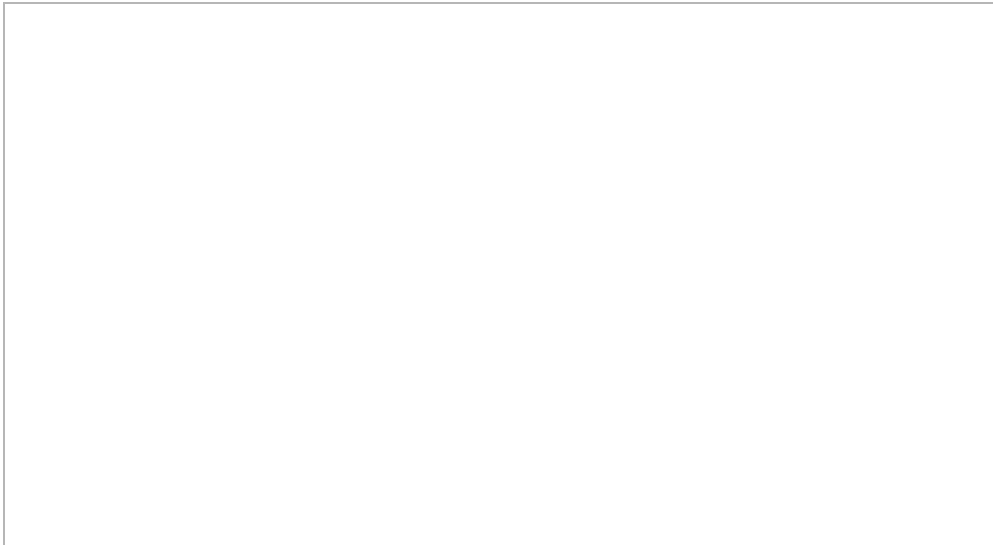


LLOG pledges Delta House floater



Keeping the party going: LLOG to add a second production floater to its Gulf fraternity

Blake Wright, 02 May 2012 14:37 GMT

US independent LLOG Exploration will be adding a second Exmar-designed Opti deep-draft semi-submersible production system in the Gulf of Mexico imminently, where it is moving to develop its 'Animal House'-themed discoveries in the Mississippi Canyon area.

The new floater is expected to be larger than the previous, now producing, Who Dat facility, and will likely be based on Exmar's new Opti 11,000 hull form. An official announcement regarding the design and construction contract is expected as soon as next week.

LLOG chief executive Scott Gutterman confirmed to Upstream on the sidelines of the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston this week that the second Opti facility was coming and that the company was looking at "one or two" places in the deep-water Gulf to deploy the new unit, but stopped short of naming the exact location.

LLOG vice president of deep-water projects Rick Fowler told Upstream that if you tracked the recent locations of its contracted deep-water rig – semi-submersible Noble Amos Runner – you would have a "pretty good idea" about the development target.

The Amos Runner currently is drilling ahead on the Marmalard prospect in Mississippi Canyon Block 300. Prior to mobilising there in March, the rig was drilling a nearby prospect dubbed SOB II in Mississippi Canyon Block 431. The well reached total depth, but no results were released.

Sources indicate that the well was successful and that fact significantly de-risked the Marmalard well, as well as another adjacent prospect – Neidermeyer – to the west. The success gave LLOG the confidence to go-ahead with the construction of a second Opti.

The Marmalard prospect was named after character Greg Marmalard, the snooty, privileged leader of the Omega Theta Pi fraternity at fictitious Faber College in the classic 1978 comedy movie Animal House.

Neidermeyer was named for character Douglas C Neidermeyer, the equally-privileged, militaristic sergeant-at-arms of the college student council. A probe at Neidermeyer is expected to spud in the first half of 2013.

Taking the Animal House theme a step further, LLOG is understood to be calling the new Opti host facility 'Delta House', after the Delta Tau Chi fraternity in the movie, which was populated with misfits, hard partiers and other social outcasts.