

The general economic slowdown that has affected many countries, particularly in the West, has also impacted the oil/gas industry particularly in land drilling and associated operations. Even so, this year's Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston in May was very busy with exhibition organisers announcing that total attendance reached 72,900. We had many visitors to our Booth which occupied a prominent position near the centre of the main exhibition hall.

Fortunately for Bardex our particular product mix is aimed at upstream offshore activity and has fitted in well with present industry demands - we had a record year in 2009 and look set for another record year in 2010. We are quoting several major projects as well as a number of upgrade jobs, at least some of which we expect to go forward in the next few months.

The tragic events due to the Macondo blowout is, in the short term, expected to slow deepwater development in the Gulf of Mexico and to a lesser extent, around the world, but in the longer term, companies like Bardex which have a reputation for excellence will benefit from the more rigorous equipment selection procedures that vessel and end-users will need to assure high quality, safe and dependable operation.

2010 Exhibitions



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.



We will be attending the Rio Oil show 13th – 16th September for the second year running where we will be based at the Gaia Booth in Pavilion 4, near the Petrobras Booth. Gaia is our Sales Representative for Brazil.

New Orders:

We have received an order for a pair of piston gripper jacks which are to replace a smaller pair of Bardex hose gripper jacks that were first installed in 1975 and which have been continually in service ever since. It is a great commendation of our robust design and quality that Bardex equipment can be operated for so long, in such a harsh environment as the North Sea and over such a long time.

Customers who operate in the offshore environment understand the need for reliable and dependable operation – that is why in the North Sea, for example, out of about 100 fixed drilling/wellhead platform rigs in UK and Norwegian sectors, Bardex has installed its skidding systems on more than 70.

The photo, at right, shows a drilling/wellhead platform operating in the UK sector of the North Sea.



But it is not just Bardex gripper jacks that have a long service life – see the article about our Support Services Group overleaf.

Bardex – Support Services Group:

Good after-sales and use of genuine Bardex spare parts is always important. Equipment needs to be maintained and a good Preventative Maintenance (“PM”) programme improves operational reliability and puts the customer fully in control.

Bardex is pleased to offer customers a full support programme right from installation and commissioning supervision of new equipment, to a PM programme custom-designed to their particular application and which can encompass recommended spare parts stock levels to be held on site, regular inspections, operation and maintenance training programmes, etc. all of which provide enhanced dependability and longevity.

Some Bardex rig skidding equipment has been in continuous operation for over 35 years. Recently our Support Services carried out a survey on a Bardex shiplift which had been supplied over 25 years ago.

In June our engineers carried out field service supervisory visits at several shipyards around the world – in the Gulf of Mexico, Northern Russia and the Philippines. Still, it is very rare for all field service engineers to be away on jobs at the same time. When in the Goleta headquarters office, our engineers provide telephone assistance and additional support to our spare parts proposals staff.

All of our field service engineers are fully qualified professionals and all carry current Bosiet, Huet and other offshore duty safety certificates. They have a great enthusiasm for their job – Support Services Group Manager, Porter Spencer, explained it very well by saying of his group that there’s great satisfaction knowing “We solve customer’s problems. Customers like our fast turnaround times, it is not normally more than a few days from the call-out to when our engineer arrives on site. Customers really appreciate knowing there is someone to call who can reliably solve their problems”.



BARDEX CORPORATION

Bardex is renowned for its dependable and reliable heavy load handling systems and equipment.

Worldwide, Bardex provides spare parts, field services and engineering support through the operational lifetime of all its equipment.

Systems installed over 30 years ago are still in regular operation today.



Our Support Service team will provide:

Spare Parts:

- Prompt and efficient review of requirements
- Form-function-fit substitutes for obsolete parts
- Quick quotations
- Efficient and fast order processing and delivery

Field Service Engineering:

- Onshore / Offshore installation, start-up and commissioning
- Operator Training
- Inspection, troubleshooting and repair

Planned and Preventative Maintenance:

- Tailor individual programmes to meet customer needs
- Perform regular inspections
- Identify wearing parts and arrange repair/replacement

Our field service engineers are fully qualified engineers well versed in mechanical and hydraulic engineering and in the electrical and PLC systems used by Bardex..

BARDEX SUPPORT SERVICES

1	13	DWG-100727-6	WIPER
1	12	DWG-100727-5	ROD SEAL
1	11	DWG-100727-4	PISTON SEAL
1	10	DWG-100727-3	BACK-UP RING
1	9	DWG-100727-2	O-RING
1	8	DWG-100727	SEAL KIT
2	7	DWG-100726	ROD BEARING
6			

Editor: Stephen G. F. Jones (sjones@bardex.com)

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

For any information about Bardex, or if you have any comments you’d like to share with us, please contact us at one of these addresses:

Bardex Corporation,
8203 Willow Place Drive South,
Suite 560,
Houston,
Texas 77070,
Tel: +1-832-912-8300
Email: lreed@bardex.com

Bardex Corporation,
6338 Lindmar Drive,
Goleta,
California 93117,
USA
Tel: +1-805-964-7747
Email: alanglois@bardex.com

Bardex (UK) Ltd.,
5 Buckingham Place,
Bellfield Road,
High Wycombe,
Bucks, HP13 5HW
UK
Tel: +44-1494-464138
Email: sjones@bardex.com