

“Sustainability is core to energy companies”

Interview with Innocenzo Titone, president of the OMC. In 2019 the focus of the event is on “Expanding Mediterranean energies: fuelling regional growth”

The subject you choose this year is: “Expanding Mediterranean Energies: Fuelling Regional Growth.” What is the rationale behind it?

Exploration activities in the Mediterranean, after recent findings of huge natural gas fields, have seen an exponential growth. Numerous countries have issued calls for tenders for granting gas exploration licenses, among others Lebanon, Greece and Israel. Egypt has recently awarded exploration rights to 12 blocks which marked the entry of ExxonMobil in the Mediterranean. In addition, there are important agreements with the state-owned companies: in Libya between ENI, BP with NOC; in Algeria between ENI, Total with Sonatrach. Alongside the prospecting activities, in Cairo in January, seven countries, including Italy, established the East Med Gas Forum, with the aim of initiating a strategic dialogue between the countries involved, for the creation of a regional gas market, promoting common infrastructure projects of gas transmission.

Thus the choice of the topic is not a coincidence. On the one hand, it is about discussing the great opportunity for the producing countries to have access to energy for sustainable development and improvement of life conditions in their countries, but on the other hand, it refers to enabling Europe the possibility to diversify the supply sources.

The 2017 edition of OMC focused on environmental sustainability, which is still a key theme for the industry.

The matter of sustainability is now at the heart of all activities of businesses operating in the



energy industry. At the Opening Session, Simon Flowers, CEO of Wood Mackenzie, will present the perspectives for the global energy demand and the entailing challenges, whereas Pratima Rangarajan, CEO of the O&G Climate Initiative, will describe the effort made to face these challenges through technological research. In the course of three days of OMC, the issues related to sustainability will be broadly discussed also in the technical sessions: starting from the promotion of natural gas as complement for renewable resources for a low-carbon energy mix through the energy efficiency of production processes, and ending with the digital applications 4.0 which by collecting and elaborating a great deal of process and environmental data, can alone contribute to a 20% reduction in the CO2 emis-

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sions by 2030. The dedicated technical sessions are as follows: “Managing the Environmental Footprint,” “Sustainability of the O&G Activities,” “Path to Decarbonisation,” and “Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence”.

Unfortunately, part of the public opinion underestimates or even ignores the important input the energy industry can give. In this respect it should be strongly supported rather than opposed. Examples of this might be the applications of renewable sources in the processes of production such as photovoltaic, concentrating solar and advanced organic photovoltaic power, in order to ultimately research for industrial development of fusion power production and the approach to the circular economy with the reuse of the organic fraction of municipal solid waste through the technology of Waste-to-Fuel and CO₂ biofixation.

What are the other main topics of this year’s edition?

The conference subject will be developed and analysed in depth in three Panel Discussions. The availability of large liquefaction capacity in Egypt and of a pipeline that connects this country with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria represents a competitive option for the creation of a gas hub, bearing in mind that new infrastructure would cost billions of dollars. Thus the development of integrated projects, the gas transmission and trading in the context of transnational cooperation will be the subject of the first panel “Development of the Med Gas Hub: the Routes to Europe.”

The panel on the second day will discuss the potential of geological structures of the area and the countries’ exploration programmes in the light of the new calculation capacity of the Hpc4 supercomputer, achieving peak performance of 22 Petaflops, that is 22 thousand trillion operations per second.

Finally, the third day will focus on new business opportunities that can arise from the marine economy and revitalise the offshore industry by means of advanced technologies also in very different sectors such as: the reuse of platforms, marine-based renewable energy, aquaculture, the



use of underwater robots, etc. All this should be carried out from the standpoint of the so-called “blue growth.”

OMC always pays a great attention to the potential of young people. What are the specific initiatives in this field?

The energy market is evolving continuously. New forms of energy are penetrating the market. The need to face the environmental challenge and contain the costs to be competitive require increasingly faster and innovative technological solutions. In order to embrace these challenges, the industry needs “new energy” and “young and critical” approaches. For long time by now, OMC have been able to embrace this need through the Youth Programme and making it the integral part of the event held here in Ravenna. More than 500 hundred students from 12 Italian universities participated in the last edition. The programme provides for a meeting of graduate and PhD students representing various technical and scientific disciplines with the adhering companies. It will be an occasion for an open discussion on the current energy-related issues and for better understanding of professional opportunities the energy sector can offer. Moreover, the programme includes, in cooperation with SPE Italy Section, a Paper Contest for graduate and PhD students who will present they research works in the field

of energy, and a workshop focusing on the future of the energy industry tailored to new generations.

Have you enhanced the cooperation with other conferences at the global level?

It has been about twenty years since we initiated strict and productive cooperation with MC (Mediterranean Offshore Conference) in Alexandria, Egypt. This collaboration was established with the support of Egypt’s Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources. We also cooperate with Norwegian ONS (Offshore Northern Seas) in the scope of exchange of expertise and know-how in the development of energy-related events, with special emphasis on an environmentally friendly energy future. We are present at the main international events, such as, e.g. ADIPEC in Abu Dhabi and OTC in Houston to name a few.

Last but not least, I would also like to mention cooperation with the OnePetro Technical Paper Library of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) which renders at the disposal of over 164,000 members (managers, engineers, scientists, professionals and students) from 143 countries the documents presented at OMC, which thus provides international visibility to the speakers. This is yet another proof of the technical quality of the Offshore Mediterranean Conference.

Antonio Junior Ruggiero

New discoveries in the Mediterranean, focus on blue growth and sustainability

Interview with Roberto Cimino, vice president R&D planning and technology scenarios at Eni, chairman programme committee OMC 2019

What are the subjects at the heart of OMC 2019?

The 2019 OMC edition focuses on the topic of “Expanding Mediterranean Energies: Fueling Regional Growth,” placing at the center of the conference the opportunities that the recent natural gas discoveries offshore Egypt and in the Levant may generate in the context of wider Mediterranean region. Thus the aspects discussed will encompass the development of integrated projects of gas production and trading, the potential that geological structures in the area have for further findings of reserves and the cross-border opportunities of cooperation among the coastal countries involved. On the third day, we will particularly focus on the panel that will discuss the so-called “blue growth” that is all the far-reaching business opportunities which can arise in connection with marine economy: the subject includes, for instance, the reuse of offshore platforms that is potentially interrelated with renewable energy, aquaculture and replenishment of fish stocks. It illustrates very well how consolidated industries, such as that of Oil & Gas, can give rise to opportunities of economic development also in a wide variety of sectors.

Sustainability had a central role in 2017? Will you put it forward this year to?

Sustainability is now a notion that permeates all industrial operations, and as such, is the central thread that runs through the entire conference as well as the sessions dedicated to sustainability and “health, safety and environment.” It is worth mentioning that the conference encompasses also sessions dedicated to digitalization of the Oil & Gas industry. It is a topic that is strictly related with that of sustainability, as it is about the technologies allowing for collection and interpretation of data intended also for monitoring of the environment and offshore op-



erations. Another example of the alliance between digitalization and sustainability is set by a strong impetus that underwater robot technologies have given in the recent years, allowing, without human intervention, for monitoring of underwater offshore structures with the aim of increasing safety and protecting the marine environment.

Did you get any feedback on the need to place greater value on specific aspects?

The panels were particularly welcomed and this year we have also remained focused on organizing high-level events. Apart from the three panels mentioned above (on gas industry development, potential of further gas discoveries and blue economy), this year we host a workshop on offshore safety arranged by the Ministry of Economic Development and that organized by ASTER, the Emilia-Romagna Technological Development Agency, dedicated to offshore renewable energy. Obviously, scientific papers presented during the conference are always highly appreciated and this year we believe to have selected the best what the industry and universities have to deliver.

How does the programme committee, you have chaired these years, carry out its work?

The scientific committee meets in March for the first time to de-

cide upon the sessions and topics for which the call for papers will be launched: then the committee members work remotely evaluating the received abstracts and assign the score on the basis of a pre-agreed grid. The final meeting, which is generally held in November, consists in a round table debate on the abstracts and a further selection made by the entirety of members. Our experience shows that this methodology ensures transparency of choice and guarantees such quality of the contributions that is one of the keys to success of the OMC.

Did Italian researchers and businesses give a significant input to the programme?

The response of Italian companies and universities was very positive in that they provided high quality papers which reveal the interest and vitality that the energy industry still has in our country and in the international market.

What are the main Italian excellences in the offshore sector?

Certainly, they include safety, engineering, construction, exploration and production of hydrocarbons – and particularly natural gas – are those intangible assets that bring Italy to the forefront. However, I would also like to mention new frontiers where our economy is emerging and is making substantial contributions: digitalization mentioned earlier, also thanks to the MoED’s initiative on the issue of Industry 4.0 and recently established competence centers 4.0, blue economy, the matter of platform reuse and offshore renewable power, such as for instance, wave energy recovery, on which research and development projects are already being conducted precisely within the Adriatic Basin.

A.J.R.

“We are the point of reference for the energy transition”

It is my pleasure to welcome this new important edition of OMC held in Ravenna, of the telling title - “Expanding the Mediterranean Energy Sector: Fuelling Regional Growth” - which highlights great possibilities that the Mediterranean offers to the field of energy, and at the same time celebrates the crucial role the territories play in taking such opportunities.



In the debate on energy transition, Emilia-Romagna, with its almost one thousand companies dealing in the upstream industry (that employ more than ten thousand people and generates indirectly over one hundred thousand jobs), and in particular Ravenna, where 13% of businesses are based accounting for 29% of the sector’s employment in the region, may constitute a point of reference. The community of Emilia-Romagna, owing to the experience, the know-how as well as important universities and research centers, has for years been capable of adopting a constructive approach to the issue of natural gas extraction, under the safest possible conditions, respecting the principles of sustainability and the European legislation on the Mediterranean Sea protection. At the same time, the region has excelled at levels and pace of renewable energy development.

Power supply is the key issue of the millennium and thus we are called to change the way we produce energy. Two great objectives of the coming years will be to obtain energy with as little impact as possible on the environment and obtain energy at the lowest possible cost.

The combination of these two aspects makes us strongly invest in the mix of renewable energy and natural gas (the cleanest fossil fuel source in the world), gradually phasing out all the most heavily polluting sources. Therefore in terms of energy policies, the offshore industry is a great response and the sea is a great opportunity.

Unfortunately, Italy has now shifted from not having any energy strategy to a wrong strategy. Our country has abandoned scientific criteria relying on demagoguery and fake news and this give rise to a risk of serious harm to the segment, rejecting Italian and foreign investments, and above all undermine energy development. In this respect, we call on the Government and Parliament to review the entire legislation regarding extraction activities and relate the permits exclusively to the elements of assessment of scientific and environmental nature.

This should serve to safeguard work and employment in a strategic sector, but even more so, as under the present conditions a national and European energy policy can only be established by the combination of investments in renewable energy, extraction of Italian natural gas and gas importation from other countries.

Michele de Pascale
Mayor of Ravenna

“A showcase for the Oil&Gas industry in the Mediterranean”

The 2019 edition of the Offshore Mediterranean Conference is especially relevant for the local and national community which refers to the energy sector. This event, that unites the top energy producers and the companies active in this area, indeed, takes place a few weeks after the approval of a worrisome and controversial legislative action of the government that de facto blocks exploration and extraction activities in our country, to the great detriment of internal production of natural gas and favoring, ironically, our competitors.



The event, which is hallmarked by the international nature of the issues discussed, thus is embedded in a highly significant time for the future of the national energy and Oil & Gas industries which cannot be overlooked when dealing with the main topic of the conference, namely the energy-related challenge of the next twenty years in the light of geopolitical variables, new findings that have changed the gas market and the impact of new technologies.

The primary objective of OMC is actually to embrace the ongoing changes in the Oil & Gas sector, particularly in the present international economic scenario, marked by the need to maintain the production levels at affordable prices, by means of technologies that allow for reducing the emissions and diversifying the supply sources. In the course of the present energy transition, natural gas is the indispensable resource for accomplishing the goal of exclusive use of renewable energy.

It should be also noted that in Ravenna, the location of the OMC, are based the 13% of the companies and 29% of the region’s jobs in the upstream sector. These businesses and professionals operate both in the energy sector and in the field of plant construction, maintenance and installation, exporting Italian excellence worldwide.

Italy, and Ravenna, strategically located on the routes of large power transmissions from the African and Asian continent directed to Europe, have all the essential technological expertise to further strengthen its role as transit and hub area.

We believe that the Offshore Mediterranean Conference 2019, besides confirming its role of the main stage for the Oil & Gas activities in the Mediterranean and one of the main international scenes, can be an occasion to show the real and positive coexistence of extractions with the environment, tourism and the community’s wellbeing.

Natalino Gigante
President of the Ravenna Chamber of Commerce

Not only extractions: the capabilities of Eni platforms

*Innovative projects to improve the sustainability of operations
The role of Ravenna within the business of the group*

For ENI, Ravenna is much more than just an industrial area strategic to the development of its business, it was in Ravenna that ENI laid its foundations.

The city's chemical sector dates back to the 1950's and it remains a starting point for new adventures. It's from there ENI, before all other European companies managed the offshore search for hydrocarbons. Beginning with the Adriatic Sea, which proved to have one of Europe's most important gas reserves. The next step was to cross national borders and explore the seas worldwide.

To this day, the city has an important operational centre where ENI is present with diversified activities not only in exploration, extraction, processing, and the trading of natural gas, but including chemical production of intermediates and elastomers, all the way through to electric power production and environmental clean-up activities.

The environment has always been crucial for ENI in determining its development strategy as well as its middle- to long-term investments.

ENI is dedicated to the reduction of environmental impact from its activities and ensuring the security of its facilities. This commitment is already made by all the large oil companies; however, ENI aims for excellence. Environmental requirements are a growing priority and ENI seeks to make its operations increasingly sustainable, applying innovative technologies at every stage of the hydrocarbon cycle.

Towards this goal, project **"Zero Discharge Objective"** was launched. With an initial investment of 30 million eu-



ros, it's seen the Upstream Central Northern District of ENI (DICS) strengthen its commitments to a gradual optimization of water during the extraction of gas by drilling platforms. The project applies a technique of re-injection which makes possible the putting back of water into the geological formations it came from.

For ENI, renewables are the future of energy, this is the key that will open up a new era in the energy sector. These resources hold even more strategic importance due to the global growth in energy consumption, as from the environmental, economic and social perspective, they allow for a sustainable integration with fossil fuel sources.

In the Adriatic Sea, ENI is also conducting renewable power Research and Development projects worth around 10 million euros. The R&D projects focus on some Ravenna's offshore platforms and their aim is to create real laboratories from these structures by adopting the latest techniques. Under the **"MarEnergy"** project, a pilot scale installation of systems that convert wave motion into electric power are being developed. Currently, two systems are in the phase of testing, they are based on different technologies of energy conversion and they have been installed in close proximity to platforms Amelia B facing Marina di Ravenna, and PC 80 offshore Lido Adriano.

In addition to the scope of environmental and energy projects, ENI is developing project **"PlaCE - Conversion of Offshore Platforms for Multiple Eco-Sustainable Purposes."** It includes carrying out a study for regeneration and reconversion of the decommissioned platforms in order to create a logistics and energy "archipelago." PlaCE will combine various technologies of marine electricity production, the environmental analysis, the implementation of activities related to the blue-economy (aquaculture, recreational offshore activities), as well as the use of these platforms for collecting highly valuable marine environment and weather data.

Relating to the platforms, DICS has launched a five-year campaign for the closure of mining operations and their decommissioning, both onshore and offshore. As for the Adriatic offshore area, the programme of decommissioning relates to 13 non-productive structures and approximately 33 wells. A European call for qualified suppliers was issued and the first tendering procedures will begin by 2019. In turn, the first closures of mines will take place once the necessary permits have been granted.

The entirety of these actions will be making the most of the area's potential while showing due regard for the land, supporting local development and the environment. Available resources will be enhanced through the integration of the existing structures with new facilities marked by a high level of technological innovation.

Diego Portoghesi
*President of the Upstream
Central-Northern Italian District of ENI*

The new frontier of Mediterranean: a win-win opportunity

*“New technologies are the key, strong interest in renewables and Lng”
Interview with Rosetti Marino CEO Oscar Guerra*

After the downtrend started 5 years ago, the oil price has recovered. What is the impact on companies providing engineering and construction services to the Oil & Gas industry like Rosetti Marino?

Notwithstanding the partial recover, oil and gas prices, as a matter of fact, are still subject to unpredictable instability. On one side the reduced worldwide production supported an increase of prices but, on the other side, uncertainty of global market and risk of crossed sanctions are still hindering new investments. In such scenario, Rosetti Marino defined a business strategy which is still mainly focused on offshore energy plants, but is based on sustainable geographic development, product diversification and excellence in engineering, procurement and construction management. Rosetti Marino today is present in 5 areas worldwide: Mediterranean Sea, Caspian Sea, North Sea, West Africa and Arabic Gulf. The range of products is much wider now and it is no longer limited to greenfield offshore upstream Oil & Gas plants, it is driven by our capabilities in Epcic and we are providing also well appreciated qualified technical services in several business areas.



This year the OMC will address the theme of “Expanding Mediterranean Energies: Fuelling Regional Growth”. This means that the new discoveries in the East and South Mediterranean have opened a new frontier, offering new opportunities to the Oil & Gas industry and to the economy of the region as a whole. What will be the role of the companies operating in the engineering and construction sector?

Contractors like Rosetti Marino can benefit and add value to the opening of this new frontier. Such opening, in fact, creates the chance to win-win opportunities between the old players, which experienced almost 60 years in this field, and new players that are supposed to pop up in the market soon. These players can offer new job opportunities to contractors like Rosetti Marino and can take advantage from the consolidated experience in the business. Something similar is already happening in the North Sea, where new players, often private equity supporting smaller and less structured companies, took the stage and replaced the consolidated Majors who are now focused on giant fields. Going back to new players in the Mediterranean, Rosetti Marino is keen on entering in cooperation with them and we already involved in the successful development of the Zohr field in Egypt. This allowed us to consolidate our historical presence in the country, where we made available our expertise to this great and challenging discovery.

Rosetti Marino has over 90 years of history. How the Oil & Gas industry and Rosetti Marino itself have evolved?

Rosetti has dramatically evolved during its long history in the business. I will just mention our presence in shipbuilding and our recent decision to enter in the Super Yacht market but, just to remain in the Energy sector, the main changes started more than

25 years ago, when we decided to abandon the focus on “pure construction” and to invest a lot in Engineering and Commissioning capability: this was a fundamental cultural change. Some 10 years later, we opened to the possibility of developing the construction outside our historical Yards in Ravenna, another cultural change. Main investment in fixed asset was made only in Kazakhstan, starting from 10 years ago, but we accumulated experience in several countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. Nowadays, we develop engineering and procurement usually in Italy, but fabrication is done where needed. In the last years, construction has been mainly developed outside Italy. Moreover, in the last five years, we started providing the market also with specialized technical services in combination with our historical core business as Epc Contractor. We successfully tackled brownfield project also, as an alternative to the consolidated greenfield ones. Finally, we recently approached the market of renewables energy.

What role research for new technologies and markets play in Rosetti Marino development?

New technologies are a daily challenge and impact several aspects of our work. They involve issues such as improvement of our working process, increase of efficiency, and competitiveness. But also they mean new business opportunities for subsea facilities, renewable energy plants and the like. We do believe that new technologies are the key to grant a future to our company and we dedicate great attention to them.

Is Rosetti Marino interested in exploring new sectors of activity, like Lng or renewable energy sources?

Rosetti is very much interested in such kind of activities. Our strongest interest is towards renewables and in particular we are very much focused on Offshore Windfarm Plants, High Voltage Substations in particular. Rosetti Marino has already experience in construction of High Voltage Substation for onshore Oil & Gas plants, these projects were developed as subcontractor to a big Technology Provider for HV and the works were successfully delivered in Kazakhstan. Now we are keen on entering in the same kind of facility for the offshore market, where we can make available our engineering and construction capabilities as well as our production assets which are ideal for offshore plants. Of course we need to partner with an HV Technology Provider but the added value we can offer is important in a market which is more and more demanding. Many problems were encountered in the first projects delivered by shipyards and the technology providers are now looking for partners that can count on reliable experience in offshore plants.

Regarding LNG, we have already allocated investments on micro-generation plants and now we are ready to propose competitive solutions to the market.

Luca Tabasso

Towards a new wave of activities in the Mediterranean

Interview with the president of Ravenna Offshore Contractors Association (ROCA), Franco Nanni

The 2019 edition of the OMC will address the theme of “Expanding Mediterranean Energies: Fuelling Regional Growth”. This means that the new discoveries in the East and South Mediterranean are offering opportunities not only to Oil & Gas companies, but also to the economy of the whole region. What will be the role of the Italian industry?

The companies of our association, and in general all the Italian contractors of the Oil & Gas sector, look with interest to the deep-sea exploration in the Mediterranean. In this area there is a great ferment in the search for hydrocarbons and therefore the industry expects a new wave of activities. The theme of OMC 2019 goes even further, with the aim to develop at least two other important aspects. The first concerns the possibility of helping the producer countries in their growing phase, favouring the use of the alternative sources of which they are rich. On the other hand, there is the role of Italy, the “bridge” country between the Mediterranean producers and the energy-consuming Europe.

The oil price has recovered after a long freefall that began in 2014. Is this opening new scenarios for the Oil & Gas industry?

Surely with the increase of the oil price



we expect a resumption of investment. It will be a very heavy flywheel to restart but surely the oil companies will restart the activities. Where they will, however, will be all to discover.

How do you see the future of the Italian upstream for Oil & Gas?

Unfortunately in Italy there are almost 15 years with no major investments, although there are still many possibilities to exploit interesting deposits of gas and oil. The Adriatic Sea still has many gas reserves that could be exploited with substantial investments. At least 50 platforms could be made immediately with the possibility of doubling the current gas production. The current government is divided into the interior, but one part believes in the need to produce “Italian” gas in order to reduce imports which currently cover 95%



of national consumption. Italy has a great opportunity: to get to the appointment with energy produced from renewables using gas as a transition source. If you come out of demagoguery and face the problems with scientific, you will notice that there is no other way.

ROCA, the Ravenna Offshore Contractors Association, was established in 1992, with the aim of organizing in 1993 the first OMC. What was the work of ROCA in the last 27 years?

The activity of ROCA is mainly carried out to promote the associated companies brand. As a category association we also participate in work tables with institutions to defend the sector.

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“Offshore safety, our operators play a leading role”

Interview with Ezio Mesini, president of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Safety of Offshore Operations

What were the main activities of the Committee for the Safety of Offshore Operations last year?

The main activities of the Committee were as follows: Preparation Guidelines for the Major Hazards Report; the 2016 & 2017 reports for the European Commission on the state and safety of offshore activities in the hydrocarbon upstream sector; the “Three-Party Consultation Papers” agreed between the Committee, representatives of trade union delegations such as FILCTEM CGIL, FEMCA CISL and UILTEC, and operators ENI, Edison E&P and EniMed.

In further detail, the “Preparation Guidelines for the Major Hazards Report” provided operators with an essential tool for completing and presenting their production facilities “Major Hazards Report” before the July 2018 deadline, as set forth by article 12 of the Legislative Decree no. 145/2015.

The Committee analysed a total of 60 Major Hazards Reports submitted by the operators. These were broken down into groups of similar operations and in total referred to 141 existing plants. Currently, of the Major Hazards Reports: 24 have been accepted and 36 are under examination, with 13 requiring additional information for approval. Under the approval procedure of the Major Hazards Report, the Field Committee inspected the facilities in accordance with the requirements outlined in the paper entitled “the Committee’s Strategy of Action & Annual Agenda of Priorities.”

At a European level, the European Commission received the 2016 & 2017 reports on the state and safety of offshore activities in the hydrocarbon upstream sector. It’s from the Committee’s findings, the EU Commission will draw up its Annual Report. The Committee was also involved in preparation of standard documents (i.e. “Report on Best Practices and Suggested Guidelines for External Emergency Response Plans”), has been part of the advisory



group for the revision of Directive n2013/30/UE and other Joint Research Centre articles that fell within the competence of the Commission.

The Three-Party Consultation agreements reached between the Committee, representatives of trade union delegations, and operators are the result of constructive dialogue, where all concerned parties addressed the issues of safety of offshore activities with the utmost integrity and responsibility. This allowed for joint management of matters strictly related to health, occupational health & safety and environmental protection. These key aspects arose from the implementation of article 2 paragraph 1 letter h) and 6 paragraph 7, of Legislative Decree of August 18, 2015, no. 145. Which provided for the adopting of the three-party consultation mechanism between the Committee for the Safety of Offshore Operations and the workers’ representatives, to ensure effective participation in the improvement of standards and strategies for major accident prevention, as well as in determining of general policy guidelines and actions, the integrated health, safety and environmental management systems, and in any other related issues.

Can Italy be considered to have achieved excellence in terms of safety of offshore upstream operations?

The experience of Italian operators is not only the experience gained nationally. It’s in the inter-

national experience where applying best practices is a stimulus for the continuous improvement of performance. This is in terms of safety, environmental protection and the wellbeing of workers carrying out the operations.

Transposition of European Directive 30/2013 by Legislative Decree 145/2015 made it possible to generally improve the safety standards of offshore operations, by aligning practices and procedures at European level. At the same time it raised the awareness of Italian operators and regulators on good safety standards required in our own country.

The high level of technical, environmental and safety standards that our operators apply, above all international requirements, are frequently the reason behind successful discoveries and exploitation of marine resources as well as the awarding of infrastructure procurement contracts. Thus, we need to recognize that our operators are looked to as leaders in terms of safety.

One of the techniques at the heart of the sector’s debate is airgun. Why is it important to use it?

Seismic reflection systems using airgun in prospecting for offshore hydrocarbons is considered an indispensable tool, as the industry uses it for offshore ground penetration. It is the best practice at international level and is used by the most advanced countries in terms of exploration and production of hydrocarbons, such as Norway and the countries bordering the North Sea.

Renouncing of this technique would mean abandoning exploration. However, considering the possible impact that airgun could have on the marine habitat, it is necessary to continue to promote the research of new solutions and/or improvement of the airgun technique in order to re-

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▶ *continued from page 10*

duce its impact, until we reach an adequate level of sustainability.

The airgun is a cause of great concern to not only environmental associations and upstream operators, but also institutions in charge of sea and energy system control. For instance, DGS-UNMIG (General Directorate for the Environmental Safety of Mining and Energy Activities - National Mining Office for Hydrocarbons and Georesources) at the Ministry of Economic Development has established a working group called TESEO (Advanced Eco-Sustainable Techniques for Offshore Seismic Surveys). In Rome, during May of last year, its experts presented their first report on work carried out. It pointed to “the absence of a proven cause and effect correlation to airgun impact on marine mammals.” However, at the same time they reported, “there is so little scientifically verified information available on the effects of airgun on marine mammals, it makes it advisable to promote, particularly for the Mediterranean, a significantly higher population of environmental control data.”

The Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection have been heavily engaged in the issue to determine if a possible correlation between sound frequencies and impact on marine fauna exists. Despite widespread concerns at various levels, there is no hard scientific evidence yet. This means that the scientific community needs to search for alternatives to airgun and solutions that use airgun in a smarter way: for example, in terms of energy intensity and frequency spectra used, or energization directly into the seabed to avoid interaction of sound waves with the marine environment above the ocean floor.

A.J.R.

▶ PROGRAM ◀ WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH

9.00 - Opening Session (Room A - Hall 7)

10.00 - 10.15 - Welcome Addresses

10.30 - 12.30 - Opening plenary session: Expanding the Mediterranean energy sector: fuelling regional growth

14.00 - 15.30 Tech Talk - Offshore risk management: excellence achievement using new methods and technologies within a barrier based management system and a holistic approach (Tech Talks Zone - Hall 4)

14.30 - 15.40 Posters Session Fuelling sustainable growth (Digital Poster Arena - Hall 2)

- ▶ A new methodology for major accident hazard risk assessment according to EU Directive on Offshore safety
- ▶ Key performance indicators for environmental protection from oil spills during offshore Oil&Gas operations
- ▶ Bart Fpso module: an innovative methodology for process risk assessment on floating Oil&Gas assets
- ▶ Decommissioning - extended lift of large topsides module
- ▶ Empowering existing jacket platforms to bear wind turbines in the Adriatic area
- ▶ A comprehensive quality guideline for the treatment of unexploded ordnance encountered during offshore construction projects
- ▶ Choice not chance: a dropped objects prevention campaign based on emotional engagement and personal choice
- ▶ Towards wave energy utilization for Oil&Gas assets and wave farms development: the Adriatic Sea demonstration case

14.30 - 15.45 Workshop - Clypea: innovation network for future energy (Room D)

14.30 - 16.05 Technical Sessions Production: chemicals (Room A)

- ▶ Improving hybrid-solvent formulations for energy efficiency and optimal gas treating
- ▶ Hydrate mitigation using surface chemical modification to lower adhesion properties on pipe walls
- ▶ Innovative foam application for unpiggable pipeline liquid unloading: numerical modelling and field application
- ▶ Application of black oil foamers for slugging mitigation and production enhancement of Oil&Gas wells ▶

▶ PROGRAM - WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH ◀

- ▶ Multiphase pump application for production enhancement

Uncertainty and de-risking in exploration (Room B)

- ▶ Integrated stratigraphic, thermal/burial and uncertainty modeling of the Levant Basin (East-Mediterranean region)
- ▶ De-risking deep targets using optimized fluid projection and cumulative probabilities approach
- ▶ Quantitative evaluation of the uncertainty associated to the most critical petrophysical parameters: an application in thin beds
- ▶ Impact of jurassic volcanic rocks on hydrocarbon exploration, North Western Desert, Egypt

Asset integrity (Room C) - Online monitoring of Oil&Gas pipeline by distributed optical fiber sensors

- ▶ A practicable approach to asset integrity for offshore construction operations
- ▶ Maintaining well & facility health - the application of Dna analysis to corrosion and bio-fouling prevention
- ▶ A case study of pipeline integrity management in greenstream natural gas export pipeline through corrosion mitigation and inspection strategy

16.00 - 16.30 Tech Talk - Role of Oil&Gas association (Opal) in supporting business enterprises within Oman (Tech Talks Zone - Hall 4)

16.00 - 18.00 Panel Discussion - Development of Med gas hub: the routes to Europe (Room A)

16.25 - 18.05 Technical Sessions

Rock Characterisation (Room B)

- ▶ A fast experimental approach to improve the representativeness of source rock kerogen kinetics as input for petroleum system modelling
- ▶ Integrated mineralogical analysis (Ima) in rock characterisation
- ▶ Petrophysical evaluation under uncertainty: methodology and integration in 3D geological modelling
- ▶ Well log-based determination and validation of the sandstone/shale boundary for reservoirs containing radioactive accessory minerals

Hse (Room C)

- ▶ An innovative communication strategy to spread life saving rules companywide
- ▶ Oil and chemical mapping & spill risk assessment for Saipem's fleet
- ▶ Eni Innovative approach to Hse integrated management system (ImS) to enhance sustainability values
- ▶ Knowledge loss: evaluating and controlling the risk associated with knowledge held by people, about assets or projects

Innovative offshore development schemes 1 (Room D)

- ▶ A new "All electric" subsea control system development
- ▶ New development philosophy for ultra-deep water & long distance tie-back for gas fields
- ▶ Innovative field development schemes: enabling technologies for long subsea oil tiebacks
- ▶ Seismic design for the Mediterranean Sea - Engineering basics for project planning

16.30 - 17.10 Posters Session

Drilling (Digital Poster Arena - Hall 2)

- ▶ Integrated approach for successfully cementing salty formations. Operating procedures and new lab testing methodologies
- ▶ Data-driven wear-factor estimation based on the inversion technique for realtime casing wear predictions
- ▶ Well ageing studies for the safe extension of wells life
- ▶ Managing risk for drilling and completions hazards by monitoring borehole quality with high-resolution acoustic Lwd image logs
- ▶ High-angle formation response modeling for more accurate petrophysics - challenges and experiences from multiple cases

16.30 - 17.00 Tech Talk - Investment opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman Oil&Gas sector (Tech Talks Zone - Hall 4)

16.45 - 17.30 Tech Talk - Connect to Oman's Oil&Gas procurement action (Tech Talks Zone - Hall 4)

27 March - Oil&Gas Business Meetings at OMC 2019

Eurosportello-Ravenna Chamber of Commerce (now Promos Italia) and Enterprise Europe Network (Arena)