BOP, the rams are closed on the painted pipe with sufficient pressure to leave marks that indicate their position relative to the landed hanger. The rams are then retracted, and the dummy string is retrieved uphole. Based upon the markings on the painted pipe, proper positioning of the SSTT within the BOP is determined and the spacing of the fluted hanger from the SSTT is accordingly adjusted at the surface to achieve the desired positioning when the SSTT is deployed in the BOP.

Although simplistic, there is at least one severe drawback to conventional dummy run operations. Making up the jointed tubing used in the dummy assembly is very time consuming. Given this, and the fact that some wells are drilled at ocean depths of up to 10,000 feet or deeper, it can take days to complete a single dummy run. At the present time, it is estimated that some floating rigs have a daily cost of upwards of 400,000 USD. Therefore, conventional dummy run operations are very expensive.

In view of the foregoing, there is a need in the art for cost-effective approaches to properly positioning of the subsea test equipment within the BOP.

SUMMARY

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided an assembly to determine placement of a subsea test tree ("SSTT") within a blow out preventer ("BOP"), the assembly including : a flexible line; a tubular joint supported by the flexible line, wherein the tubular joint is used to determine placement of the SSTT within the BOP; and a dummy hanger supported beneath the tubular joint.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method to determine placement of a subsea test tree ("SSTT") within a blow out preventer ("BOP"), the method including: deploying a flexible line from a surface location; supporting a tubular joint on the line; supporting a dummy hanger below the tubular joint; and determining a desired placement of the SSTT within the BOP.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1A and 1B illustrate a dummy run elimination assembly according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 2A and 2B illustrate exploded views of hanger adjustment mechanisms according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention; and

FIGS. 3-5 illustrate various alternative assemblies according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

Illustrative embodiments and related methodologies of the present invention are described below as they might be employed in an apparatus and method for eliminating dummy runs and/or for reducing the time required to conduct dummy runs. In the interest of clarity, not all features of an actual implementation or methodology are described in this specification. Also, the "exemplary" embodiments described herein refer to examples of the present invention. It will of course be appreciated that in the development of any such actual embodiment, numerous implementation-specific decisions must be made to achieve the developers' specific goals, such as compliance with system-related and business-related constraints, which will vary from one implementation to another. Moreover, it will be