



# Mobile Offshore Drilling Units

The Preferred  
Choice for Class



# High-Specification Leadership

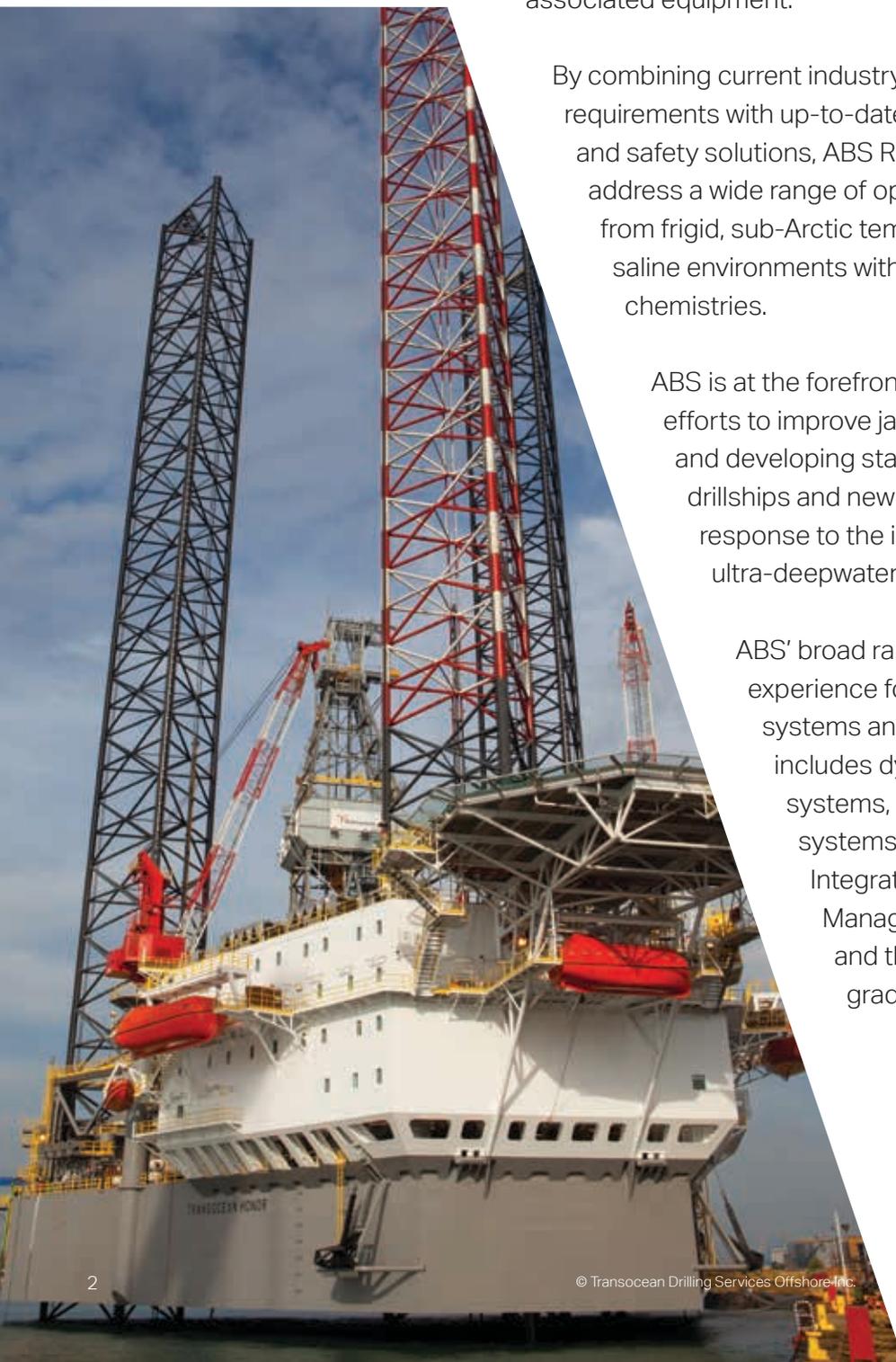
ABS is the class society of choice for high-specification units operating in remote and demanding environments and drilling deep, technically challenging wells. Today, ABS classes the largest share of the worldwide mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) fleet.

ABS keeps pace with changing industry demands, drawing on input from industry experts, including drilling contractors, operating companies, shipyards, design firms and academia, to improve its *Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU Rules)* and additional criteria for classing and certifying drilling systems and associated equipment.

By combining current industry practices and requirements with up-to-date technical standards and safety solutions, ABS Rules and Guides address a wide range of operating conditions, from frigid, sub-Arctic temperatures to humid, saline environments with highly corrosive water chemistries.

ABS is at the forefront of technical research efforts to improve jackup capabilities in ice and developing standards for Polar Class drillships and new drillship guidance in response to the increased demand for ultra-deepwater units.

ABS' broad range of certification experience for drilling-related systems and arrangements includes dynamic positioning systems, software control systems, including the Integrated Software Quality Management (ISQM) program, and the industry's first dual gradient drilling system.



# Supporting Drilling Advancements

ABS has moved with industry in advancing the limits of deepwater technology. First-generation semisubmersible units classed by ABS were able to drill in 600 ft water depth. Today's sixth and seventh generation semisubmersibles under ABS class are capable of drilling in more than 10,000 ft water depth.

ABS also is involved in the classification of next-generation, high-specification drillships, many of which are intended for ultra-deepwater operation at depths to 12,000 ft.



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## Practical and Technical Experience

ABS has classed each new generation, from the earliest days of the industry's self-elevating rigs to today's seventh generation deepwater units. As the leading provider of class services for MODUs, ABS holds the dominant market shares for the following:

- **Jackups**  
ABS classes more than 80 percent of the jackups operating worldwide.
- **Semisubmersibles**  
ABS classes more exploration semisubmersibles than any other class society.
- **Drillships**  
ABS has classed every type of drillship, including those designed to the highest specifications for operating in ultra-deep water, and holds the largest class market share.
- **Tender Drilling Units & Others**  
In addition to the three principal MODU types, ABS has classed numerous tender drilling units, submersibles and barge drilling units.



# Asset Performance Management

ABS' Asset Performance Management group combines traditional classification services with innovative concepts, tools and practices to help asset owners improve life cycle performance and management. This specialized team delivers:

- Assistance with improving operational performance, energy efficiency and environmental performance
- Asset management solutions for the marine and offshore industries through the proprietary NS5 Enterprise software suite
- Help in developing life cycle management programs that encompass reliability, technical integrity and safety



## Managing Asset Integrity

ABS offers maintenance procedures and asset integrity management (AIM) programs to help operators maximize operational efficiency and MODU uptime. The AIM programs address:

- The entire asset from construction and modification to decommissioning
- The three key AIM areas: people and culture, technical tools and techniques and management systems
- Key management systems



# System Verification



The individual components brought together in a modern drilling unit continue to evolve, and the way they interact is critical to safe and efficient operations. The components and systems have to function together in a manner that can be controlled by the crew on board the unit. This is an important driver behind ABS' research and development, the results of which are influencing new notation development.

In response to operators' desire for a more comprehensive approach to asset management, ABS has developed new standards that formalize an integrated systems approach to classification. Notations can be used by owners and operators to show compliance with class requirements at the time of new construction and continued compliance during the operational life of the unit.



## Notations for MODU Classification

The latest notations developed by ABS for the drilling sector include: Integrated Software Quality Management (**ISQM**), Systems Verification (**SV**), **DRILLSHIP**, Asset Integrity Management (**AIM**) and Rapid Response Damage Assessment (**RRDA**). Existing notations that have been enhanced include: Classification of Drilling Systems (**CDS**), Hull Inspection and Maintenance Program (**HIMP**), Reliability Centered Maintenance (**RCM**) and Environmental Protection (**ENVIRO-OS** or **ENVIRO-OS+**).



# The Classification Leader for MODUs

ABS provided the first classification for a MODU in 1958 and continues to be the classification leader for the high-specification units that will support tomorrow's energy needs.

From its Energy Corridor location in Houston and specialized offshore offices around the globe, ABS continues to monitor the worldwide drilling fleet, working with industry to anticipate needs as operating environments become even more demanding.

As the leading provider of classification services to the global offshore industry, ABS is in a unique position to offer guidance, Rules and technical standards. Experienced ABS professionals can guide MODU delivery projects during the initial design concept, through the plan approval process, during construction and throughout the service life of the asset.



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**For more information:**

Contact an ABS technical advisor today to discuss the unique aspects of your next project, and access ABS Rules and Guides online at [www.eagle.org](http://www.eagle.org) under the Resources tab.

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