

Couplings Reduce Need For Rod String Workovers

MAYFIELD HEIGHTS, OH.—Materion Corp.'s new ToughMet 3 sucker rod couplings are designed to maximize production and reduce wells' operating costs when used in place of sucker rod couplings made of conventional steel materials.

Made from a unique temper of copper-nickel-tin spinodal alloy engineered specifically for the oil field, ToughMet 3 couplings resist mechanical wear, thread damage, corrosion and erosion, Materion reports. They are non-galling, so they do not damage production tubing, and they retain their strength even at elevated tem-

peratures, the company adds. It says this combination of attributes minimizes workover frequency.

The patent-pending couplings were tested by Hess in North Dakota, where Materion reports they significantly reduced the frequency of damage to sucker rod couplings and production tubing.

"We apply lean manufacturing principles to our Bakken operations, so we are looking continually for ways to improve reliability and decrease waste," says Hess Senior Engineering Adviser Seth Silverman, who led the company's effort to support the couplings' development. "We field tested this with the hope of finding a solution that could help improve our production operations and reduce mechanical failure."

Hess tested the couplings for 18 months on the worst wear sections of tapered rod strings in 10 of its Bakken wells and found practically no measured wear in double the previous run time, Materion relates.

For information, visit www.materion.com/toughmet. □

Weatherford Now Offers Optimization Consulting

HOUSTON—Weatherford International PLC has introduced a production optimization consulting service that it says integrates cyclical optimization solutions to enable proactive well, reservoir and asset management.

Weatherford consultants will collaborate with operators to achieve single-well or full-field optimization, the company says, with a comprehensive analysis of the well or field followed by recommendations for the best artificial lift systems, surface and downhole sensors, controllers, production-optimization software and workflows appropriate to the assets.

These services could be applied to a range of fields, including conventional, deepwater, unconventional shale and heavy oil, Weatherford points out. Whether the objective is to reduce costs through individual well optimization, increase efficiencies by integrating field operations, or create a comprehensive digital oil field, the company says it can develop a custom plan to maximize oil production and reduce operational costs.

"Weatherford offers the largest artificial-lift portfolio in the industry, along with a 480,000-well track record of successful optimization-software implementation," says Ashok Dixit, the company's vice president of production optimization consulting. "Additionally, through our asset inspection methodology, and 'gain and sustain' collaborative methodology, we help our clients reduce downtime, increase production, and increase the mean time between failures."

For information, visit www.weatherford.com/poc. □

NCS Sets Global Record For Coiled Tubing Fracs

HOUSTON—NCS Multistage LLC announces it placed 14.1 million pounds of proppant in a 52-stage completion in the Permian Basin, a world record for completions using coiled tubing and single-point fracture injection. The completion took only five days and was accomplished in a single coiled tubing trip using NCS's Multistage Unlimited fracture-isolation system, NCS relates.

"This job demonstrates the robustness and efficiency of our coiled tubing fracture system," says Tim Willems, the company's chief operating officer. "Fourteen million pounds is a lot of proppant for any kind of multistage completion, and we were able to execute it with a single tool in a single coiled-tubing trip. Just as important, we recorded downhole pressure and temperature data that are proving valuable for evaluating the completion and optimizing subsequent completions in the formation."

For information, visit www.ncsmultistage.com. □

Production Plus Installs 50th Artificial Lift System

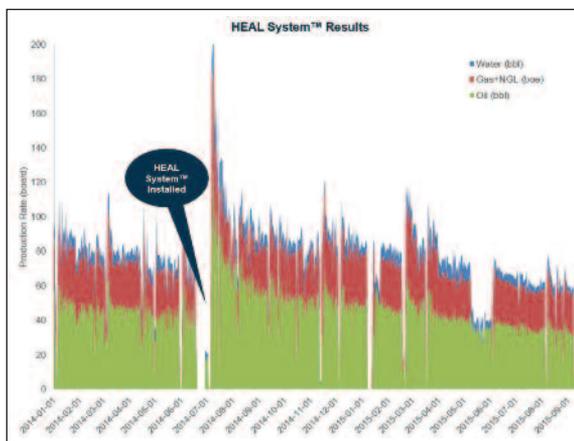
CALGARY—Production Plus Energy Services Inc. reports it has completed the 50th installation of its patent-pending HEAL System™, which it describes as a significant milestone since its commercial release in October 2014.

The Horizontal Enhanced Artificial Lift (HEAL) System complements artificial lift systems to regulate flow, reduce fluid density, resolve gas interference, and address solids problems in horizontal wells, the company says. Production Plus adds that horizontal wells using the

system achieve reliable run times, increased drawdowns and extended workover intervals.

"Artificial lift systems available today have been optimized over decades for use in vertical wells," notes Jess Saponja, chief executive officer of Production Plus and one of the co-inventors of the HEAL System. "If placed in a horizontal well, these systems become highly challenged."

According to the company, the HEAL system has no moving parts and provides benefits to wells in all phases of their life cycle. Operators of horizontal wells have experienced 10-30 percent increases in production and reserves after installation, Production Plus says. For information, visit www.pdnplus.com. □



After installing HEAL System™, horizontal well operators report the artificial lift devices have increased production and reserves by 10-30 percent, Production Plus says.