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## **New Metrics-Based Approach to Risk Reduction for High-Specification Offshore Assets** *Athens Group Announces Availability of Proven Practices<sup>SM</sup> Methodology for Acceptance Testing*

Houston, Texas, May 9, 2011. Athens Group, an independent third-party provider of risk assessment and mitigation services for control systems software on high-specification offshore assets, today announced the availability of the latest version of their Proven Practices Methodology for Factory Acceptance Testing and Commissioning. This new version: encompasses more comprehensive evaluation and activity checklists that enable improved information gathering and increased traceability to evidence; addresses residual risk elements across the asset lifecycle, which helps to reduce risk and improve performance during operations; and includes a Real-Time Risk Assessment<sup>SM</sup> Scorecard that ranks risks on a relative and weighted basis, making it possible for a Drilling Contractor or Operator to benchmark their current practices against proven risk reduction practices.

“On high-specification offshore assets, an average 34% of non-productive time is control systems software and hardware integration related<sup>1</sup>. “Our customers strive for ‘zero injuries and zero incidents’ but are also coping with confusing and increasing regulatory oversight,” said Mike Haney, CEO of Athens Group. “The systems approach to risk assessment and mitigation embodied in the latest version of our Proven Practices Methodology gives them better information earlier to improve asset reliability and safety in a more cost effective manner.”

### **About the Proven Practices Methodology**

Athens Group combined technology assurance best practices from other industries with their extensive drilling industry experience and software expertise to create their Proven Practices<sup>SM</sup> Methodology. This methodology includes proprietary work processes, checklists, reports and tools (including their Drilling Technology Assurance<sup>SM</sup> (DTA) Equipment Knowledge Base, DTA Requirements and Issue Tracking Database, Real-Time Risk Assessment Scorecard and Quality Management System), and is tailored specifically for each phase of the asset lifecycle. It is continuously updated based on new standards, completed projects, and new research and development. This allows lessons learned on other assets to be applied to new projects.

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## **About Athens Group**

The high rate of non-productive time (NPT) and project delays on today's highly-automated offshore assets is unacceptable! Drilling Contractors and Operators rely on Athens Group to help them reduce NPT, improve safety and safeguard the environment by identifying and addressing software-related equipment failures. Our DTA Services were developed specifically for highly integrated control systems and are tailored for each phase of the asset lifecycle. Athens Group has more expertise in this specialized area than any other vendor. Our Proven Practices<sup>SM</sup> Methodology; software, hardware, and network topology experience; and vendor equipment experience speed risk assessment and mitigation. This is why the cost ratio of our services to NPT savings typically exceeds 1:100. Our customers, industry-leading companies such as Anadarko, BP, Chevron, Eni, ExxonMobil, Maersk, Marathon, Noble Drilling, Pacific Drilling, Shell, Stena Drilling, Total and Transocean, to name just a few, are all referenceable.

1. *The State of NPT on High Specification Assets: Third Annual Benchmarking Report – Focus on Industry Collaboration and Safety*