

Gulf of America

ELH system offers metal-to-metal solution in complex deepwater well

First installation of the XtremeGrip® ELH system in the Gulf of America

CHALLENGE

- Run liner hanger approximately 4,000 ft with 7 3/4-in. production liner to depth
- Cement liner hole annulus to isolate production sand
- Hang liner with a competent liner-top anchor/seal package in extremely deviated well

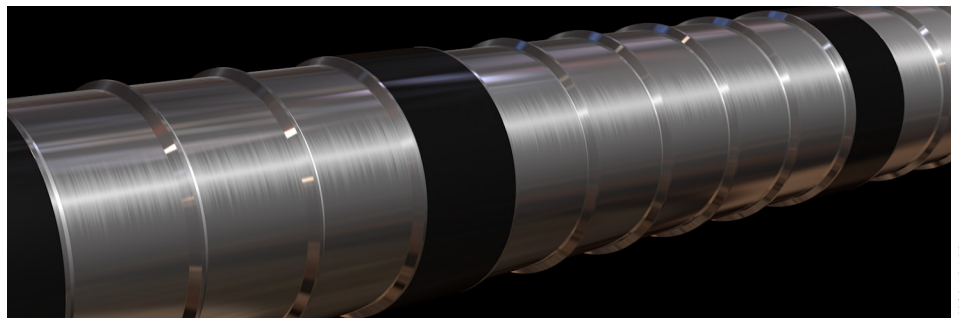
SOLUTION

XtremeGrip® ELH with extrusion rings provides:

- Metal-to-metal seal with resilient elastomeric seal
- Increased hang-weight capabilities at elevated temperatures and helps mitigate risks

RESULT

- More than 4,000 ft of casing run to bottom of well deviated to 59°
- Hanger expanded at pressures modeled by engineers
- Operation completed successfully with ZERO NPT



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XtremeGrip® ELH system metal-to-metal anchor feature is designed to provide increased load capability at elevated temperatures

Overview

An operator in the Gulf of America just completed drilling the final section of their most recent deepwater well. The 8 1/2-in. × 9 7/8-in. openhole section was side-tracked through a 10 1/8-in. casing window at a depth of 24,210 ft and reached approximately 28,000 ft total depth. The 10 1/8-in. parent casing was set at 34° inclination, and the openhole section reached a maximum deviation of 59° at total depth. A liner hanger was required to reliably run approximately 4,000 ft of 7 3/4-in. production liner to depth, cement the liner hole annulus to isolate the production sand, and hang the liner with a liner-top anchor/seal package – a feat that had not been performed without issue using conventional equipment.

Challenge

While the 81-lb/ft heavy wall parent casing presented a challenge in pre-job models for the traditional VersaFlex® expandable liner hanger (ELH) system, the XtremeGrip® ELH system was up for the challenge. What makes the expandable section of this hanger unique is a series of extrusion rings that replace most of the sealing and anchoring elastomers. These rings are like the machined ribs normally observed on either side of an elastomer and, when expanded, create a metal-to-metal contact that provides high performance at elevated temperatures. With the XtremeGrip ELH system design, thick wall casing is no longer a challenge. This marks the first installation of the XtremeGrip ELH system in the Gulf of America.

Result

More than 4,000 ft of casing was run to bottom of the deviated well, which reached a maximum deviation of 59°. Halliburton performed the cement operation, isolated the formation, and set the hanger. The hanger expanded under pressure close to what modeling engineers predicted. The operation was a success with ZERO nonproductive time (NPT) and the operator has placed more orders for the XtremeGrip® ELH system for future operations in the Gulf of America.



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