Turritella for Shell’s Stones development is SBM Offshore’s first FPSO in the Gulf of Mexico. Once operating, she will set the record for the world’s deepest floating production unit at 2,900 meters as well as the largest disconnectable buoy (Buoyant Turret Mooring or BTM) and the first disconnectable FPSO with steel risers.

Construction has been completed on the floating production, storage and offloading unit (FPSO) for Stones, and in November 2015, the Turritella FPSO set sail from Singapore to its final destination in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM). The project is located in the lower tertiary geologic trend, a new frontier in deep water. Phase one of Shell’s project includes eight subsea production wells tied back to the FPSO.

A Joint Venture company comprising SBM Offshore (55%), Mitsubishi Corporation (30%) and Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK Line – 15%) own the FPSO which will be operated by SBM on behalf of the JV partners.

The list of industry firsts for Turritella allows for new uses for existing technologies to increase productivity, efficiency and safety levels for the FPSO.

- A key necessity for the FPSO is to be able to face the severe meteorological conditions of the GoM. Using the world’s largest disconnectable buoy (Buoyant Turret Mooring or BTM) it will allow the vessel to safely sail away from oncoming hurricanes.

- This disconnectable capability also allows the FPSO to quickly resume production once the hurricane has passed the location; an important factor for Shell’s productivity in the field.

- The FPSO is unique and a breakthrough in terms of technology for riser configuration with the design of this system featuring Steel Lazy Wave Risers (SLWR). First use of SLWR with disconnectable buoy.

- Another innovative feature developed for this project is the possibility to readjust each mooring line tension without any device installed on the FPSO. It pioneers the use of an In-line Mooring Connector (ILMC), which gives direct access to the mooring line for re-tension purposes. This feature allows more flexibility when the need arises to adjust the tension of mooring lines, even during the early phase of the system installation.

World’s deepest production unit and deepest FPSO at 2,900 meters (9,500ft)

First disconnectable system, with Steel Lazy wave Risers
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