



World's First Commercial Monobore Expandable Liner Extension System

HOUSTON, TX (January 23, 2007) - The world's first monobore expandable liner extension system was successfully installed in a commercial well in southeast Oklahoma. The linEXX™ Solid Expandable System is the end product of a collaborative development project between Baker Oil Tools and BP. Deployment of the linEXX system included an RC9-R™ Recess Shoe run on the 9 5/8 in. parent casing string, FORMlock™ expandable hanger/packer, 36 joints of 8.0 in. by .345-in. wall expandable liner and a RNX™ guide shoe. Expansion of the liner was accomplished utilizing the catEXXSM expansion tool system.

The linEXX system features one-trip, top-down expansion to extend the prior 9-5/8 in. casing string while maintaining the full drift ID of the parent casing, i.e., 8-1/2 in. The linEXX system allows for isolation of troublesome downhole conditions and, thus, facilitates deeper wells by preserving critical hole size.

First, a contingency recess shoe was installed on the 9 5/8 in. parent casing at a depth of 2,588 ft (789 m); 1,514 ft (461 m) of 8.0 in. expandable liner was then run in hole and positively located in the previously installed Recess Shoe profile. The hanger and liner were expanded through their full length and the guide shoe was retrieved in a single trip. The string was expanded 18% to 8.625 in. nominal ID and 8-1/2 in. drift ID.

The expanded liner was pressure-tested, the circulating sleeve in the Recess Shoe was shifted open and the expanded liner cemented in place using a K-1 cement retainer with returns taken through the ports of the RC9-R Recess Shoe. The retainer and cement were then drilled out. Drilling continued below the linEXX shoe at 4,020 ft (1225 m) with rotary steerable directional tools. Plans call for isolating the linEXX system with production casing before completing the well.

For a number of years, the industry has sought to prove the feasibility of monobore expandable liner extensions as an advantageous alternative to conventional casing designs. The goal of an expandable monobore liner extension is to enable the operator to drill deeper exploration and production wells with larger hole sizes at the reservoir. As a contingency plan, the goal is to enable the operator to isolate zones that contain reactive shales, subsalt environments, low-fracture-gradient formations or other drilling situations without having to reduce the casing and subsequent drilled hole size into the reservoir.

Baker Oil Tools is a world leader in well completion and intervention solutions.

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Rig crew running recess shoe for Baker Oil Tools' linEXX expandable liner system.