Shale shaker upgrade delivers more than $830K in LCM savings

Replacing aging shakers with VSM Multi-Sizer shakers improves LCM recovery, maintenance efficiency, and long-term operating performance

Background

A major Gulf operator sought to recover more of its lost circulation material (LCM) by replacing an aging, difficult-to-maintain shaker system. Rising LCM costs made increased recovery from drilling fluids a key opportunity to reduce operating expenses, improve solids control efficiency, and support more consistent drilling performance across multiple well sections.

Solution

NOV replaced the existing shaker package with three Brandt™ VSM Multi-Sizer™ shakers equipped with an adjustable weir gate system. The design allows operators to optimize fluid routing and switch between parallel and series operation as drilling conditions change. This flexible design improves LCM recovery, maintains consistent performance across varying solids loads, and helps crews respond more effectively to changing downhole conditions without sacrificing separation efficiency.

The upgraded system also improves serviceability through simplified access to key components, reduced maintenance requirements, and tool-free part replacement. These enhancements reduce inspection and repair times and minimize downtime during routine servicing, all while improving overall equipment reliability in demanding offshore environments.

Results

The VSM Multi-Sizer shaker upgrade helped the operator recover approximately 90% of its LCM. For a 7,000-bbl synthetic mud system, estimated LCM costs were reduced from approximately $231,000 to $23,100 per circulation.

Across five circulations, the savings exceeded $830,000 while also reducing waste, chemical consumption, and the need for additional material logistics.

By improving recovery efficiency, expanding operational flexibility, and simplifying maintenance, the upgraded shaker package helped the operator reduce overall drilling fluid costs, improve system reliability, and extend the useful life of valuable drilling materials.

Case study facts

Location: U.S. Gulf

Customer: Major operator

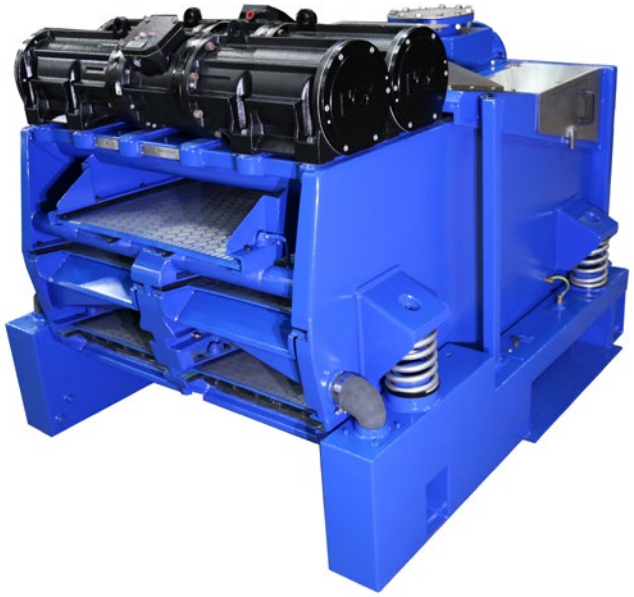
Solution:
Three Brandt VSM Multi-Sizer shakers, adjustable weir gates to improve LCM recovery and flow control

Challenges:

- Improve recovery of high-value lost circulation material
- Reduce drilling fluid costs
- Replace an aging, difficult-to-maintain shaker system
- Improve equipment serviceability and reduce downtime
- Maintain safe offshore execution

Results:

- Improved maintenance access and reduced service complexity
- Achieved approximately 90% LCM recovery
- Delivered more than $830,000 in estimated savings across five circulations



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