

FloaTEC Evaluates SEMI for Pre-Salt

FloaTEC requested COPPE/UFRJ's Ocean Technology Lab (LabOceano) to test the operation of two (2) semi-submersible platform models under Santos Basin Pre-Salt's conditions. The purpose is to confirm and document the feasibility of the concept.

LabOceano is going to simulate the conditions that the platform will undergo, such as wind, currents and waves; based on collected data in the Pre-salt area. "We are making several tests to adjust the theoretical model and ensure we are in the right path if we have to build the units", expressed FloaTEC's President, Eric Namtvedt.

Namtvedt highlighted the execution of these tests at LabOceano as a good investment in the long term. "We have many bases around the world, but right here, there's the additional benefit of being close to the scientific community at Fundão (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) and Petrobras CENPES (Petrobras Research Center) that are more familiar with these data", he explained.

During his presentation on the last day of the Pre-Salt Brasil 2011 (09/28), Namtvedt showed that the marine conditions in the Santos Basin Pre-Salt area are more unfavorable than at Campos Basin, West Africa and the Gulf of Mexico. "The test of the model is a critical part of the decision-making process that leads to apply a technology", he affirmed. Currently, all Pre-Salt production projects are based on the Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) concept.

LabOceano performed the simulation tests for P61 TLP (Tension Leg Platform), designed by FloaTEC to operate at Papa Terra Field in Campos Basin. According to Namtvedt, the unit will be delivered to the Joint Venture Petrobras/Chevron on the second semester of 2013.