

Acoustic Positioning System for Ultra-Deepwater Drillship

Nautronix, UK, has secured an order to supply its NASDrill RS925 deepwater acoustic positioning system for Noble Corporation's fourth new ultra-deepwater drillship after orders for three of its ships in 2011. The rigs will have DP-3 station keeping abilities and the capacity to handle two complete BOP systems allowing for operation in water depths of up to 12,000 feet.

All new vessels will be constructed at Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard in Ulsan, Korea, and will be based on a Hyundai Gusto P10000 design.

NASDrill RS925 has been designed to meet the requirements for a reliable, stable DP and position reference system for demanding offshore operations, in particular deepwater drilling vessels.

The system combines two accurate deepwater acoustic positioning technologies: Short Baseline (SBL) and Long Baseline (LBL) to calculate multiple independent position solutions providing reliable, repeatable input to the vessel DP system, with SBL mode providing accuracies of 0.15% slant range and LBL mode providing accuracies up to 1m RMS independent of water depth.

The NASDrill RS925 system is supplied with all external interfacing to the Dynamic Positioning System for automatic station keeping and can be used as part of an integrated acoustically-aided INS positioning solution.

The system is also fully upgradable to use NASEBOP and NASNet (Nautronix underwater GPS). NASDrill RS925 utilises Nautronix proprietary ADS2 (Acoustic Digital Spread Spectrum) broadband signalling technology which has been proven, with over ten years of successful subsea operations, to provide superior accuracy, repeatability and reliability for dynamic positioning of vessels during deepwater drilling operations.

<https://www.hydro-international.com/content/news/acoustic-positioning-system-for-ultra-deepwater-drillship>
