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Churchill's DAV MX chosen for record breaking geothermal well

Extreme heat no sweat for Churchill Drilling Tools

The flagship DAV MX™ CircSub from Churchill Drilling Tools, an oilfield service company specializing in drilling innovation, was selected for the world's deepest and hottest geothermal borehole in the Iceland Deep Drilling Project (IDDP) on the Reykjanes Peninsula.

The IDDP well is earmarked to become an integral part of Iceland's geothermal energy production – providing clean, renewable energy by using supercritical steam heated by the earth's magma.

Drilling took 176 days and involved the deepening of an existing geothermal borehole to a depth of 5km. The IDDP team encountered temperatures of 427°C at a depth of 4659m – simultaneously creating the deepest and hottest ever geothermal borehole and encountering supercritical conditions at a shallower depth than anticipated.

Samples were taken to surface to ascertain fluid chemistry and the drill presented an unprecedented look into the depths of the earth's crust.

The DAV MX™ CircSub was selected on the recommendation of a major operator and partner in the IDDP product due to its robust temperature resistance and experience in HPHT conventional wells. The tool offered a contingency for the IDDP team against pack-off related circulation loss in which the bottom hole assembly (BHA) components would be literally cooked if circulation was lost.

Mike Churchill, CEO and commercial director said: "Churchill was delighted to secure two world firsts' on this well. The IDDP well is both the deepest and hottest geothermal well on record and it is a reflection on the DAV MX™ that it was selected to be run in this string. The tool has a significant case history in HPHT wells and can withstand a good deal of punishment – both of which suited the client in this unconventional case.

"Geothermal wells are a new area for Churchill and it is a market we are looking to expand as our competition in the segment simply cannot match the resilience of the CircSub."



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Notes to Editors

Churchill Drilling Tools is a specialist engineering company that provides leading and innovative drilling solutions for the oil and gas industry. From founder Andy Churchill's original designs in 1998 the company has become renowned for the supply of a wide range of simple, reliable and effective rental products.

Churchill's presence in the drilling industry is global, with offices located in Houston, Aberdeen and Dubai. Its flagship product, the DAV *MX*[™] CircSub, is a recognized performance leader and has been successfully run in more than 900 wells. The center pieces of the Churchill range are innovative applications of drop-in dart technology, such as Smart Darts[™], which help control the next generation of down hole tools that are taking the industry forward in critical areas such as well control, drifting, mud circulation and stuck-pipe recovery.