



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Elaine Wilson, 952-345-7278, Elaine.wilson@brandspringsolutions.com

Twin Cities Manufacturer Part of the Solution to Stop Gulf Oil Leak

Modified valve from Continental Hydraulics Helps Waterjet System Unclog Containment Dome

(Minneapolis, Minn.) – There’s no question the BP oil leak crisis takes engineering, thought and industry best practices. Intervention is rough according to James Miletich of Oceaneering’s ROV Division. “You’re always fighting something. It’s never easy,” he said.

Recently, hydrate ice crystals formed inside BP’s 40-foot-tall containment system aimed to capture leaking oil—and ultimately clogged the system. Hydrate gases crystallize like ice in cold waters and high pressure deep beneath the ocean’s surface.

Minnesota company Continental Hydraulics, in partnership with Jet Edge, Inc. and Chukar Waterjet, Inc. developed a solution to help fight the problem. The company’s DO8 valve was used to operate Jet Edge’s waterjet pump enabling the jet stream to blast away the hydrate crystals.

“The timeliness and schedule was intense—but we were pleased to deliver a modification to our product capable of withstanding the harsh undersea environment and enormous water pressure at a depth in excess of 5,000 feet,” said Continental Hydraulics general manager Jeff Brandt.

Jet Edge’s custom engineered waterjet intensifier pump was dropped into the sea to power a robot-operated waterjetting lance— eliminating the hydrates. This equipment is the first-known waterjet system capable of operating in water depths in excess of 5,000 feet, opening a new frontier for waterjet technology.

Chukar Waterjet, Inc. general manager Bruce Kivisto said, “We worried about 2300 pounds of force and the harsh exposure to that valve. Continental Hydraulics recognized the importance, the challenge and delivered a critical component to our success.”

Kivisto provided onsite application and engineering services throughout the project, recently returning from several weeks aboard a boat just 50 yards away from the Discoverer Enterprise. He says the solution appears to be working and will continually be monitored .

###

Continental Hydraulics of Savage, Minn. is a manufacturer of high performance hydraulic pumps, valves and power units. Their products are used in some of the most severe conditions and their reputation for superior durability and performance continues to grow. The engineering staff at Continental is continually at work to improve current products and develop new fluid power technologies. In addition, Continental Hydraulics specializes in response time and delivery for challenging custom orders. For more information, visit www.continentalhydraulics.com.