

Stampede topsides installed as Hess sticks to 2018 target

US PLAYER Hess' Stampede tension-leg platform in the Gulf of Mexico has achieved a major milestone after the company successfully lifted the topsides deck on the hull, *writes Kathrine Schmidt*.

The platform is under construction at Kiewit Offshore Services in Ingleside, Texas, which built the topsides. Samsung Heavy Industries of South Korea built the hull.

"We successfully lifted and set the topsides deck on the hull,"

Hess executive Greg Hill told investors on a conference call.

"All major lifts are now complete, drilling operations continue to progress, and first oil remains on schedule for 2018."

A spokeswoman added that integration work is now continuing apace and "proceeding well".

"Meanwhile, the Diamond drillship Ocean BlackLion has safely finished drilling the first production well and will return to com-

plete it at a later date," she added. "While we are in the process of installing the subsea infrastructure, the BlackLion is drilling the first water injection well."

Separately, Gulf Island Fabrication told investors that construction was progressing on tendon buoyancy modules for the project, which are set for delivery in the first quarter of 2017.

Hess operates the Stampede project with a 25% stake and is

partnered by Chevron, Statoil and Nexen.

The platform is to be located on Green Canyon blocks 468, 511 and 512, about 115 miles (184 kilometres) south of Fourchon, Louisiana.

Water depth is about 3500 feet with a reservoir depth of 30,000 feet.

The facility will have capacity for 80,000 barrels per day of oil and 100,000 bpd of water injection capacity.