

Title (en)

Offshore exploration and production system having an adjustable buoyancy chamber

Title (de)

Offshore Forschungs- und produktionssystem mit verstellbaren Auftriebskammer

Title (fr)

Système d'exploration et de production de pétrole en mer ayant une chambre de flottaison réglable

Publication

**EP 1659257 A1 20060524 (EN)**

Application

**EP 04030599 A 20041223**

Priority

US 99479904 A 20041122

Abstract (en)

A system and method of establishing an offshore exploration and production system is disclosed, in which a well casing (2) is disposed in communication with an adjustable buoyancy chamber (9) and a well hole (3) bored into the floor of a body of water. A lower connecting member (5) joins the well casing (2) and the chamber, and an upper connecting member (12) joins the adjustable buoyancy chamber (9) and a well terminal member (14). The chamber's adjustable buoyancy enables an operator to vary the height or depth of the well terminal member (14), and to vary the vertical tension imparted to drilling and production strings throughout exploration and production operations. Also disclosed is a system and method of adjusting the height or depth of a wellhead while associated vertical and lateral forces remain approximately constant. A variety of well isolation members (4), lateral stabilizers (6) and anchoring means (8), as well as several methods of practicing the invention, are also disclosed.

IPC 8 full level

**E21B 17/01** (2006.01)

CPC (source: BR EP)

**E21B 17/012** (2013.01 - BR EP)

Citation (applicant)

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- US 4448266 A 19840515 - POTTS HAROLD L [CA]

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DOCDB simple family (publication)

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**EP 04030599 A 20041223**; AP 2005003228 A 20050215; AR P050101960 A 20050513; AT 04030599 T 20041223; AU 2004317502 A 20041216; BR PI0500381 A 20050210; CA 2491273 A 20041230; DE 602004025356 T 20041223; DK 04030599 T 20041223; EA 200500308 A 20050303; ES 04030599 T 20041223; OA 1200500222 A 20050805; US 2004042322 W 20041216