

Setting Up And Conducting Operations From A Remote Location In Africa.

Case Study: The first deep offshore well drilled in Morocco by operator Vanco Energy Company required setting up a support structure in an oil virgin province.

In Brief

Situation

Vanco Energy Company planned to drill its first wild cat well as operator in 2004.

Challenges

How can Vanco operate successfully its first deep offshore well from a remote location with no local support facilities?

Actions

We set up an operating structure including offices, workshop and personnel accommodations for the project duration.

We mobilized crews and imported equipments ahead of time.

We managed to repair damaged equipment locally .

Results

We obtained all necessary import authorisations on time.

We allowed for equipment operational checks prior to dispatch offshore.

We had zero LTI.

We received a recognition letter from the client.

The Client

Vanco Energy Company signed the RAS TAFELNEY PSA with Morocco in January 2001*.

Upon completing G&G studies and other exploration requirements, the company elected to drill a wild cat well in 2004.

The company considered top cretaceous and Albian plays as main target reservoirs while a lower tertiary turbidite play as shallow depth was ranked as a secondary target.

The Shark B exploration well was of very significant importance to both operator and host country because it is the first well drilled by Vanco Energy company as operator and the first deep offshore exploration well for Morocco.

The client drilled the well in 2004 at a location 130 Km off the coast using Saipem 10000 drillship. The water depth was more than 2120 meters while the planned TD was 4162 meters.

Challenges

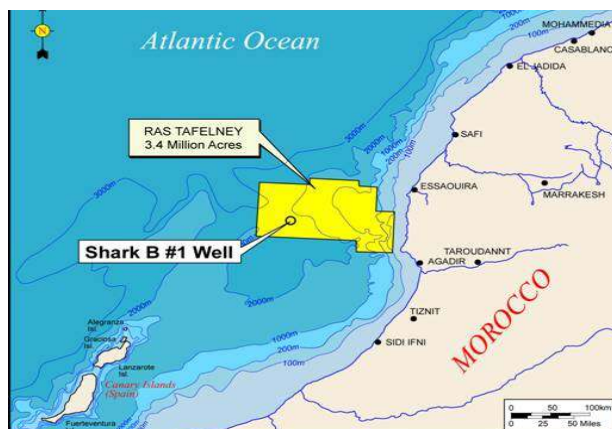
Vanco Energy Company elected to manage its operations from Agadir which a nice tourists town but a remote location with no facilities or support when it comes to O&G exploration activity.

A new local structure and facility had to be put in place in a short time window to support the client's exploration efforts.

Our Approach

We visited the location and selected options for offices, workshop and personnel accommodations for the project duration.

We defined and put in place logistics aspects to support operations.



* Source:Vanco Energy Company Website, Aug 5, 2004.

We interacted with the client, the NOC, local authorities and other stakeholders to obtain necessary authorisations for the import of dangerous goods and sensitive equipment such as nuclear sources and explosive material needed to cover the exploration campaign as per client operational needs.

We defined the *modus operandi* from reception, storage and transportation to and from the drillship of the dangerous and sensitive material.

We defined HSE&Q requirements based on company policies and local operating environment.

Additionally, we reviewed with the client the 110-ton equipment requirement and coordinated its transportation from 2 West African locations to Agadir airport by using among others an Antonov 124 jumbo jet.

Also, we screened and identified in-country repair workshops that could be of help in case of emergency needs.

Results

- We obtained all necessary import authorizations on time.
- Zero lost time incident was recorded during the operations.
- We mobilized crews and receptioned equipment ahead of time to allow for full operational check prior to dispatch offshore.
- We successfully re-machined to API standards a tool pin that was damaged during make up on the drill floor. The new thread was also certified by in-country Bureau Veritas expert.
- We demobilized all personnel and equipment immediately after completion of operations.

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"Khalid, I just wanted to convey my sincere thanks for your efforts on the Morocco project...Other operators starting projects in Morocco are starting to call us for advice and I have conveyed the same information to them. Again, thanks for a job well done and we look forward to working with you in Cote d'Ivoire"

Deane Pierce
Drilling Manager
(Company Man)
Vanco



Drilling ship on location

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