

Cuming Corporation News

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NEW C-THERM MATERIAL TACKLES HOTTEST, DEEPEST WELLS

Cuming Corporation's *C-THERM* FPP High Temperature High Pressure (HTHP) epoxy syntactic



C-THERM FPP HTHP insulates this PLET to 6500 feet and 270° F.

insulation has been selected over a number of other competing materials for a major Gulf of Mexico project. It will be applied to manifolds, PLETs, sleds and other subsea components of the project, to be deployed by early 2005. *C-THERM* FPP HTHP is designed to operate for 25 years at 6500 feet and 270° F.

According to Elmer Hershey, manager of insulation products, "This material was subjected to an exhaustive qualification program. It was selected because of its excellent long term performance in high temperature wet applications and Cuming's successful 30-year track record in materials manufacture and application."

The insulation, in pour-in-place form, is being applied in thicknesses of up to 4" by Cuming's trained field crews at a fabrication yard in the Houston area. Molds are placed around the components to provide the required thickness and injected with liquid insulation material. After curing, the insulation is coated with an impact resistant covering.

FIRST OIL FOR MAJOR ANGOLAN PROJECT

This summer, the largest deepwater development yet, completed off West Africa, began production. Cuming's contributions to this leading-edge deepwater technology project include insulated production riser pipe joints to 4,000 feet and insulated field joints. Cuming also provided buoyancy

modules for the drilling riser and hybrid composite modules to protect jumpers from vortex-induced vibration in a potential 100-year storm.

NA KIKA DEEPWATER INSTALLATION RECORD SET

Shell/BP *Na Kika* production facilities set a new record for deepwater production installation, reaching a water depth of 7,600 feet. Cuming Corporation's *C-THERM* materials bond the project's pipe-in-pipe joints, which contain high voltage electrical lines to keep oil flowing as water temperatures

cool. For flow assurance throughout the system, Shell/BP also selected Cuming's pour-in-place *C-THERM* FPP insulation for 15 *Na Kika* sleds.

ANADARKO SELECTS C-THERM FOR SCR'S

In a major new development, Cuming Corporation is producing cast on pipe *C-THERM* insulation for Anadarko SCR's to be used in the GOM. Through rigorous qualification testing, Anadarko found *C-THERM* to be flexible and fatigue resistant for the specific demands of SCR use. *C-THERM* met the qualification testing for S-Lay installation on this

project and is also undergoing similar testing with another producer. Operators in growing numbers are looking to Cuming Corporation for their flow assurance needs, as *C-THERM* demonstrates its versatility in insulating complete subsea systems.

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C-FLOAT BUOYANCY SUPPORTS DEEPEST WELLS

It is no coincidence that 5 of the 6 deepest GOM wells feature Cuming buoyancy. Ray Wong, manager of

flotation products, describes the trend in this way: "High quality buoyancy modules are an essential part of deepwater operations. C-FLOAT, with its tremendous durability and reliability, enables these drillers to push the depth limits in the GOM. These drilling records reflect C-FLOAT's capability to withstand ocean depths and rough conditions." C-FLOAT buoyancy has been proven to work reliably at ocean depths of 10,000 feet and more for at least 25 years.

According to *Rigzone*, deepwater oil production in the GOM rose 535 percent between 1995 and 2002. Production of oil from the Gulf now accounts for more than 30 percent of all U.S. production.



Deepwater Millennium works in water depths of 8,730 feet equipped with Cuming's ultralight C-FLOAT module extensions.

C-FLOAT's Role in GOM Drilling Records

| Operator/Drilling Contractor | Drilling Rig | Water Depth |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Anadarko Petroleum/Transocean | Deepwater Millennium | 8,730 |
| Shell Offshore/Global Santa Fe | Glomar Jack Ryan | 7,962 |
| Shell Offshore/Transocean | Deepwater Nautilus | 7,570 |
| Chevron USA/Transocean | Deepwater Pathfinder | 6,989 |
| BHP Billiton/Global Santa Fe | Glomar Explorer | 6,257 |

MAJOR DRILLERS ORDER C-FLOAT

Noble Drilling continues its longstanding relationship with Cuming Corporation, ordering high-performance modules for deepwater drilling extensions for two different rigs. Each features aluminum risers that are well suited to allow existing rigs to drill in deeper water. For *Roger Eason*, currently drilling off Brazil, Cuming delivered 406 riser buoyancy modules rated to 7,500 foot water depths. Cuming is

also supplying 658 riser buoyancy modules for 4,000 feet for Noble *Lorris Bouzigard*.

Cuming provided 32 replacement buoyancy modules to Transocean Offshore *Sedco* for use to 4,000 feet and 340 riser buoyancy modules to 3,000 feet to Vetco Gray for use offshore West Africa.

CUMING TEAMS WITH ABERDEEN INSTALLER

Cuming Corporation has performed major installations with Aberdeen-based Gemini Corrosion Services, Ltd. Gemini handled the Shell *Bonga* installation offshore West Africa, consisting of 14 trees and related equipment for use in 4,000 feet of water. Randy Porter, insulation projects

manager, explains, "Gemini installation services enable Cuming to expand its global presence with confidence, delivering the kind of quality products our customers expect. Our success together on Bonga has opened opportunities for many other major projects."

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