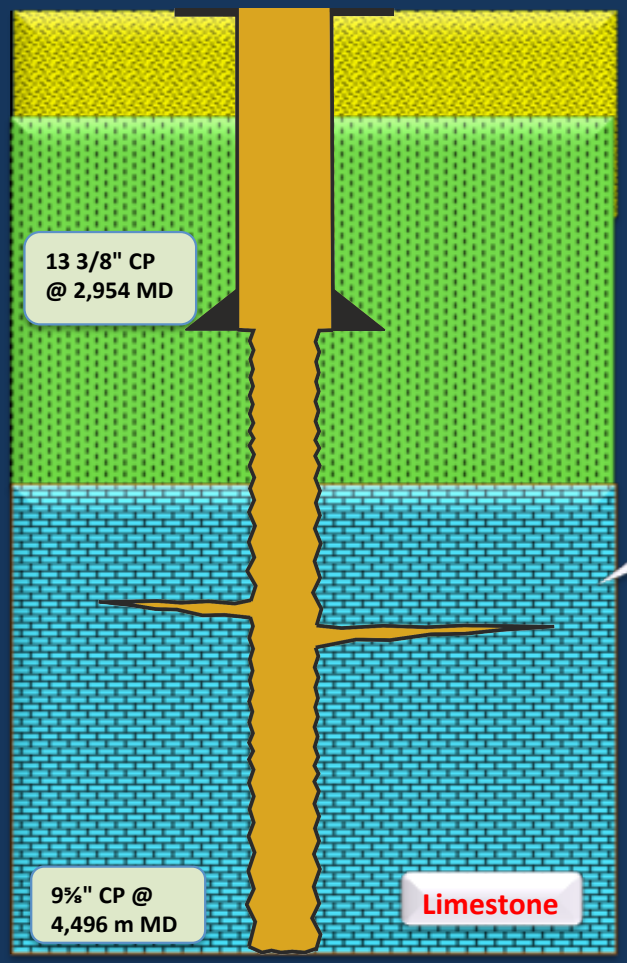
CASE HISTORY

No. 1601

A RECORD BREAKING DRILLING DEPTH - Austria



The Challenge

The **Vienna Basin** has a history of lost circulation ranging from **continuous seepage to severe losses**. **Complete losses, pack offs and stuck** problems had caused **lost of many BHA's**. The magnitude of overpressures in combination with the expected losses is the greatest challenge in planning this well. The **9⅝" casing cannot be set deeper than ± 3,600 m**.

The Action

The 12¼" hole was drilled from 2,954 m using a WBM (Glycol Polymer) of 1.57 SG. **Severe losses were encountered up to 30 m3/hr**. Active mud was pretreated with **5 ppb FRACSEAL**. **STOPLOSS** pills were also deployed for controlling high losses. Through a circulating sub, pumped 2 m^3 Hi Viscosity mud as lead spacer, followed by 6 m^3 of **50 ppb STOPLOSS** then 3 m^3 of Hi Viscosity mud as tail spacer.

The Result

Most losses were reduced by 90%. Shale stone (Gas Shale) was stabilised without any sloughing. The hole was drilled successfully without having to run the contingent 11¾" liner programmed to be set at 3,600 m. The cost saving for the elimination of this liner is approximately **EUR 2.0 million** (including the hole enlargement costs prior to running the liner). Drilling operation was performed successfully and the 9⅝" casing was run and cemented at 4,496 m, **which considered to be one of the deepest 9⅝" casing point in Austria. The well was TD at 6,020 M using only 3 casing strings (previously had to use 4 or 5 casings). The final hole size (8 ½") was drilled without having to reduce the mud weight.**

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