

# INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

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## Assembly



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INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY  
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Kingston, Jamaica  
9-27 August 1999

### REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS TO THE ASSEMBLY

#### Note by the Secretariat

On 30 December 1998, the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority requesting the status of observer to the Assembly of the Authority. A copy of the original letter and additional information provided by the applicant is contained in the annex to the present note.\*

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\* The annex is reproduced as received, in the original language of submission.

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## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS

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30 December 1998

Ambassador Satya N Nandan  
Secretary General  
International Seabed Authority  
14-20 Port Royal Street  
Kingston  
JAMAICA

Re: Observer Status for Non-Governmental Organizations

Dear Ambassador Nandan:

The International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) wishes to obtain information on the process for obtaining a grant of observer status with the International Seabed Authority.

IADC is a trade association representing the interests of contractors who drill oil, gas and geothermal wells, both onshore and offshore, operating worldwide. IADC has been accredited as a non-governmental observer with the International Maritime Organization since 1975 and actively participates in the work of the IMO's Maritime Safety, Marine Environment Protection, and Legal Committees.

We note from ISBA/4/A/11 that the ISA Secretariat intends to begin research on resources other than polymetallic nodules found in the Area.. With the continued advance of deepwater drilling technologies, interest in exploitation of the oil and gas resources of the Area is inevitable. We believe that IADC can contribute positively to the work of the Authority in this regard.

Our best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

  
Alan Spackman

Director, Offshore Technical  
and Regulatory Affairs

## **International Association of Drilling Contractors**

### **ISA Consultative Status Request**

**1. Name of Organization**

International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC)

**2. Address of Headquarters**

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 4287  
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Phone: 1/ 281-578-7171

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E-mail: [info@iadc.org](mailto:info@iadc.org)

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**4. Name and Address of Proposed Primary Representative**

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Director, Offshore Technical & Regulatory Affairs  
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## 5. Aims and Purposes of the Organization

The International Association of Drilling Contractors is a non-profit, international organization established to:

- To promote improvements in efficiency, quality, health, safety, environmental and technical standards through its conferences, periodicals and publications;
- To educate and train industry personnel and familiarize them with advanced methods and equipment;
- To seek to improve the efficiency of the international oil well drilling industry; and
- Promote cooperation and understanding with other industry organizations and governmental bodies.

## 6. History

IADC was first chartered in 1940 as the American Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors (AAODC). In 1944, IADC's magazine, *Drilling Contractor*, was first published and its Safety Committee was organized as a standing committee. IADC's offshore interests were solidified in 1948 when the first well was drilled out of sight of land in the Gulf of Mexico. In the early 1950's the AAODC began dealing with the regulatory and technical issues associated with offshore drilling from what were to become known as mobile offshore drilling units.

Due, in large part, to the interest of its members in the worldwide offshore drilling market, in 1972 the AAODC became the International Association of Drilling Contractors, and in 1973, the IADC's North Sea Chapter was formed.

In 1975, the IADC was granted consultative status by the International Maritime Organization and began working toward the development of the "Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, 1979." IADC remains an active participant in the IMO's Maritime Safety, Legal and Marine Environmental Protection Committees and their Sub-Committees.

## 7. Recent and Planned Activities

In its efforts to promote efficiency, quality, health, health, safety and environmental protection, IADC sponsors or co-sponsors numerous conferences. IADC is a sponsoring organization for the Offshore Technology Conference, held annually in Houston in May.

In November 1997, IADC participated in the International Experts Meeting for Environmental Practices in Offshore Oil and Gas Activities co-sponsored by the Governments of Brazil and The Netherlands under the auspices of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

IADC's 1998 conference schedule included:

- IADC Health Safety and Environmental Conference, Houston (February)
- IADC General Membership Meeting, Dallas (March)
- IADC/Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Drilling Conference, Dallas (March)
- IADC European Conference, Paris (May)
- IADC/Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association (PESA) International Tax Seminar, New Orleans (June)
- IADC International Deep Water Well Control Conference, Houston (August)
- IADC/SPE Asia Pacific Drilling Technology Conference, Jakarta (September)
- IADC Annual Meeting, New Orleans (September)
- IADC Well Control Conference of the Americas, Caracas (October)
- IADC Middle East Regional Meeting, Dubai (November)

The 1999 schedule includes:

- IADC Health Safety and Environmental Conference, Houston (January)
- IADC Contracts & Risk Management Conference, Houston (February)
- IADC General Membership Meeting, Amsterdam (March)
- IADC/Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Drilling Conference, Amsterdam (March)
- IADC Well Control Europe, Milan (May)
- IADC/PESA International Tax Seminar, Washington, DC (June)
- IADC Well Control Conference of the Americas, Houston (August)
- IADC Eastern European Regional Meeting, Bucharest (September)
- IADC Annual Meeting, Houston (September/October)
- IADC Underbalanced Drilling Conference, The Hague (October)
- IADC/SPE Middle East Drilling Conference, Abu Dhabi (November)

**8. Descriptive statement of the extent to which the purposes of the organization relate to those of the ISA including, in particular, what contribution can be made to the program of the ISA**

Offshore wells are being routinely drilled in water depths in excess of 2,000 meters. The locations of offshore wells are approaching the limits of the continental shelf. Accordingly, it is IADC's view that matters relating to the design, construction and operation of offshore wells will become, in the near future, a matter under consideration by the International Seabed Authority.

The IADC is in the position to provide highly specialized expertise in:

- Commercial and functional matters relating to offshore oil and gas well drilling;
- Well control; and
- Design, construction and operation of mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs).

**9. Structure**

IADC is governed by an Executive Committee of 12 officers elected by its Directors. IADC has three operational divisions: Land, Offshore and Drilling Services which may form committees or workgroups in furtherance of the organization's objectives. For example, a sub-committee has been formed under the auspices of the Offshore Division to address issues arising at the International Maritime Organization.

In addition, IADC has the following standing committees:

Government Affairs Committee  
Contracts Committee  
Health, Safety & Environment Committee  
Drilling Technology Committee  
Well Control Committee  
Training Committee

IADC members are also encouraged to form Chapters in order to address local or regional concerns. IADC presently has the following Chapters:

Australia (serving members in Australia and New Zealand)

Brazil

Northern Arabian Gulf (serving members in: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, and the Neutral Zone)

North Sea (serving members in Northern Europe)

South Central Asia (serving members in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka)

Southeast Asia Chapter (serving members in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Myanmar)

Southern Arabian Gulf (serving members in: United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, and Yemen)  
United States (12 locations)  
Venezuela

## 10. Membership

IADC welcomes the membership of all companies involved in the worldwide upstream petroleum industry that share a commitment to improving safety, advancing drilling technology, striving for reasonable regulation and legislation, and enhancing the training and education of technical and management personnel.

IADC offers three types of membership:

- Contractor, reserved for contract-drilling or well-servicing firms, whether on land or offshore;
- Producer, open to all energy-producing companies;
- Associate, available to manufacturers, suppliers, consultants, educators, oilfield-service firms and others with a professional or commercial interest in the upstream energy industry.

IADC is the only worldwide organization representing virtually the entire global drilling industry. In 1998, IADC's membership comprised 288 Contractor members, 74 Producer members and 552 Associates. IADC Contractor members operate nearly 3,000 drilling rigs of all types. IADC's Offshore Division includes all of the drilling contractors offering mobile offshore drilling units on a competitive basis worldwide. According to IADC records, members of IADC's Offshore Division have drilled oil and gas wells on the continental shelf or inland waters of over 80 nations.

A copy of IADC's 1998 Membership Directory is provided.

## 11. Officers

IADC's 1999 Officers are:

Bernie W. Stewart, Chairman, R&B Falcon Drilling (US) Inc, Houston  
John Irwin, Vice Chairman, Atwood Oceanics Inc, Houston  
Thomas Richards, Secretary-Treasurer, Grey Wolf Drilling Company, Houston  
Lee Hunt, President, IADC, Houston  
Brian T. Petty, Senior VP-Government Affairs, IADC, Washington  
Ed Jacob, Land Division VP, Bayard Drilling Technologies Inc, Oklahoma City  
Paul King, Offshore Division VP, Transocean Offshore Inc, Houston  
Ken LeSuer, Drilling Services Division VP, Halliburton Company, Houston  
Gerard Godde, Europe Regional VP, Pride/Forasol, Velizy-Villacoubeley, France  
Mohammed Al-Barwani, International Regional VP, MB Petroleum, Muscat  
William F. "Bill" Jennings, Eastern US Regional VP, Noble Drilling US Inc, Lafayette  
Morrison Plaisance, Central US Regional VP, Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc, Houston  
Michael R. Nuss, Western US Regional VP, Caza Drilling Inc., Denver

## 12. Relations with Other Non-Governmental Organizations

IADC has established liaison with:

International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA),  
Oil Companies International Exploration & Production Forum (E&P Forum),  
International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC),  
Comité Maritime International.

**13. Relations with Inter-Governmental Organizations**

IADC has established liaison with:  
International Maritime Organization (IMO);  
Commission of the European Community (EC)

**14. Finance**

IADC is funded by member dues, sale of publications and conference fees.  
IADC's total assets are in excess of \$US 4,000,000.  
IADC's operating budget for 1999 exceeds \$US 3,000,000. This amount does not include Chapter operating expenses or technical studies funded by subscription by IADC Committees.

**15. Publications**

IADC has an extensive publications catalog, a copy of which is provided.

IADC has two periodical publications:  
Drilling Contractor Magazine (published six times a year)  
Drill Bits (newsletter, published monthly)

IADC's Website ([iadc.org](http://iadc.org)) is updated on a daily basis to provide current information to members and others with interest in oil, gas and geothermal well drilling operations.

**16. Remarks**

Two incidents led to IADC's interest in seeking consultative status with the ISA:

- The realization, during the development of the IADC Deepwater Well Control Guidelines, that offshore drilling operations under the jurisdiction of the ISA were reasonably foreseeable; and
- The Comité Maritime International's (CMI's) submission to the IMO's Legal Committee of a paper (LEG 78/10) suggesting that consideration be given to developing a comprehensive international instrument governing offshore activities. In this paper, the CMI identified ISA as an organization to be included in any such negotiations.

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