

Risk Associated with Drive-Off/Drift-Off when Operating on DP

Author: Director Bjørn Inge Bakken, *Scandpower A/S (Norway)*; Co-author: Project Development Manager Terje Olsen, *Smedvig (Norway)*

Abstract

During recent years drilling from vessels applying DP has become common practice. Drilling on DP, particularly in shallow waters has however, made it necessary to put more focus on the ability to perform safe disconnection of the drillstring and marine riser during a drilling operation.

Loss of position without safe disconnection could result in critical damage to the well barrier as well as to exposed subsea equipment. The ultimate consequence could be a well blowout and/or severe damage to subsea production systems like production templates resulting in risk to personnel, environmental damage, financial loss and harm to the reputation of the company.

This paper focuses on these aspects with emphasis on operations in shallow waters, i.e. water depths less than 350m. Examples have been taken from the 5th generation drilling rig “West Venture” owned and operated by Smedvig ASA and now operating on the Troll field in the North Sea.

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