ABSTRACT

Sürmene-1 is the last well of the 4 ultra deep water wells that were drilled in the Turkish Black Sea by a Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU). Sürmene-1 was spudded in November 2010 by a semisubmersible rig, Leiv Eiriksson (Ocean Rig), and was temporarily abandoned in January 2011 due to subsea wellhead damage. After procuring a wellhead connector and a wellhead adapter 8 months later, in September 2011 it was tied back and drilled to the target depth by a drillship, Deepwater Champion (Transocean). The problem and its solution in Sürmene-1 is not common practice in the industry. Operations in a remote area like Black Sea bare its own uncertainties when you consider decisions and solutions to be undertaken. Therefore we find it worthwhile to share management of such uncertainty with the industry’s leading experts.

KEY WORDS: Black Sea Offshore; Ultra Deep Water Drilling (UDWD); Drilling Services Agreement (DSA); Rig Farm Out Agreement (RFOA); Basis of Design (BOD); Management of Change (MOC); Wellhead Adaptor.

INTRODUCTION

Black Sea is an inland sea with borders demarcated by neighboring countries. It does not bear any juristic issues. Excluding Sea of Azov, the distribution of 425,000 km² of surface area among the neighboring countries is as follows (Figure-1):

- Turkey :170,000 km²
- Ukraine :120,000 km²
- Russia :50,000 km²
- Bulgaria :40,000 km²
- Georgia :25,000 km²
- Romania :20,000 km²

The largest area belongs to Turkey. Delay of the hydrocarbon exploration is due to the fact that the seabed steeply