Innovative Landing String system for ultra-deep offshore



Vallourec Drilling Products – Vallourec Group





Introduction

Offshore industry trends

- Deeper water depths (up to 12,000 ft)
- Associated to deeper total depths

Landing strings

- Are used for setting casing strings inside the well
- Hook loads can currently reach 2.5 million lbs → slip crushing challenges

Slip Crushing phenomenon

- Extensive slip damages on the outer surface of the pipe
- Crushing can yield the tube/pipe in extreme cases
- Slip section of the tube shall be designed accordingly
- Enhanced slip designs and heavy carrier needed

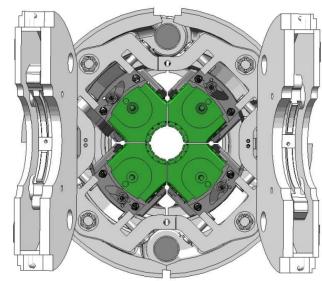


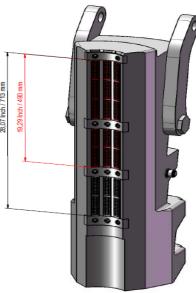




Enhanced Slip design for 2.5MM lbs

- Specific designed of landing-string insert-carrier
 - Designed to handle 1250 short tons (2.5 MM lbs)
 - Usable with new designed bottom guide plate
- B+V Type PS-1250-1 Hydraulic operated Power
- Slip Pipe Range 3.1/2" 14", for 49.1/2"
- Less Slips, Insert Carrier, and Guides Plates
- API 7K (Acc. to PSL2)
- 4 slip design for advanced 360° pipe contact
 - Improved pipe crushing avoidance design
 - Up to 28" contact lenght on slip proof area
 - Fast, safe and easy carrier changing
 - Automated greasing system





Landing-string carrier for 6.5/8" with 6.906" Crush free section



Landing Strings types



Conventional Landing Strings (< 2.0 MM lbs resistance):

- Various available OD's: 5 ½", 5-7/8" & 6-5/8"
- Heavy wall sections up to 6-5/8" OD x 0.938" thick
- High strength proprietary grades
 - VM-140, VM-150 & VM-165 DP
- API or proprietary double shoulder connection
- Clientele history since 2007



- Crush free Landing Strings (> 2.0 MM lbs resistance):
 - Patent based on an integral design
 - No special handling tools required





Landing String solution

A full integral solution

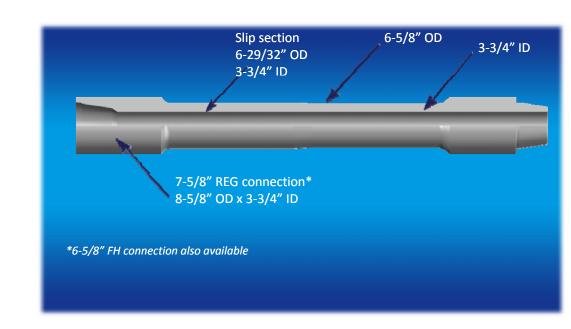
- Flexibility of designs (tube OD & ID, light weight section length)
- No weld and therefore no Heat Affected Zone in the material
- A dual Yield Strength design combining tube tensile requirements and the use of an API connection

Slip Crush Resistance

- 8 ft of minimum length for the crush free section
- Extendable up to the full length
- Decreased running time

Improved hydraulics:

Flush ID design





Landing Strings Qualification

Qualification tests:

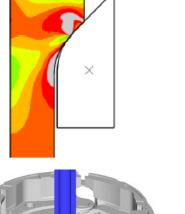
- FEA on elevator, threaded connections and slips
- Applied stresses do not lead to a failure of the structure under the static load conditions
- Yielding predicted at the bottom of the slip
- FEA performance to be verified with physical tests

Successful physical tests performed in Germany (B+V):

- Slip crush and elevator under 2.5 MM lbs tension
- Slip crush and elevator until 4 MM lbs tension

Industrialization:

- 40+ pieces prototypes 100% completed
- Products manufactured in France and USA



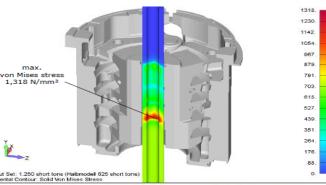


Figure 5: complete model, von Mises stress only on VAM landing string

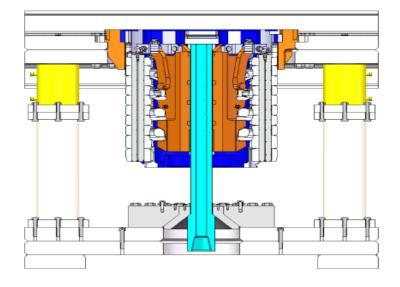




Physical Tests

- Slip Crushing tested at Blohm + Voss (Hamburg, Germany)
 - Use of the enhanced slip design B+V PS1250, 1250 ton slips
 - CrushFree™ Landing String: 6.938" OD x 4" ID x 165 ksi tube
 - Strain gauges on slip body and tube ID







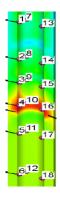


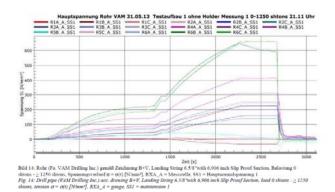
Tests Results – 2,500,000 lbs

No failure observed - No change in tube OD

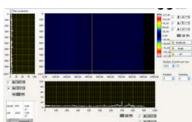


No material yielding → although predicted by FEA modeling





No defect / crack detected by MPI





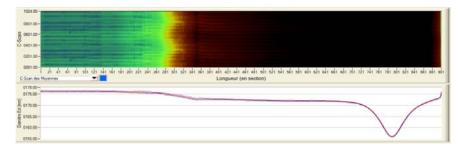
No defect detected by 360 degrees UT inspection





Tests Results – 4,400,000 lbs

- Same configuration as 2.5 MM lbs sample
- Exceeded yields tension of tube and elevator shoulder
- Did not break tube or slips
- Tube necking outside the slip area



No cracks detected using MPI and UT inspection









Conclusion and perspectives

- To address recent and upcoming challenges linked to the ultra deepwater drilling & completion operations:
 - An enhanced slip design and heavy carrier have been developed for 2.5 MM lbs capacity
 - An innovative "CrushFree™" Landing String design has been designed, in order to both exhibit 2.5 MM lbs slip crushing resistance, and to eliminate any risk of placing slips on a tubular weak point
- Both pieces of equipment have been extensively tested using both the FEA and full scale trials in Germany
- Both the new Landing String and enhanced power slips are now available on the market

