

SPEECH POINTERS BY MR MICHAEL J. DOWDY, VICE PRESIDENT ENGINEERING OF ROWAN COMPANIES, INC. AT THE CHRISTENING CEREMONY OF ROWAN VIKING AT KEPPEL FELS ON SATURDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2010, 10AM

A project of this magnitude obviously requires the hard work of many individuals to reach fruition. From the engineering drawing board to the cutting room floor to final outfitting at quayside, many, many people have put their heart and soul into the design and construction of this rig. They have done an incredible job and we appreciate all of their hard work.

This vision started with Mr Bjarne Skeie and we thank him for having the fortitude to see it into reality. When Rowan saw an opportunity to acquire these harsh environment, North Sea class rigs, designed to the latest requirements of the Norwegian petroleum authorities, Matt Ralls, David Russell and Rowan's management team seized the opportunity.

But the vision and strategic maneuvers of our senior management would be fruitless without the tremendous effort and dedication of the people here in Singapore, Norway and Houston, that executed the plan.

To Keppel FELS, I want to first thank senior management who set the bar high and focus so hard on delivery a quality project – safely, professionally, on time and on budget. This culture starts at the top and it is evident throughout your organisation. In a short time, I've come to appreciate the passion and dedication with which the members of your team approach their jobs.

Keppel FELS has had an outstanding safety record during the construction of the Rowan Viking – over 6.7 million man-hours without a lost time incident. I cannot stress enough how important that is to Rowan as we have an unwavering commitment to safety and strive to achieve an injury-free work environment. We are very proud to see that Keppel FELS is also committed to safe work practices.

This huge machine is the first of Keppel's N-Class design – a harsh environment, high-spec jackup, and we are proud to put the technology and capabilities of this rig to work. The N-Class is designed for North Sea and Eastern Canada environments working in 120 to 130 metres of water.

I'd like to list just a few unique technical features of the Rowan Viking that we believe provide a competitive advantage for our operations:

- The Rowan Viking is designed with a particular focus on personnel safety and improved work environment conditions to reduce exposure to occupational hazards like pipe handling operations, air-borne and liquid chemical exposure, material handling processes on deck, maintenance access, emergency preparedness, response and evacuation and other issues that arise from the harsh and difficult nature of this business;
- The living quarters accommodates 120 persons in one and two-man cabins, meeting stringent Norwegian requirements with adequate space for offices, conference rooms, recreational facilities and other task-specific areas;
- The Rowan Viking is arranged for simultaneous drilling and production operations with a cantilever drilling package uniquely designed to skid transversely, clearing almost 900 m² of additional main deck space for the installation of up to 3,500 tons of production facilities;
- The drill floor is equipped with a 4,600 HP AC drawworks providing 2 million pounds of hook load capacity in a totally enclosed, noise-reducing cabinet designed to limit exposure of personnel working on the drill floor to noise hazards;
- A two-man driller's cabin elevated above the rig floor and equipped with cyber-based controls is used to remotely operate all of the drilling equipment including the drawworks, mud pumps and 2,300 HP dual-AC motor topdrive;
- The 180 foot high 40x40 foot base derrick supports 35,000 feet of drill pipe, racked by remote control from the driller's cabin;
- A dust-free, automated mud mixing system is provided to reduce personnel exposure to air-borne chemicals, the liquid mud processing system is controlled remotely from an air-conditioned operators station and the sack storage area is fitted with an elevator designed to transfer chemical pallets from the main deck to the sack room floor, reducing material handling risks.

These are only a few of the features you will find on the Rowan Viking. We believe she will fit nicely into Rowan's high-spec fleet and is destined to work in the harshest environments around the world. The N-Class is a robust design and will no doubt be a fierce competitor in the offshore market for many years to come.

Please take advantage of the opportunity later today to tour the Rowan Viking. It is a testament to the effort of many people and I think you will agree that it stands in a class by itself. Thank you.