Maersk Drilling's strategic ambition is to provide our customers with Smarter Drilling for Better Value. In 2017, the Maersk Discoverer team drilled a record-breaking shallow water well in dynamic positioning mode, five days ahead of schedule.

Shallow Water Dynamic Positioning Record

Maersk Drilling’s Deepwater D-rigs are designed to operate in water depths between 460m and 3050m in Dynamic Positioning mode (DP). As BP’s Cairo-based Operations Manager points out: "Drilling in deep water has its challenges, but at the opposite end of the spectrum, drilling in shallow water with a dynamic positioning rig certainly does as well."

Using DP mode provides significant cost savings for customers by removing the need to rent mooring equipment and eliminating the time associated with connecting and disconnecting mooring lines.

Safety first
Allan McColl, Rig Leader on Maersk Discoverer adds: "In collaboration with Maersk Drilling’s in-house Technical Organisation, we decided to determine if it was feasible to drill in such shallow waters as 285 metres."

Risk assessment measures:
- Timings to successfully disconnect from the well.
- DP system upgrade to automatically return to the original position during a power black out.
- Well-specific operating guidelines with clear operating criteria for the particular months of the year.
- Test drills on the drill floor and bridge to understand the required reactions in the event of a power loss.

The record-breaking shallow water well is a strong example of how Maersk Drilling adds value to customers to reduce their overall costs by finding technical solutions. The BP Operations Manager adds: "Many thanks to all those who contributed in making this first Giza Fayoum well a success."

How can we help you?
Please contact your local Maersk Drilling representative for more information.

Facts
- Location: Giza Fayoum, Egypt
- Client: BP
- Depth: 285 metres
- Rig Type: Ultra Deepwater Semi-sub
- Operation type: Development
- Safety Performance: Zero incidents
- Performance: Five days faster than planned

Dynamic Positioning Advantages:
- **Flexibility** of rig moves e.g. for batch drilling
- **Time savings** on all rig moves compared to anchored
- **Cost Savings** due to DP mode mitigating the need for:
  - Mooring system rental
  - Anchor handling vessels
  - Storage handling or transportation of mooring equipment
  - Transportation of mooring equipment
- **Safety risk reduced** as fewer handling operations means less risk of accidents.