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***HELMERICH & PAYNE AND NOBLE DRILLING  
CAPTURE TOP SPOTS IN CONTRACT DRILLING SURVEY***

***EnergyPoint Research Independently Rates Industry's Customer Satisfaction***

HOUSTON (February 3, 2010) – EnergyPoint Research, a Houston-based independent market research company specializing in the oil and gas industry, today announces results from its 2008-09 comprehensive Contract Drilling Survey on customer satisfaction in the industry.

Rating first overall in the category of land drilling is Helmerich & Payne, which owns a fleet of high-performance land rigs operating mostly in North America. Among offshore drillers, Noble Drilling was the survey's top-rated provider, driven by particularly high ratings in the all-important area of health, safety and environmental (HSE).

The survey, which is a successor to a similar study conducted by EnergyPoint in 2006, focuses on customers' satisfaction with contract drillers across a range of regions and service attributes. Both land and offshore drilling contractors were rated in the survey, with evaluations collected from customers operating in multiple oil and gas producing regions in North America and international drilling markets.

“Helmerich & Payne's strong ratings reflect a combination of engineering and operational excellence that few, in any, of its competitors can currently match,” said Doug Sheridan, managing director of EnergyPoint Research. “The company rated well with customers across multiple attributes, categories and regions, and fared particularly well with those from larger, more active E&P companies.”

Sheridan added that although H&P's proprietary FlexRig is considered a significant factor in its ability to consistently satisfy customers, respondents seem equally appreciative of the organization's deep-seated performance- and service-minded culture.”

In addition to its overall first-place finish among land drillers, Helmerich & Payne also captured top rankings in three North America regions, including Texas and Mid-Continent, Onshore Gulf Coast and the U.S. Rocky Mountains. Other honors going to the company include first-place ratings in the areas of performance and reliability, technology and HSE. It also garnered the top rankings among larger multinational customers, as well as for special applications.

Noble Drilling ranked number one in the deepwater, for special offshore applications, and in two regions: Latin America & Mexico and the North Sea. The company also ranked first in the category of HSE among offshore drillers.

ENSCO International was the runner up overall among offshore drillers, and took first place in three categories: performance and reliability; technology; and in the Asia & Pacific Rim region.

“Of the various oilfield supply segments covered in EnergyPoint Research’s surveys, offshore contract drillers continue to enjoy some of the highest overall ratings in the industry,” noted Sheridan. “Despite charging average dayrates that can be 10 to 20 times those of land drillers, offshore drillers, for the most part, are staying focused and providing levels of professionalism and value that resonate very well with customers. Given the large number of newbuild offshore rigs due for delivery over the next couple of years, we suspect the emphasis on service, performance and professionalism will continue.”

Other land and offshore drillers enjoying above-average ratings in the survey include Parker Drilling, Rowan Drilling, Pride International and Atwood Oceanics. Parker Drilling garnered the top spots in Alaska, special projects and for non-vertical wells. Rowan Drilling rated number one with independent E&P companies and in the categories of shelf wells as well as HPHT applications.

A total of 14 drillers received the minimum number of evaluations required to be included in the survey results. Other companies rated in the survey include Diamond Offshore, KCA Deutag, Patterson-UTI, Precision Drilling, Nabors Industries, Seadrill and Transocean.

The Contract Drillers Survey was conducted as part of EnergyPoint Research’s 2008-09 industry-wide Oilfield Products & Services Survey, comprised of more than 3,800 in-depth evaluations performed from April 2008 through December 2009 by domestic and international customers of oilfield suppliers. Respondents from both multinational and independent E&P companies, from all parts of the globe, were represented in the survey.

For the Contract Drillers Survey, suppliers were evaluated in the areas of total satisfaction, pricing and contact terms, performance and reliability, technology, job quality, safety and environmental, service and professionalism and corporate capabilities, as well as across various domestic and global regions. For categories in which pre-2008 supplier ratings existed, historical ratings were included in the calculations at lesser weightings. In no case were historical ratings assigned a weighting of more than 20 percent for the purposes of calculating category winners.

***About EnergyPoint Research, Inc.***

EnergyPoint Research provides independent research regarding the oil and gas industry's satisfaction with the products and services it purchases and utilizes. Founded in 2003, the firm offers oil and gas industry professionals and their employers opportunities to both provide confidential ratings and customer feedback in areas important to oilfield product and service suppliers through objective and independent evaluation processes. For more information regarding EnergyPoint Research and its surveys and data, visit the company's website at [www.energypointresearch.com](http://www.energypointresearch.com) or contact the company at [info@epresearch.com](mailto:info@epresearch.com).

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