Introducing the Very Large Turret (VLT)

Deepwater Risers, Moorings & Anchorings Conference IBC 2002, Houston, Texas

Charles Garnero & Caspar Heyl FMC SOFEC Floating Systems 18-19 March 2002



VLT Presentation Outline

- Why a VLT?
- Features of the VLT
- VLT Design
- Riser Considerations for the VLT
- Conclusions



Why the VLT

- Semi-Submersibles General
 - Accommodates many risers
 - Congested deck layouts
 - No oil storage capacity pipeline or FSO required
 - High CAPEX limited availability of existing vessels
- FPSOs General
 - High storage capacities
 - Generous deck space for topsides equipment layout
 - Accommodates many risers
 - Low CAPEX for new vessels and converted tankers



Why the VLT (cont.)

- Spread Moored FPSOs
 - Suited for mild or moderate environments
 - High risks associated with side-by-side and tandem offloading
 - Satellite export system can be costly
 - Unfavorable response motions for beam seas or crossed conditions (particularly roll)
- Very Large Turret Moored FPSOs
 - Suited for extreme environments
 - Weathervanes and offers reduced motions
 - Tandem offloading eliminates need for satellite export system
 - Cost competitive with similar spread moored FPSOs



Seafloor Space Available at Riser Touchdown Point



Semi-Submersible

Spread Moored Turret Moored



Innovative Technologies, Creative Solutions

Features of the VLT

- Supports 100+ risers
- Ultra deepwater FPSO applications
 - High loads from risers and mooring
- Simplified turret structure
 - Main deck, chain table and support columns
- Simplified bearing system
 - Proven AmClyde wheel roller bearing system
 - Lower bearing can be omitted



Features of the VLT (cont.)

- Generous open space throughout turret
- Riser slots interchangeable for riser sizes 6" ID and smaller
- Suitable for both flexible and steel risers



FMC SOFEC's Very Large Turret









Riser Connection at VLT Chain Table





VLT Design Premise

- 79 Flexible Pipe Catenary Risers
 - 19 x 6" production
 - 19 x 4" gas lift
 - 7 x 6" water injection
 - 4 x 10" & 1 x 6" ID export
 - 29 umbilicals
- 1 Large Steel Export Riser
 - 1 x 16" OD Steel Pipe
- Water Depth: 1,300 meters
- Location: Brazil

VLT Design Particulars

- Vessel Size: VLCC (280,000 320,000 DWT)
 - Length: 325 meters (LBP)
 - Beam: 58 meters
 - Depth: 30 meters
- Mooring: 3x3 taut mooring
 - Chain/poly/chain
 - VLAs or suction embedded anchors
- Turret Location: 40 m aft of FP (12% LBP)
- Moonpool Diameter: 28.6 m (49% Beam)
- Moonpool Volume: 19,250 m³ (6% Cargo Capacity)



Vessel Size Selection for VLT

No. of Risers	Moonpool Diameter	Moonpool Diameter 50% Vessel Beam	Moonpool Diameter 57% Vessel Beam	Moonpool Diameter 67% Vessel Beam	Minimum Vessel Sized Required
53	20.6	41.2	33.3	30.9	Aframax
67	24.6	49.2	40.3	36.9	Suezmax
80	28.6	57.2	47.3	42.9	VLCC
93	32.6	65.2	54.3	48.9	VLCC
107	36.6	73.2	61.3	54.9	ULCC
120	40.6	81.2	68.3	60.9	ULCC





P-34 moonpool diameter is appoximately 67% of vessel beam VLT moonpool diameter is appoximately 50% of vessel beam

FMC EnergySystems

P-34 and the VLT







Terra Nova and the VLT







FMC SOFEC Turret Comparison

	P-34 Barracuda	P-31 Albacora	Terra Nova	VLT	
Number of Risers	34	26	19	80	
Moonpool Diameter	13.6	12	14.5 @ Main Deck	28.6	
(meters)			22 @ Keel	20.0	
Moonpool Height [1]	17.2	28.6	29	30	
(meters)					
Moonpool Volume	2,500	3,250	6,900	19,250	
(cubic meters)					
Overall Turret Height	45.5	71.5	65	56	
(meters)					
Turret Weight Est [2]	1 917	1,669	3,702	4,400	
(metric tons)	1,017				
Turret Weight per Riser	53	64	195	55	
(metric tons / riser)				33	

Notes:

[1] Main deck to keel.

[2] Excluding moonpool, anchor legs and swivel access structure.



Riser Considerations for the VLT



VLT Riser Systems for Deep water

- Challenges
 - Vessel motions
 - Weight
 - Collapse
 - Currents
 - Temperature



VLT Riser Systems for Deep water

- Riser Types
 - Flexibles
 - Steel
 - Hybrid
 - Composites



Flexible Risers

- Catenary
 - Benign/moderate environment
- Compliant configuration
 - Harsh environment
- Large turret loads compared to steel
- Higher cost than steel
- Development: larger diameters / deeper water



Flexible Pipe Qualified Ratings

	Currently Qualified	Future Qualified		
Coflexie	6" ID @ 2,575 m	6" ID @ 2,800 m (2005)		
Collexip	16" ID @ 1,300 m	16" ID @ 1,700 m (2005)		
Mallatraam	6" ID @ 2,000 m	6" ID @ 3,000 m (2005)		
vvenstream	16" ID @ 700 m	16" ID @ 1,250 m (2005)		
<i>_</i>	6" ID @ 1,500 m	8" ID @ 3,000 m (2005)		
NKT	16" ID @ 700 m	Flextreme (Metal Core with Composite Outer)		



VLT with Simple Catenary Risers





Steel Risers

- Catenary
 - Limited vessel motions
 - Lowest riser cost
 - Simple installation
- Lazy Wave Riser
 - Large vessel motions
 - Higher cost
 - Increased installation time



Steel Risers





Innovative Technologies, Creative Solutions

Hybrid Riser Systems

- Combination of steel and flexible pipe
- Decouple motions using self-standing risers or buoy
- Connection to the FPSO via flexibles



Multibore Hybrid Tower

Single Leg Hybrid

Tension Leg Riser



Innovative Technologies, Creative Solutions

Bundled Riser Tower

- Decoupled vessel motions
- Suited for large number of risers
- Additional risers not easy
- Riser replacement not easy
- Tower can be pre-installed
- Used on Girassol field







Single Leg Hybrid Riser

- Decoupled vessel motions
- Allows large bore pipe (export)
- Pre-installed riser
- Simpler installation
- Base case for Kizomba A field





Tension Leg Riser Systems

- Decoupled vessel motions
- Economical for large number of risers
- Allows easy planning for future risers
- Steel catenaries can be pre-installed
- Subject of Deepstar study





Conclusions

- Turret moored FPSO has cost and operational advantages
- VLT can support 100+ risers in ultra deep water
- VLT is a simple turret structure
- Generous space inside the turret
- Low cost / long life bearing
- Low turret weight-to-riser ratio



FMC EnergySystems

Conclusions (cont.)

- VLT supports both flexible and steel risers
- Optimum riser configuration is a function of field development specifics
- VLT enables FPSO solutions for deepwater fields requiring a large number of risers



