

A newbuild multiservice vessel has joined the deepwater Gulf of Mexico ranks, and it doesn't look like the *Olympic Triton* will leave the area any time soon. *OE* reviews some of the latest ROV/AUV technology talking points.



Built on spec during a time of growing demand for deepwater ROV support vessels, Canyon Offshore's *Olympic Triton* hit the Gulf of Mexico ready to work in December.

Canyon Offshore will use the DP2 newbuild to support parent company's Helix Energy Solutions' redevelopment of the Phoenix (formerly Typhoon) field, the subsea tie-back Helix's Noonan and Danny deepwater discoveries and similar projects.

Canyon believed enough in growing demand for deepwater multiservice vessels that in 2006 it entered two long-term charters with Norway-based Olympic Shipping.

'When we committed to these charters 15 months ago, we didn't have any work for it, but we felt pretty confident about it,' says Bart Heijermans, Helix's executive vice president and chief operating officer.

It appears the company's confidence was not misplaced, as the *Olympic Triton* has one year's worth of work scheduled for the Gulf of Mexico, and sister vessel *Olympic Canyon* won a three-year contract for inspection, repair and maintenance (IRM) work in southeast Asia.

Heijermans says the company plans to use Canyon's fleet of chartered DP vessels not only to support larger vessels like the *Caesar* S-Lay pipelay vessel under construction for ultradeep pipelay operations but also to carry out smaller deepwater projects.

'Canyon has become very successful at bundling third-party vessels with their robotic assets to provide key customers with a full suite of subsea intervention,' Heijermans said following the *Olympic Canyon* award.

Canyon says it is looking for two

additional multipurpose vessels to meet current demand. According to Heijermans, Canyon is pursuing several long-term IRM contract opportunities, and Canyon requires a vessel for its new reeled pipelay system being fabricated in the UK.

Getting to work

The Olympic Shipping P101 designed vessel will perform its maiden job on the Phoenix deepwater field in the Gulf of Mexico.

At Phoenix, the vessel will recover stab and hinge over connections to refurbish and redeploy, likely in the same field, says Gordon Wilkinson, general manager for business development.

The Helix-operated Phoenix, formerly the Chevron-operated Typhoon, holds some 47bcf of net proved reserves, is in 2000ft of water. First production from the



field in Green Canyon blocks 236/237 is expected in the second half of 2008.

Following the Phoenix effort, the *Olympic Triton* was slated to mobilize for subsea intervention work for Shell, Wilkinson says.

Purpose-built at the Ulstein Verft yard in Norway, the vessel was designed and equipped for global operations.

'This vessel surpasses industry standards with regard to its multi-purpose capabilities, deepwater work performance, fuel efficiency and offshore environmental performance,' notes Canyon Offshore senior vice president Doug Stroud.

The *Olympic Triton* has two Triton XLS ROVs onboard, each rated to 3000m. Wilkinson says these are stored in fully enclosed ROV hanger decks. Perry Slingsby's Triton XLS work class ROV system has a 650m tether cable and 3000kg of lifting capability.

'Its reinforced moonpool is capable of taking a derrick for well intervention work when needed,' says Canyon Offshore president Cliff Chamblee.

The 150t crane is active heave compensated and rated to 2500m, Wilkinson says. 'It's got a lot of reach.'

The DP2 vessel has a full complement of survey equipment in the bridge, he says, and the bridge allows full access to the deck.

Wilkinson notes the helicopter pad, located on the bow about 26m over the water, is large enough to accommodate the Super Puma and the Sikorski S61 choppers.

'It's fully rated for the Gulf,' he says. **OE**

Olympic Triton specs

Length	312ft
Breadth	67ft
Deck area	11,518ft ²
Flag	Norway
Accommodations	87 people
Helideck	Rated for Super Puma and Sikorsky S61
ROVs	2 Triton XLS systems
Crane	150t heave compensation with 3000m of wire
Moonpool	Tripartite hatch in main deck; light opening in moonpool is 24ft x 24ft



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