

# Gripping News

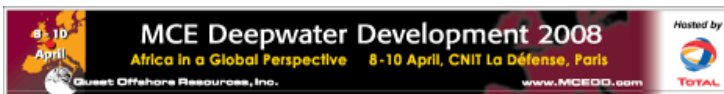


A regular quarterly newsletter  
Informing and Entertaining !

January 2008

Here in the Northern Hemisphere we are in the grip of a cold winter and now that the Christmas and the New Year holiday season is over, we are already looking forward to the warmer, longer and lighter days and evenings which herald the new Spring and the coming of a new Summer.

At Bardex there is much to do - we finished 2007 on a high note, booking several new orders at the end of December and we are starting 2008 with a large order backlog and the promise of many new orders to keep us going throughout this year and beyond. In spite of global warming and the "credit crunch", the oil/gas offshore industry is still busy with many new projects in which we are hoping to participate.



## Sales and Marketing

The Bardex Sales and Marketing Department covers a wide range of activities from preparing quotations, updating our website and brochures, to arranging publicity, even writing and publishing *Gripping News*.



One of the names often seen in correspondence is Corazon Salvador who joined Bardex from a Graphic Arts background over 25 years ago.

Cora (who loves cats >^,^< ) reports to Art Langlois, Vice President of Sales and Marketing. She helps ensure the Department runs smoothly.

We attended and exhibited at the last two MCE Deepwater conferences: in 2006, it was held in The Hague and was sponsored by Shell and last year it was held in London and sponsored by BP.

This year Stephen Jones and Dennis Graney will represent Bardex at the conference which is being sponsored by Total and will be held 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> April in La Defense, Paris.

Over 1,000 delegates are expected to attend the conference which examines the engineering issues in deepwater and ultra deepwater oil and gas exploration and production. This year the conference will concentrate on Africa.

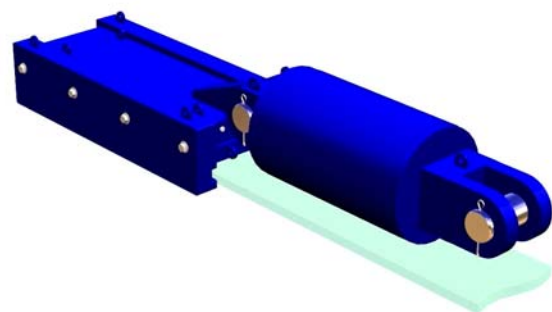
Come and see us on Stand 33.

## Gripper Jack Skidding

We won an order mid-last year from Pride International through its engineering offices in Velizy-Villacoublay, France, for a new filler base skidding system that Pride will use with its "Barracuda" tender rig for a new contract in Indonesia. Our manufacturing plant is now busy preparing for the final Factory Acceptance Testing which will take place on-schedule this January for the two 300 te gripper jacks and their control console.

A skidding system for use in conjunction with a hydraulic work-over system for the Gulf of Mexico is also under manufacture and will be shipped in the first quarter this year. This particular order features a "grip-grip" arrangement to ensure that even when the main gripper is being re-cycled, the load is always held against movement by a secondary gripper.

The accompanying graphic shows a typical gripper jack of similar capacity to the ones being supplied to Barracuda.



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## Bardex Gripper Jacks



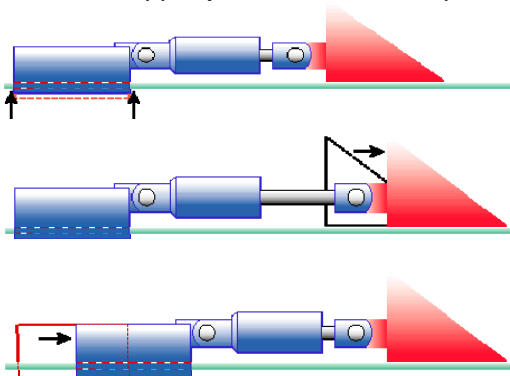
For over 40 years, the name Bardex has become synonymous with drilling rig skidding systems globally. Our experience and technological expertise is world renown.

This photograph shows a gripper jack to provide a push-pull capacity of 948 tonnes and to date this is the largest gripper jack assembly ever produced.

In skidding systems, some sort of anchor is needed to react the horizontal force of the jacking cylinders which push or pull a heavy load along skid beams. At one time, skidding systems used mechanical anchor devices, usually involving inserting a pin into slots cut into the skidding beams. These "claw-base" or "pin-claw" systems have to be manually turned round each time there is a reversal of skidding direction and because of the lifting weights involved this represents a safety hazard to the crews who need to do this job. The cost of the skid beams is increased too since they must be made heavier just to compensate for the slots that must be cut in them. Nevertheless, apart from these shortcomings, mechanical locking systems work quite well for skidding medium and light loads and Bardex continues to design and manufacture these types of skidding systems.

But as the loads increase, limitations on materials, pin size and corresponding beam thickness, mean that an alternative anchoring system is needed and Bardex invented and developed the hydraulic gripper jack to offer just that. Our hydraulic gripper is a compact device that hydraulically clamps the flange edges of the skid beam. With our hydraulic gripper jacks, all operations are controlled by a single operator remotely from a control console, without the need for any manual intervention.

Gripper jacks work in a simple three-stage cycle:



The Gripper is pressurized, locking it to the jacking beam.

The Cylinder is extended, moving the load.

Pressure is released from the Gripper and then the Cylinder is retracted.

Bardex hydraulic gripper jacks have become the *de facto* standard for fixed platform drilling rigs globally and we have supplied skidding systems to more than 250 offshore installations worldwide.

Ask for our new Skidding Systems brochure (pictured right) which provides details of our range of hydraulic gripper jacks as well as mechanical locking systems.



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