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CONTACT: Jennifer Patitz (+1.972.952.9321; e-mail jpatitz@otcnet.org)

OTC Celebrates 35 Years

RICHARDSON, Texas, U.S.A. (26 November 2003) – The 2004 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) marks 35 years as the offshore industry's largest annual gathering. The conference takes place 3-6 May 2004 at Reliant Center at Reliant Park in Houston.

OTC debuted in May 1969 at the Albert Thomas Convention Center in Houston, gathering 4,200 attendees and 200 exhibiting companies. Since then, the conference has reflected the pulse of the offshore industry, exceeding attendance of 108,000 participants in 1982, and then stabilizing in the 1990s. In 2003, OTC drew an 18-year high attendance of 50,655 participants.

OTC is recognized among Tradeshow Week's "Top 200" tradeshow events in the world, and was ranked #46 in 2002 based on exhibition size and attendance.

"For 35 years, OTC has been the world's foremost event for the advancement of the offshore industry," said Rod Allan, OTC '04 General Chair and Technical Director of EurAfrica Business Unit for Transocean. "Every year in Houston, OTC brings together the professionals and the technology that are needed to discover new ways to reach the oil and gas resources deep below the ocean's surface. OTC serves as a unique forum for the offshore industry – providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas, technology, and innovation."

"To celebrate 35 years, OTC will introduce several new programs to participants," said Bill Luyties, 2004 OTC Vice Chairman and Project Manager for the Na Kika Project for Shell International E&P. "This year OTC offers an expanded program on Thursday with several Topical Luncheons, OTC Tours of Area Attractions, OTC Career Fair, and the Spotlight on New Technology program. I am especially excited by the Spotlight on New Technology program, which will give added emphasis to those technologies which have the potential to transform this industry. OTC also is debuting OTC Papers Online, an online library with papers from every OTC since 1969 available for purchase or download. We're excited to celebrate this great event's history, along with the continuing growth of the event and the evolution of the offshore industry."

For the first time this year, OTC also has a home base on the Internet at www.OTCnet.org. Past year's Web sites are archived there along with technical programs. Users can access the OTC Papers Online through this site as well. The site also provides information on the history, structure, and board of directors of OTC.

Since its inception, OTC has been operated by 12 sponsoring organizations. Each organization is a technical society consisting of professionals who work in the oil and gas industry. The organizations include American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Society of Mechanical Engineers – Petroleum Division (ASME-PD), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – Oceanic and Engineering Society (IEEE-OES), Marine Technology Society (MTS), Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME), Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME), Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), and The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society (TMS).

For more information about the 35th annual Offshore Technology Conference, including registration and the full technical program, visit www.OTCnet.org/2004.

Founded in 1969, the Offshore Technology Conference is the world's foremost event for the development of offshore resources in the fields of drilling, exploration, production, and environmental protection. OTC is held annually at Reliant Center in Houston. For more information, visit www.OTCnet.org.

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