



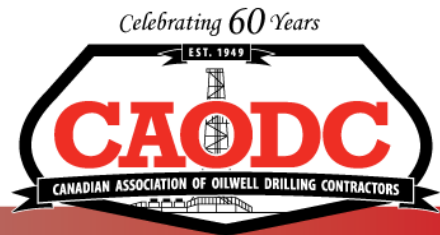
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PRESS RELEASE

CAODC Brings Rig Skill to WorldSkills

For Immediate Release

Calgary, Alberta (August 31, 2009) The latest in drilling rig technology will be in operation this week at WorldSkills, the trades and technology competition taking over Calgary's Stampede Park. The Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors (CAODC), a WorldSkills supporting sponsor, will host a drilling rig venue at the international event. Ensign Energy moved an Automated Drilling Rig™ (ADR™) onto Stampede Park Sunday as the centerpiece for this venue.

“The rig is a uniquely Canadian contribution to the WorldSkills competition,” says Don Herring, President, CAODC. “Only Canada's oil and gas industry offers drilling rig employees a full apprenticeship program – work-based training and classroom training. Our Rig Technician trade gives industry the right tools to help a new generation master the skills drillers need to lead a rig crew.”

Canada's rig fleet has some of the most advanced drilling technology in the world, a necessity to explore for oil and gas in the difficult geology of western Canada. The workforce maintaining and operating this equipment has adapted to an increasingly technical environment. When the Rig Technician trade was established in Alberta five years ago, industry at all levels noted that the journeyman certificate was long overdue.

WorldSkills gives the drilling industry an opportunity to put the newest rig technology in front of tens of thousands of students. Rig Technicians are not competing at this year's WorldSkills: only Canada could offer a team in this new trade. However, Rig Technicians will be on site to give students a first-hand account of rig work, and an Ensign crew will be operating the ADR™ to showcase its advanced features.

Says Tom Connors, Vice-President, Ensign Energy, “We're at WorldSkills to show that technology has really altered the way our crews work. If someone's vision of rig work is a rig floor from the 1980's, then we'd like them to see how the job has changed.”

CAODC, a trade association representing drilling and service rig contractors, is the voice of 100% of Canada's drilling rig fleet and more than 98% of Canada's service rig fleet.

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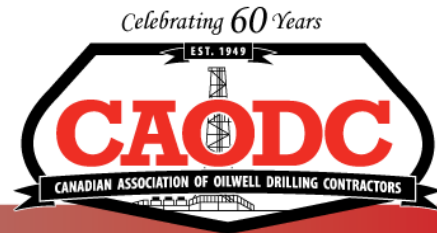
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CAODC Brings Rig Skill to WorldSkills - Fact Sheet

WorldSkills

- September 1-7, 2009
- Free admission to the four days of Competition, September 2-5 at Stampede Park
- More than 900 youth will vie for gold in 45 skill categories
- Competitors must be under the age of 23 during the year of the WorldSkills Competition, with the exception of two skill categories: the Manufacturing Team Challenge and Aircraft Maintenance, in which Competitors can be up to 25.
- Hosting the world for one week has taken more than four years to plan
- About 1,000 international Delegates and Experts
- 150,000 total attendance
- 3,000 volunteers
- 50,000 students registered to attend
- The largest independent event ever hosted at Stampede Park
- \$82 million economic impact to the City of Calgary
- Targeted to youth in school, young adults aged 17- 25 and parents, industry leaders, educators and youth influencers
- The \$56 million operating budget comes from:
 - \$24.1 million from the Government of Alberta
 - \$13.4 million from the Government of Canada
 - \$11.6 million from sponsorship
 - \$6.9 million from other revenue

The Rig Technician Trade

- An initiative of the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors (CAODC) in response to mounting human resources pressure and to highlight this industry's skilled career path
- Established first in Alberta in 2004
- Presently offered in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories
- 3 training periods with each period correlating to one of the three senior rig crew positions: motorhand, derrickhand and driller
- Approximately 4000 Rig Technician apprentices are registered across western Canada
- 3600 drilling rig employees already carry a Rig Technician journeyman
- Compulsory in Alberta for those employed in senior rig crew positions
- The only trade in Canada in which all provinces that offer the program mirror content and training standards at all levels of the trade. CAODC works closely with provincial apprenticeship divisions to ensure this consistency

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Ensign's Automated Drilling Rig

Canadian Technology

- Ensign refined the ADR™ concept in Canada and has since spread this technology to its international operations.
- Ensign today operates 60 ADRs in Canada, the United States, Australia, the Middle East and Africa.

Fast and Mobile

- ADRs can be set up and moved 2 to 3 times faster than conventional drilling rigs. Where a conventional drilling rig might need 4 to 5 days to set up and start operating, Ensign's ADRs require less than 2 days, and in the smaller ADR versions, only hours.

Automated and Safe

- The ADR™ is designed so that the entire drilling process is automated.
- Drillers manage the process safely from a console located in a climate-controlled cabin on the rig. Tubulars, including drill pipe, are moved and loaded automatically, thus eliminating the need for rig hands to handle tubulars manually.
- On a conventional drilling rig, typically 32 per cent of injuries are related to handling tubulars on the rig floor. The ADR™ eliminates the majority of these risks to personnel.

Lower Environmental Footprint

- The rig is compact and reduces the well pad footprint by as much as 30 per cent.
- ADRs are powered with newer lower emission engines .
- Some ADR™ packages have been converted to operate utilizing cleaner burning natural gas fuelled engines.

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