Performance Drilling Ltd was founded in 1992 in Aberdeen, Scotland, with the objective of providing quality project management to the industry for drilling, completion and workover activities. To maintain the targeted quality of service and results, Performance Drilling has limited its growth over the years.

Initial work included management of Unocal UK’s first HPHT well in the North Sea in 1992, followed by design, planning and supervision of Lofland Nabors’ first integrated services incentive well in the UK for Shell on the Brent Charlie Platform in 1993. Additional work followed with UK Operators Phillips, Hamilton Brothers, Texaco, and Chevron, as well as integrated services providers Santa Fe Drilling and EDS (Dresser/Baroid), requiring growth of the company which was controlled through careful selection of quality professionals.

Performance Drilling was selected in mid-1993 to provide leadership and supervision for NAM’s (Shell Netherlands) well construction partnering initiative (GO Project). Initial activity was a continuous 2-rig campaign, increasing to 4 rigs in 1994 (all of NAM’s activities Offshore Netherlands). Responsibilities included the complete well construction process from design, permitting, planning, programming, execution and wrap-up. In addition to the Performance Drilling Management, Engineering and Supervisory team, other team professionals were provided by Shell and the service providers, reporting to the Performance Drilling management team. The project lasted 6 yrs, through mid-1999, when NAM’s offshore rig activity ceased.

Following the NAM ‘GO’ Project, the core of the Performance Drilling team was retained and placed in multiple locations with several clients, including Chevron UK, Odebrecht (London and Rio), Danop (Denmark), Shell (Lowestoft and Brunei), Texaco USA, BHP UK, Ecumed Tunisia, and Delta Oil (Kazakhstan), among others.

In 2001, a small Performance Drilling team carried out front-end engineering, followed by design, planning and execution of Chevron UK’s Alba Extreme South (AXS) 8-well Subsea Development project. Other Chevron projects supervised by the team during this period included planning and execution of a deep water well in Norway and one West of Shetland, as well as extended reach planning and supervision for wells on the Alba North Platform.

In 2003, Performance Drilling was selected to provide drilling project management, engineering and supervision for Apache North Sea’s further development of the Forties Field, including platform and mobile rig drilling, completion and workover operations, as well as exploration and appraisal drilling. The Performance Drilling management team was phased out in late-2005 and early-2006, after participation in the recruitment and development of a staff drilling team, although some key positions remain filled by Performance Drilling personnel.

Following the Apache Forties project, Performance Drilling has provided full Project Management and Operations teams to Perenco UK, Newfield UK, and Centrica for Central and Southern North Sea exploration, appraisal and development wells, as well as provision of drilling professionals and ad hoc consulting support to other clients including ConocoPhillips, Denerco, Mosaic, Herbert Smith, Island Oil and Gas, Granby, Petro Summit, and Century.

Performance Drilling clients number over 35 worldwide since 1992. Activities have ranged from full project management, to provision of engineers and rigsite supervisors, to preparation of ad hoc engineering projects, to project oversight, advice and support. In addition to the North Sea, work has been carried out for clients in South America, USA Gulf Coast, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

Performance Drilling’s professional pool has generally numbered 10 to 15 personnel at any time, and the company has successfully maintained control on the quality of service provided through careful selection and development of professionals, effective sharing of the professional pool’s knowledge and experience among projects, and resistance to uncontrolled growth. You can be confident that Performance Drilling will deliver top quality, fit-for-purpose solutions to your project management, engineering and supervisory needs.

Brad Hatcher
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