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News Releases

Friday, March 9, 2001

Western Geophysical to Use New Satellite Technology for High-Speed Data Transmission

HOUSTON, Texas — April 12, 2000 — Western Geophysical, a division of Baker Hughes Incorporated, plans to use the latest satellite communications technology for high-speed transmission of seismic data from its remotely located offshore vessels to onshore data processing centers.

Western Geophysical's marine seismic vessel, *Western Patriot*, is being fitted with the first-of-a-kind SeismicStar™ terminal, the world's fastest commercial satellite data transmission system from SpaceData International. SpaceData worked directly with Western Geophysical to specify and test the SeismicStar system. The system is optimized for Western's marine seismic operations to enable the automatic transmission of large amounts of information, including uncompressed raw seismic field data.

SeismicStar terminals aboard the *Western Patriot* are designed to automatically transfer the data from the vessel's remote survey location on a daily basis at 311 Mbps by "broadband-on-command" service. The onboard terminals transmit the data through a series of unique geostationary satellites to ground stations. Fiber optic cables provide the final high-speed link from the ground stations directly to Western's Marine Data Processing Center in Houston.

SpaceData International will control and maintain the complete system from remote terminal to delivery to the processing center. "This complete data transfer service, from boat to processing center, is intended to enable Western to provide an exceptionally fast turnaround time and efficient service to its customers," said Craig Beasley, Western Geophysical Vice President for Data Processing.

Western Geophysical is one of the largest worldwide oilfield information services companies, providing seismic and reservoir solutions from initial prospect assessment through fully integrated reservoir evaluation.

Baker Hughes is a leading supplier of reservoir-centered products, services, and systems to the worldwide oil and gas industry.

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Contact:

Gary R. Flaharty (713) 439-8039

gary.flaharty@bakerhughes.com

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