

### New Canadian-built drilling rig for North Sea.

A fourth Canadian-built drilling rig is in operation in the British sector of the North Sea. The latest addition is the semi-submersible self-propelled "Stadrill", built as project number 705 by the Halifax Shipyards Division of Hawker Siddeley Canada at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

It is the sixth drilling rig built by Halifax Shipyards and the third which the company has supplied for North Sea operation, the other two being Sedneth 701 and Sedco 704.

"Stadrill", costing some \$35 million, was designed by Sedco for Shell UK Exploration and Production Limited. It has a twin hull, is rectangular in shape, measuring 295 feet by 245 feet and has a displacement of nearly 26,000 tons at drilling draught.

It is self propelled, being driven by four 2,000 horsepower electrically-powered thrusters at each end of the twin 295-foot hulls. These not only help to keep the unit on station but also assist in moving, giving a cruising speed of up to 8 knots.

Height to the main deck is 130 feet and over-all height with the drill mast raised is 330 feet. The rig has a helicopter deck and quarters for a crew of 95. Storage facilities are sufficient for several weeks' operations at sea under normal conditions without re-supply.

It will be able to operate in rough conditions and is capable of drilling beyond 20,000 feet in water depths up to about 1,000 feet even in long swells or when waves are up to 75 feet high.

On January 24, "Stadrill" set out for its first assignment – to drill an appraisal well in Shell/Esso's Cormorant field on block 211/21, some 75 miles northeast of the Shetland Isles.

For Shell Expro, "Stadrill" will replace "Staflo" which has been in use in the North Sea for the past seven years, and which was visited by Canadian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, Paul Martin, last June.

Services and products from Canada encompass the entire spectrum of marine activity, including items such as oceanographic and seismic surveys, consultancy, bottom profiling, construction of supply vessels, manned

submersibles, navigation and communication systems.

A further Sedco 700-series drill rig, "Sedco 709" is currently under construction at Halifax, to be followed by "Sedco 471", a fully dynamically-positioned drillship.

### Readership survey interim report

At press time, March 4, almost 1,000 readers had completed and returned the readership survey form attached to *Canada Weekly* dated January 28. Since the publication is distributed to some parts of the world where mail delivery is often erratic, more forms are expected – they keep coming in a steady stream.

While address changes are being incorporated daily, some time will be needed to analyze all of the wide-ranging suggestions, and to form conclusions.

Your complimentary comments are most encouraging, your interest in Canada heartwarming and your constructive criticism exceedingly helpful. The enclosures, postcards, stamps – and even a poem – are appreciated also.

Just for the record, some 12,000 English copies of the publication are distributed weekly – mainly abroad – to universities, schools, press, libraries, industry, organizations, embassies and private individuals, Canadians and non-Canadians. The mailing list is wide open and we would be pleased to add new readers at your request. Almost 5,000 French copies (*Hebdo Canada*) and smaller quantities of the German version (*Profil Kanada*) and the Spanish (*Noticario de Canadá*) are also mailed – the latter two twice a month.

Whatever the result of the survey, it is obvious that not all subjects suggested can be covered and not all can be treated in the way all readers wish – some want them longer, some shorter. A consensus must be reached. Diversity of readership, time, space requirements and staff (consisting at present of the undersigned), are all factors to be considered.

From your positive and excellent response, however, one thing is certain – you wish the *Weekly* to continue. I am delighted to comply.

Thank you readers – Miki Sheldon.

### EEC invites forest products mission from Canada

Thirteen senior executives of Canada's forest products industries, together with government officials, were invited to Europe for meetings with representatives of forest-based European companies, officials of the European Economic Community, member states and trading associations, from February 23 to March 4.

The mission was one of a series of activities following discussions on trade and economic topics initiated by Prime Minister Trudeau during his visits to European capitals in 1974 and 1975. The group visited EEC headquarters in Brussels and London, Paris, Rome and Bonn.

Industry, Trade and Industry Minister Don Jamieson said the mission would enable Canadian companies to develop new contacts and discuss ways of working together with their European counterparts to develop trade and strengthen their respective industries. "We hope it will form the basis for joint projects which will be of benefit to both Canada and the Community," he stated.

In addition to trade opportunities, the mission discussed other forms of commercial and industrial co-operation in the exchange of technology, the standardization of building materials codes, energy conservation and pollution control. The Canadian group was seeking information on European supply and demand projections and relevant European policies.

"This is the first time the European Commission has invited a mission such as this and I am pleased that so many senior corporate representatives have agreed to participate," the Minister said.

### Canadian aerospace firm to participate in U.S. space shuttle program

Spar Aerospace Products Ltd, of Toronto, has been awarded two contracts by the Canadian Department of Supply and Services, on behalf of Canada's National Research Council, to build a remote manipulator simulation facility and to design the remote manipulator system (RMS) for the U.S.