



Technip Awarded Manufacturer of the Year



Technip's technology of flexible pipe helps extract oil and gas from under the ocean floor. The pipe lay vessel, Deep Blue (pictured above) is the largest of its type in the world and calls Mobile its homeport.

Since opening its pipeline fabrication spoolbase in 2001, Technip's Theodore facility has become one of the most important offshore construction facilities on the Gulf Coast, completing projects for more than 15 operators in the Gulf of Mexico, Brazil, Egypt and Angola. The company was named the Mobile Area Chamber's 2009 Manufacturer of the Year. The Theodore operation welds pipeline with a unique flexible joint design worthy of subsea depths needed to transfer oil and gas from under the ocean floor.

In 2009, Technip developed more than 60 percent of the market share of subsea fabrication/installation projects in the Gulf, and the Theodore spoolbase has welded over 1,500 miles of pipe for the gulf alone. "This award is a confirmation that Technip has developed a world-class facility manned by world-class Mobilians," said **Bob Barnett**, Technip's spoolbase manager.

Technip represents a significant regional investment of equipment and manpower. The spoolbase constitutes an investment greater than \$30 million and the company is looking at a further investment of \$15 to \$20 million. According to Barnett, of Technip's 140 employees, 98 percent are from the Mobile area and enjoy pay rates above the national average.

Last year the company logged one of its busiest years on record. "We will remain at the forefront of subsea construction activities in the Gulf of Mexico, whilst maintaining our excellent safety record and continue to provide local jobs, confirming our commitment to the community and our contribution to the local economy," Barnett reiterated.

The Paris, France-based company strives for the best without compromising safety — a main focus for Technip. Since 2002, Technip has operated more than 3.5 million man-hours without a lost time incident since 2002.

Technip is also the owner of a fleet of offshore vessels. The flagship of the fleet, the pipe lay vessel, *Deep Blue*, is the largest vessel of its type in the world and calls Mobile its homeport. With 120 crew members, the vessel has set many deep water pipeline records. Technip is currently building a second pipe lay vessel of similar size to the *Deep Blue*, expected to be in service in 2011, that will also service the Theodore spoolbase.



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