

Gripping News



A regular quarterly newsletter
Informing and Entertaining !

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Visitors to our manufacturing plant this year will have been impressed by both the amount and the size of the equipment going through final stages of assembly and testing. So far this year we have already shipped a major Load Out and Recovery system and separately, major subassemblies for the deck equipment for the USAN FPSO mooring system. And our engineers and quality control experts have also been conducting similar testing and checking at sub-contractors in USA and around the world - in Korea, Norway, Germany, Canada and Italy. In equipment terms, this represents electrical and diesel powered HPUs, gripper jacks, turndown sheaves, overhead crane handling systems, auxiliary and main winches and control and motor starter panels. It has been a very busy first quarter but with new orders received in the last quarter of 2009 and this year to date, happily Bardex is going to stay very active for the rest of this year.

2010 Exhibitions



We will be exhibiting at the OTC at the Reliant Park in Houston, 3rd – 6th May and this year will man our Booth with Sales staff from Goleta, Houston and UK office locations. Staff from our Design Engineering and Field Service Support Departments will also be able to discuss in-depth design, operational and maintenance queries - so please call by and visit us on Booth 2963 – we'll be very pleased to meet you.



There is something of an upsurge in offshore activity in the UK and Norwegian Continental Shelf this year compared with 2009 and so we hope and expect to see high attendance at ONS in Stavanger, 23-27th August where we will be exhibiting in the USA Pavilion.

New Posters:



Each year we try to compose one or two new posters for display at exhibitions underlining our pre-eminence in a particular product line. Both last year and this year we are specifically featuring our chain jack and BarLatch™ fairlead stopper mooring systems.

Bardex invented the chain jack technology that is now in everyday use in the offshore oil and gas industry around the world. Our chain jacks were first used in the 1960's in Bardex shiplifts but it was not until the 1990's that we transferred this technology to, and it was adopted by, the oil/gas industry.

This particularly dramatic photograph, by courtesy of BP, was taken from near the end of a pedestal crane boom on the Thunder Horse production and drilling semi submersible. In poster format of 1189 x 841 mm, you can clearly see the cluster of four Bardex chain jacks at the top of the nearest hull column.

Our main article, overleaf, is illustrated by a new poster this year, which shows our BarLatch™ fairlead stoppers installed on the USAN FPSO.

BarLatch™ fairlead stoppers:

Bardex invented the fairlead stopper concept – a revolutionary device that combines aspects of conventional underwater swivelling fairleads with fixed chainstoppers.

The BarLatch™ fairlead stopper is a Bardex proprietary and patented product which provides two degrees of freedom to a chainstopper mounted on a torque arm outboard of a swivelling fairlead. When the vessel is moored, as it rides the sea and waves, relative motion between chain and vessel is taken up by vertical and horizontal bearings and not through the chain links themselves.

The poster (right) shows a cluster of four BarLatch™ fairlead stoppers, sized for reacting the full 17,347 kN MBL of 147 mm R3S studless chain, mounted to the hull of Operator Total's USAN FPSO.

Bardex products are custom-designed so that for all BarLatch™ fairlead stopper applications, we are able to take account of customer's wear and fatigue cycle requirements in the final geometry of the fairlead stopper. Together with the use of low coefficient of drag bearing materials, our design minimises relative inter-link chain movement and destructive out-of-plane bending of the chain links.



The photo at left, shows the USAN FPSO, which is 320 m long x 61 m wide, currently under construction at the Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) yard in South Korea.

In operation, USAN will have storage for 2 MMbbls of oil and is expected to produce up to 180,000 bbls/d of oil and 5 MMcm/d of natural gas.

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For past issues of *Gripping News* please look under "news" on our website at www.bardex.com

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