



OTC Brasil 2017 Kicks Off with Oil & Gas industry Optimism

Environment Secretary announces Ibama will release new licenses soon

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (24 October 2017) –The first day of OTC Brasil 2017 featured speakers who discussed the oil and gas industry’s recovery movement in the country.. Session Chairperson Jorge Camargo, Brazilian Petroleum, Gas and Biofuels (IBP) president, talked about the new cycle for the energy sector in his speech at the topical luncheon, “Opportunities for the Oil Business in Brazil.” He said, “The current scenario is more transparent with more investments and competitiveness.”

Standing before 350 of the conference’s attendees, keynote luncheon speaker, Márcio Félix, secretary of Oil, Natural Gas and Renewable Fuels from Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), confirmed next year’s schedule. “The 15th round bid will be held by the end of March and the 4th Pre-Salt bid round in June.” He also announced that the Brazilian Environment Institute (Ibama), agreed with the MME to release pending environmental licenses for seismic operation in the Basins of Potiguar and Foz do Amazonas.

“We have a waiting time of three years for an environmental license. But I believe we have an advantage in terms of licensing process and are working for a major equilibrium in this field.” Márcio also reinforced the government challenge to address important issues such as unitization and Repetro fiscal regime. “It’s necessary to focus on the Brazilian regulatory so more companies from all over the world invest in the country.”

The end of sole operator system, which has taken from Petrobras the obligation to operate in all E&P projects in the country, proves the importance of investing in the regulatory changes. In the morning, with a crowded room of delegate in the opening ceremony, Pedro Parente, Petrobras CEO, mentioned that Petrobras continues to work in partnership with the energy sector. “A single pre-salt well can produce 40 thousand barrels per day (bpd), which means a remarkable productivity.”

Other opening ceremony participants were João Carlos de Luca, OTC Brasil General Chairman; Marcelino Guedes, RioPipeline Chair; Wafik Beydoun, OTC Chairman; Decio Oddone, Agência Nacional do Petróleo, Gás Natural e Biocombustíveis (ANP) General Director; and keynote speaker Lord John Browne, former BP CEO.



New Technologies and Digitalization

The event has brought to light the debate of other relevant themes for the industry, such as new technologies, operations' optimization, cost reduction and innovation. In the panel session "New Alliances In the Subsea Market: What Operators May Expect?", Aker Solutions CEO, Luis Araújo, mentioned that the company invests heavily in digitalization and data sharing,

"Digitalization is the way to find the path to solutions and reduce costs, and *data sharing* is very important for the industry development. In Norway, information sharing is already a reality, and I believe that it should be the same in Brazil," said Araújo.

For Donald Sweet, vice-president of Integrated Solutions and Sales for OneSubsea, establishing alliances bring more competitiveness to the market, as it reduces risks and enhances interest in investments. The executive opinion was echoed by Jesus Grande, Latin America president of Baker Hughes, a GE Company. "Recent partnerships have enhanced BHGE scope, and it may be considered a *full-stream provider*. Now we have an extensive portfolio and expertise in the upstream, midstream and downstream areas. This is the best way to bring energy to the world."

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Registration for OTC Brasil is open online and onsite at Riocentro, until Thursday, 26 October. www.otcbrasil.org.

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