Innovative Field Development, Pragmatic Riser Analysis and Connecting with Moorings

Report on SUT Perth Branch Evening Technical Meeting
Wednesday 14th June 2017

By Allison Selman, WISE Coordinator

The June 2017 SUT Technical Meeting at the Parmelia Hilton was opened by SUT Perth Branch Chair, Chris Saunders and chaired by WISE Coordinator Allison Selman. I thank the sponsors for the event - WISE, Atteris, Woodside Energy and DOF Subsea. Events like these cannot be realised without key sponsorship and support.

The evening was curated by WISE and was the first to feature three female professional presenters and chair. WISE also invited 25 engineering students to attend and learn about the subsea industry. These students also received 1 year SUT membership and participated in a post-presentation careers Q&A session with a panel comprised of the speakers and other professionals from the industry.

The first presentation was given by Carolyn Thain, Subsea Delivery Manager for Woodside Energy. Carolyn presented the technical challenges of the Greater Enfield Project that is under development. Greater Enfield has been enabled by a combination of innovative thinking and application of the latest technologies. The development includes a number of unique features such as multiphase pumping, a buoyant canyon crossing and the first subsea-to-subsea pigging.

The next speaker was Celine Lanoelle, the Lead Riser Engineer for Atteris. Celine gave the audience an insight into the process and techniques used to perform dynamic riser analysis. Attendees gained an appreciation of the complex process, the criticality of getting the analysis load cases correct for the application and how compliance impacts onto selection of the riser type. Celine touched on the differences between flexible risers, top tensioned risers and steel catenary risers.

The final speaker was Emily Carmichael, a Project Engineer from DOF Subsea. Recently returned from Thailand where she was involved in installing the Anchor Chain Connection Device (ACCD) for remote subsea connection and tensioning of mooring systems. Emily explained the how the ACCD is deployed, installed and activated to present a novel solution to the industry. She also coined a new term for remote intervention – “no men needed” – much to everyone’s amusement.

The presentations were very well received by 150+ attendees and provided a showcase of the female engineering talent that is within the industry. Close to 180 had registered to attend, one of largest registrations since the downturn. The students that attended were excited by the technical presentations and now have goals to pursue careers within the subsea industry.

Joining the post-presentation Careers Q&A were Julie Morgan (Chief Flow Assurance Engineer, Woodside Energy), Mary Hackett (Senior Executive, GE), Helena Forsyth (Principal Subsea Operations Engineer, INPEX), Elizabeth Tellier (Director, 2H Offshore) and Allison Selman (Director, Atteris). Each of the panellists spoke about their career journey and what they loved about their job. The panellists also answered questions from the students on a range of topics including advice to get a job in the subsea industry, challenges of working in the industry, travel opportunities and how to progress careers once in the workforce.

Thank you to all who attended the bumper Technical Evening, to the presenters and panellists for their in-kind contribution. The event ran smoothly and there was a lively crowd and boisterous discussion in the post-presentation drinks.