

offshore bits

Bourbon's GPA-Designed Offshore Fleet



By the end of 2008, the Bourbon Liberty 112 and Bourbon Liberty 201 are expected to be delivered at Dayang Shipyard in China. The Bourbon Liberty 201 is the first of the 54-vessel 254L AHTS series and the Bourbon Liberty 112 is the twelfth of the 22-vessel 654M Liberty Class PSV series, both designed by the Seattle based naval architectural and marine engineering firm, Guido Perla & Associates, Inc. (GPA). The designation of these vessels as the Liberty Class was inspired by the Liberty Ships of World War II. Like Bourbon's Liberty Class vessels, the Liberty Ships were of a completely standardized design, built in record time, facilitating the construction of 2,710 Liberties within four years. Rapid replacement of obsolete offshore vessels is required to meet the increasing demand for oil worldwide. Responding to this global need Bourbon has invested in large numbers of next-generation vessels and will be operating the most up-to-date fleet worldwide. Bourbon's modern fleet consists primarily of GPA designed vessels, such as the Bourbon Liberty 100 (PSV) and Bourbon Liberty 200 (AHTS) series. Bourbon currently has in operation or under construction more than 100 GPA designed vessels, including PSVs, AHTS vessels, IMR vessels, and ROV-capable vessels. GPA's simplified construction methods, including proven single-curvature hull forms and additional advantageous structural arrangements, enable shipyards to build more vessels in less time in a cost-efficient manner. GPA's offshore designs, including the 58-m GPA 654M PSV, are designed with space optimization in mind. As a result of locating the engine room above the main deck, cargo space is 30% greater. The GPA 654M PSV is capable of carrying 222 cubic yards of dry bulk, 171,000 gallons liquid mud, 142,000 gallons fuel oil, 108,300 gallons drill water and 102,000 gallons fresh water. The oval tank design for liquid products, coupled with a faster and automated cleaning system enables optimized loading and transfer operations.

Offshore Inland Receives Praise for Crane Project

Offshore Inland Marine & Oilfield Services, Inc. (OIM&O) recently installed two new Seatrax S5624 cranes on Atwood Oceanic's Seahawk while the oil rig continued its deep-water well operations off West Africa. A rotating OIM&O team of eight technicians and supervisors were transported to the Seahawk and remained onboard to install the cranes over a period of about ten weeks. OIM&O completed the change out of the port and starboard cranes on the Atwood Seahawk with no lost time incidents and no disruption to the ongoing well program on Foxtrot. Jamie Ressler, Drilling & Completions Manager, West Africa, at Atwood Oceanic, wrote a letter to the OIM&O team congratulating them on an extraordinary achievement. "To the best of my knowledge" he stated, "no rig contractor / operator partnership has ever even considered such an undertaking."

In his letter he went on to explain that the crane change out would have been a significant body of work in a shipyard. The fact that the work was done in the field during rig operations without incident or disruptions

was exceptional. "I know of zero examples where such a significant scope of work was conducted in the field while conducting well operations," he wrote.

Ressler said he was onboard the Seahawk twice while the crane installation was being conducted. "In the living quarters, in safety meetings, in JSAs I could not distinguish crane guys from rig guys. There was complete transparency in terms of STOP cards and lending a hand to whoever needed it."

"The rig guys who had been on the rig for years took the crane guys on as Seahawk team members from day one. The new guys embraced the Seahawk's culture and processes from day one." Officially established in 2000 and based in Mobile, Alabama, OIM&O is an independent company offering a range of services such as heavy steel fabrication, high-pressure pipe systems, crane installations, mechanical repairs, plant shut down projects, emergency marine and offshore repair jobs, as well as large and small topside drilling and marine conversion projects.

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