Case History

Blue Whale Retrievable Bridge Plug Saved Operator 24 Hours of Rig Time
Successfully deployed secondary barrier after competitor’s temporary isolation failed

During a workover operation to repair a wellhead, an operator was unable to pressure test the tubing hanger. The completion string was hung below a competitor’s packer that could not support the required test pressures due to the weight of the completion string. A shallow set (<98 ft/30 m) retrievable bridge plug was needed to allow the pressure test and act as a secondary barrier above the suspended completion, and the Baker Hughes team in Australia was able to respond immediately with an effective solution.

Baker Hughes recommended a single-set dual-seal Blue Whale™ retrievable bridge plug with a GT™ unloader valve and LT-CT retrieving head for shallow set to allow removal of the blowout preventers (BOPs) and necessary wellhead repair. The 7⅛-in. outside diameter Blue Whale packer was successfully set in 10½-in. casing, isolating the wellbore. This allowed the necessary pressure testing and wellhead repair to be completed.

No other service provider was able to complete this operation as efficiently. The fast response from Baker Hughes and the quick deployment of the Blue Whale retrievable bridge plug saved the operator 24 hours of rig time, resulting in significant cost savings. The customer is currently re-evaluating their suspension packers to avoid nonproductive time (NPT) in the future.

Benefits
- Transported and deployed plug immediately
- Saved operator 24 hours of rig time
- Minimized NPT

Background and challenges:
- Perth, Australia
- Wellhead needed repair
- Unable to pressure test service packer after hanging production tubing
- Customer needed a secondary barrier to temporarily isolate the well

Baker Hughes solution and results
- Baker Hughes 7⅛-in. Blue Whale retrievable bridge plug with GT unloader valve
- Isolated the wellbore and allowed for necessary pressure testing
- Customer was able to successfully remove the BOPs and repair the wellhead

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