



barges. TOFCO's capabilities allowed companies operating in Trinidad to have platforms constructed by a local contractor for the first time.

"The company's strong capabilities in building new offshore platforms means TOFCO stands out in the Trinidad marketplace, but it also means that the company is ideally positioned to cope with many of the major changes that come with working in the Caribbean," Earles said. "The biggest challenge for us is the changing criteria for design, and we're seeing that in the platform contract we just won."

Because Trinidad is in an active seismic area, platforms have to be built to specifications different from the Gulf of Mexico or many other regions. The person-

nel, experience, and capabilities TOFCO has in place make it more than capable of constructing platforms under these challenging and changing standards.

"The result of this is the platform has heavier members of higher-grade steel than has been seen in any of the platforms in the past," Earles said. "We are in the process of building a new fabrication shop, something that we did not have for the first eight platforms built. This will be commissioned and completed for March 2015. It will be around 30 meters long by 45 meters wide, which is covered for fabrication and warehousing.

"The pre-fabricated structural components of the building are on-site as well as two overhead cranes