

LOCAL/STATE  
BRIEFS**SpawGlass lands two construction contracts**

Selma's SpawGlass was selected as construction manager-at-risk for a \$9.3 million capital improvement project at Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. The employee-owned contractor also was awarded a contract for a \$6 million project at the San Antonio International Airport.

The Convention Center project includes updates to existing ballrooms and exhibit halls, façade, sidewalks, landscape and elevators. Renovations are expected to start this month, with completion in the fall.

At the airport, the project involves the demolition of Terminal 2 and the Gate B1 opening, which includes pier construction in the new Terminal B.

The airport project is set for completion in early 2012.

SpawGlass was founded in 1953 and has about 550 employees statewide.

**S.A.'s Angel 7 updates pilot helmet visor**

Angel 7 Industries, a San Antonio company that develops products for the military and private-sector industries, has produced a visor for pilots' helmets that it says will revolutionize a pilot's cockpit experience.

The new product is called the 3 Stage Aircrew Visor — or 3SAV. It uses a proprietary coating that automatically adjusts to lighting conditions inside and out of the aircraft while keeping fuels, saltwater and chemicals away from the pilot's face.

Different coatings provide laser eye protection so the visor can be used in a variety of military operations.

"The 3SAV technology will allow one visor to take the place of several," said Kerry S. Harris, A7's director. "The technology is designed to minimize the workload of pilots in a useful and convenient way that is also welcomed and needed."

A7 said the product is being tested by a government contrac-

**Deep-water dr****Top official says approval expected in 'next several weeks.'**

BY TOM FOWLER

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HOUSTON — Get the rigs warmed up. The deep-water drilling permits are on the way.

At least that's what the nation's top offshore energy regulator said in a Friday visit to Houston.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement has issued no new deep-water drilling permits since last April's Deepwater



BROMWICH

Horizon accident that killed 11 and spilled millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

"I'm on the record as saying that I expect deep-water permits to begin to be granted before the end of the second quarter," Michael Bromwich, director of the bureau, said in a meeting with the Houston Chronicle editorial board.

"But I now think we're going to see them, I hope, in the next several weeks."

Five permits for new wells are pending, he said, but they are held up primarily by requirements that the industry finish building systems capable of responding to a subsea blowout such as last year's.

An industry consortium formed by the oil majors, including Exxon Mobil, Shell, ConocoPhillips and Chevron, is expected to conduct testing later this month on a capping stack that could handle a blowout like the one at BP's Macondo well that triggered last year's disaster, Bromwich said.

A second well containment system being developed by Helix Corp. is expected to be ready by the end of March.

A spokeswoman for the consortium said construction of an

Tugboats, seen idle in  
sels that work with  
Bromwich, the nation's

day morning, Bromwich said. Nine shallow-water applications are pending, she said. No time since the accident have more permits been issued.