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Keith Grimes, CEO

Hello Friends,

March brought us another month of slow but steady placement growth at Hamilton which I think mirrored what is happening in the upstream market that we play in. It appears that we will see this trend continue into April. But after that we still see a lot of uncertainty due to the continuing precariousness of the natural gas market. Already prices have slid as we have come to the end of the withdrawal season. We're still bullish on gas for the long term and we're hoping we can get through the short term without too much trouble.

Our moves to extend our company both in terms of capability (Hamilton E&P Technology Group) and globally are going well. I will talk more about that in upcoming letters and press releases.

In the meantime, we're still committed to finding people work and providing clients the best solution possible for their technical needs.

Thanks and talk to you next month!

Keith Grimes

Next Generation Continuous Circulation System

[Managed Pressure Operations](#) (MPO) has developed the [Non Stop Driller](#)[®] (NSD[®]) system, to allow continuous circulation with the rig pumps while making or breaking drill pipe connections. The NSD[®] system consists of a ball valve and a custom designed high-pressure side entry connection valve, housed in a sub. Full rig pump circulation is maintained throughout the drill pipe connection by circulating into the side entry valve, via a manifold interfaced with the rig standpipe manifold, and a hose and quick connector. The ball valve is closed, and pressure bled off above it, allowing the drill pipe connection to be made, while full circulation continues via the side entry valve. The rig pumps are never stopped, or slowed down. The system can be run as either subs which are made up to the top of each stand required to drill a section, prior to drilling out the casing shoe, or can be installed in the box end connections of modified joints of drill pipe. The NSD[®] system can be installed in subs to fit any tubular size and connection, or any type and size of drill pipe box end connection, from 3 ½" OD and above. The NSD[®] system provides full bore internal drill string access.

NSD[®] is a more cost effective, reliable, effective and safer alternative to other commercially available continuous circulating systems. A custom designed connector is used to connect to the side entry valve, which does not use hammer union connections, and has an intrinsically safe locking system. The system is rated to 10,000 psi at drilling rates of up to 600 gpm, with 15,000 psi and 1200 gpm subs under development.

Maintaining constant Bottom Hole Pressure while drilling reduces the risk of kicks and hole collapse on connections. The NSD[®] system prevents well bore ballooning & connection gas while drilling HPHT and Deep Water wells, saving considerable rig time and improving safety. Maintaining circulation during connections improves hole cleaning and mitigates stuck pipe incidents, enabling the effective drilling of Extended Reach wells. NSD[®] reduces connection time for all drilling scenarios especially for Air, Foam, Underbalanced and Managed Pressure Drilling.

The NSD[®] system has been successfully used on 2 foam drilled wells on a project on Papua New Guinea. 30 successful NSD connections were made on the second well, completed in January 2010. Connection times were reduced from 45 minutes to 10 minutes, and no stuck pipe incidents were recorded.

“NSD[®] reduces connection time for all drilling scenarios especially for Air, Foam, Underbalanced and Managed Pressure Drilling.”

Just Something Fun: Claude Thorp

There is no better time than late March and early April, even though it starts strong with St. Patrick's Day and dismally ends with IRS Day. I love those wonderful, low-humidity spring days, the Masters, Easter season, March Madness, my birthday, the beginning of the baseball season, and my personal favorite, April Fools Day.

I'm no better a prankster than I'm a golfer, just a bogey player thinking he can be much better while admiring the pros and the accomplished amateurs. I'm especially fond of the professional pranksters of earlier generations.

In 1957, the respected BBC news show *Panorama* announced that thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in. Many called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC diplomatically replied, "Place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best." www.museumofhoaxes.com

In 1998, Burger King published a full page advertisement in *USA Today* announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a "Left-Handed Whopper" specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger patty, etc.), but all the condiments were rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of their left-handed customers. The following day Burger King issued a follow-up release revealing that although the Left-Handed Whopper was a hoax, thousands of customers had gone into restaurants to request the new sandwich. Simultaneously, according to the press release, "many others requested their own 'right handed' version." www.museumofhoaxes.com

My all-time favorite found me as the "prankee" rather than the prankster. My wife and I had just purchased our first salt water aquarium and we had been well warned about the possibility the following; 1. The electricity goes out, 2. The filter tube starts suctioning water back into the filter tank, and 3. If the filter tube is too low, then the filter tank fills and water spills all over your carpet!! My father-in-law was staying at our house and I had already played my amateurish prank of the day to little fanfare. I was busy going about my business day when my wife left me the following message on my voicemail: "Honey, you were on the phone but Dad called and the electricity is off at the apartment and he is afraid the tank is going to overflow, but doesn't know what to do. I can't do anything as I'm across town at a client's office." Trusting my wife, rather than being suspicious (which should have gotten me major brownie points), I ran out of the office, drove to the house, ran through the front door, and dropped straight to my knees by the fish tank and began patting the floor to check for water. I was beginning to seriously dislike my father-in-law for sitting in my recliner and doing absolutely NOTHING, when I realized the electricity was on, the floor was dry, and my father-in-law was looking at me as if I was one of Jack Nicholson's buddies in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest".

"Place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

Events of Interest

Offshore Technology Conference

May 3 – 6, 2010
Reliant Park
Houston, TX

Shale Gas Completion, Fracturing, and Production Course

May 11, 2010
Houston SPE Office
Houston, Texas

Hamilton's wide range of service offerings comes from the combination of three companies:

Hamilton Engineering Inc. (Houston, TX), founded in 1976 by Lacy Hamilton, specializes in providing consultants for the planning and supervision of petroleum related drilling, completion, and well workovers in nearly every oil producing state in the United States and over twenty foreign countries.

Petroleum Engineers Inc. (Lafayette, LA & Houston, TX), founded in 1970 by Don E. Claxton, Alvin Bellaire, Jr. and C. F. "Skip" Kimball III, specializes in providing the upstream industry with drilling and completion project management services as well as professional engineers, well site supervisors and technical services at a moments notice, worldwide.

Atlantis E&P Services Inc. (Houston, TX), founded in 2001 by Terry Clark, specializes in providing experienced reservoir and geoscience consultants with backgrounds in conventional and unconventional reservoirs in both domestic and international settings.

In addition to the services provided by these three companies, our companies have recently added drilling fluids management, IT, real-time data and full-time placement services.

Offices

Houston, TX

3 Riverway
Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056

Main 713.956.0956
Fax 713.956.0365

Lafayette, LA

500 Dover Blvd.
Suite 310
Lafayette, LA 70503

Main 337.984.2603
Fax 337.984.0854

Email Us

Hamilton Engineering

[Clyde F. Neely](#)

Petroleum Engineers

[Al Bellaire](#)

[John Talbot](#)

Atlantis E&P Services

[Claude W. Thorp Sr.](#)

Hamilton Group Management

[Keith Grimes – CEO](#)

[Ken Thomas – CFO](#)

[Chuck Brown - President](#)

Hamilton Group Recruiting

[Kris LaBlue](#)

[Mahlon LeBlanc](#)

[Hunter Sandridge](#)