

Middle East

Multilateral technology in the Middle East: 25 Years of evolution

Multilateral technology has evolved to continuously meet challenges faced by operators in the Middle East

CHALLENGES

- Increasingly complex reservoir and production requirements
- Limited options for intervention and production isolation between the mainbore and laterals

SOLUTIONS

- MillRite® milled exit multilateral completion system
- FloRite® multilateral completion system
- IsoRite® multilateral completion system

RESULTS

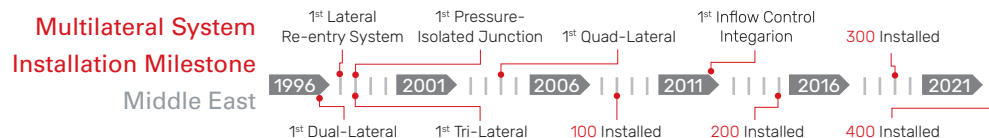
- Positive impact on well economics
- Reduced well installation time
- Reduced NPT
- Variety of options to address more complex requirements

Overview

For a quarter of a century, Halliburton's sustained technological advances in multilateral technology have enhanced economics and extended the production life of fields in the Middle East. Multilateral applications in the region have evolved from standard Level 2 and Level 4 dual-laterals to dual-laterals with intelligent flow control, intervention capabilities, and improved junction integrity.

Early multilateral installations in the Middle East

Early multilateral wells were drilled onshore as Level 2 uncemented dual-laterals that exited out of 9 5/8-in. casings with openhole laterals and no liners or completion equipment. These wells had limited options for intervention and production isolation between the mainbore and laterals. By the mid-1990s, operators installed multilateral wells both on and offshore, and more laterals were completed as Level 4 dual-laterals with cemented junctions and lateral liners. Cement around the junction helped prevent sand infiltration and the potential for collapse as well as provided a full inner diameter of the casing and the foundation to allow selective through-tubing intervention in both a mainbore and lateral. By the late 1990s, the first trilateral well was installed in the region.



The IsoRite® multilateral intervention system, first installed in the Middle East in 1997, addressed the need to complete through-completion intervention operations on both new and existing wells. The intervention system had to be compatible with the Level 4 cemented multilateral junctions installed in the region and with coiled tubing, wireline, and slickline as intervention methods. To date, multilateral intervention systems have primarily been used to enable intervention access to Level 4 cemented junctions. Now this system can provide the same value and versatility to Level 2 noncemented junctions.

Multilateral Level 5 System

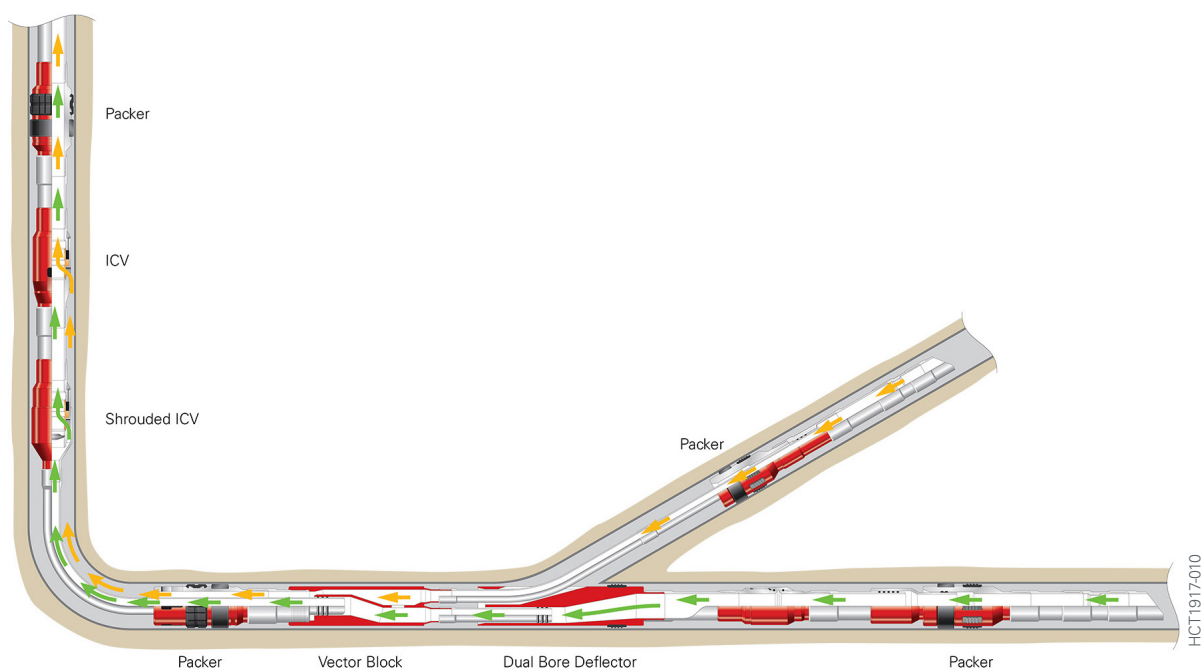
The FloRite® pressure-isolated Level 5 system, first installed in the Middle East in 1998, allows the system to be installed on constructed Level 4 or Level 2 junctions, with the addition of pressure isolation. The system can be configured for dual-string segregated flow, commingled flow, or intelligent completions integration. Pressure isolation is maintained using a dual-bore deflector at the junction as well as upper and lower mainbore packers and a lateral packer.

The first installation required pressure isolation and junction integrity provided by a cemented junction; the top of the reservoir was fractured and required isolation; losses and water flow above the reservoir required isolation; and two target zones required pressure isolation for effective production. In conjunction with the Level 4 cemented junction, the multilateral pressure-isolated Level 5 system allowed the operator to achieve well objectives and produce both targets through segregated dual-completion to surface.

Results

Throughout the last 25 years, more than 400 multilateral wells have been successfully constructed in the Middle East region. Thanks to equipment modifications and operational improvements in multilateral technology and drilling methods, the time for each well installation has been dramatically reduced. Nonproductive time (NPT) events have also decreased because the operator has standardized multilateral systems and collaborated on continuous technology and procedural improvements.

Current multilateral well designs can be adapted to most reservoir management and production applications. Multilateral technology has been able to keep pace with the complexity of well requirements, and multilateral technology advancements have enabled reliable and efficient multilateral operations through the introduction of intervention capabilities, flow control, and monitoring. These innovative technologies provide a greater variety of options to meet the completion, workover, and intervention requirements of multilateral wells.



Multilateral Pressure-Isolated Level 5 with Intelligent Interface

For more information, contact your local Halliburton representative or visit us on the web at www.halliburton.com

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