

Lift of the 12,680 tonnes Deepwater Horizon RBS-8D Semi-submersible Deck Section, Korea

Client: R&B Falcon (Transocean Sedco Forex)

Main Contractor: Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. Ltd.



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Above: the deck lift progresses, with Hyundai's towers clearly visible in the foreground and background. Most of the jacking activity is taking place around the central tubular lifting towers just visible underneath the deck.

With a weight of 12,680 tonnes, in July 2000 Fagioli PSC broke the unofficial world record for the heaviest object ever lifted on completion of the raising of the RBS-8D semi-submersible deck known as 'Deepwater Horizon'. The vessel is owned by R&B Falcon (Transocean Sedco Forex), with Fagioli PSC's contract awarded by Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. Ltd. and carried out at Hyundai's fabrication yard in Ulsan, Korea. In an almost identical method to the earlier RBS-8M semi-submersible deck lift that weighed 11,000 tonnes, the deck was lifted to a height of 33 metres using 34 No. Fagioli PSC L600 Strand Jacks, which then allowed the two lower hull sections to be skidded

underneath the deck, using an Active Loadout System supplied by Fagioli PSC, to complete the semi-submersible structure.

The lifting method employed six temporary lifting towers:

- Two external towers each supporting 3 L600 jacks.
- Two external towers each supporting 2 L600 jacks.
- Two internal towers each supporting 12 L600 jacks.

The use of Fagioli PSC's computer control system allowed precise synchronisation of the jacking system during both lifting and mating of the deck to the hull sections.