

Norway

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G-Force® inclined perforating gun system mitigates sand production in deviated well

Operator optimizes production rate and avoids sand production in depleted reservoir

CHALLENGE

- Deviated wellbore
- Potential risk for sand production to reduce production rates
- Previous orientated gun systems could only perforate perpendicular to wellbore

SOLUTION

- Customize G-Force® perforating system with internally oriented guns
- Design guns to perforate in true vertical direction toward plane of maximum stress
- Charges exit the gun at an inclined angle

RESULT

- Perforated well using new inclined gun system
- No sand production
- No production decline



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Overview

Sand migration in a reservoir can present major obstacles to well production through reduced production rates, sand bridging, equipment erosion, and sand disposal and removal. The potential for sand production is elevated in depleted reservoirs, as was the case for a North Sea operator. Risk associated with reduced production rates increased in a deviated wellbore—a factor that complicated the primary completion strategy to perforate with oriented gun systems.

Challenge

Typical oriented perforating guns shoot charges perpendicular to the gun body and wellbore. This works well in a horizontal well. But the 59° deviation in this well posed a challenge that no gun system on the market could address. The previous solution was to use standard G-Force® perforating gun systems. However, they did not shoot into the plane of maximum stress.

Solution

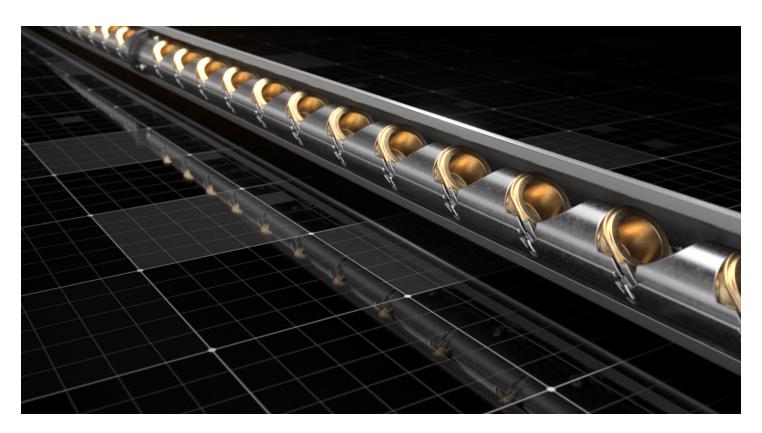
Halliburton created a new gun system based on the existing 3 1/8-in. G-Force system design. This unique solution perforates toward the direction of the maximum stress in the formation and allows the charges to exit the gun at an inclined angle.

The gun system was deployed on drill pipe in a tubing-conveyed perforation (TCP) shoot-and-pull operation. Quick torque connectors (QTCs) were used to avoid operation in the red zone to help reduce operational risk and increase efficiency.

Result

The custom G-Force inclined gun system worked as designed and perforated the well. Initial results validated the theory that vertical perforating could be attained to reduce sand production risks. No significant shock hazard was observed during perforation. The well produces as expected with zero sand production and no production rate decline.

With this proof of concept, the operator plans to use this system in wells that present the same challenges.



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