

Zentech rigs

Engineers at Houston-based Zentech Inc. have created two designs for a new type of multi-service, self-propelled jack up vessel with removable drilling apparatus, capable of working in water up to 210 ft deep. A removable rig package enables such a vessel to work in construction, diving support, pipe-laying, or as a tender-assist unit. Typical Gulf Coast lift boats have increased in size over the years but are subject to storms and poor maneuverability. One design was produced, pursuant to an October 2000 agreement with Covington, La.-based Oases Offshore Inc. A schematic of this design on Oases Offshore's website shows a cantilevered rig on a rectangular deck with three legs, three cranes and 18,000 ft of deck space. According to a June 2003 press release from the Yantai Raffles shipyard in China, the yard has a contract to build one of the Zentech/Oases jack ups, executed with a Nigeria-based representative of Oases Offshore.

Zentech's second design, the Z-210, is designed to mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) specifications and follows MODU survivability rules. Zentech says the four, 1,500 hp, fully azimuthing thrusters will provide better maneuverability than a typical lift boat. The vessel has 1,814 tonnes variable load capacity, including 907 tonnes on the 20,000 sq ft open deck. The Z-210 has four triangular legs, each 321½ ft long.

Zentech also has new designs for standard jack ups, the Zentech R-450 and Zentech Z-636, utilizing the Zenlock leg locking system.

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