PPI and Helis Oil and Gas Company, LLC. Rig 21, a 3,000 HP drilling rig, is currently drilling for Nexen USA in the Freshwater City area of Vermillion Parish. Rig 22 will be working for McMoRan Exploration along with Chalmers, Collins, and Alwell (CCA) as the consulting company.

Coastal Drilling Company is based in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Louisiana field office is in New Iberia, Louisiana. The company operates 5 land rigs in South Texas and 3 barge rigs working the inland and offshore waters of Louisiana. A sixth rig, a 2,000 HP land unit, has been added to the land fleet and is working for Meridian Resources in East Texas.