

Subsea Wellhead Removal at 270 meters Water Depth

Summary

NCA was contracted by Det Norske Oljeselskap ASA and Odfjell Well Management (OWM) to cut and recover an exploration well at 270m (886ft) depth at the Trolla field West of Sandnessjøen in Norway. The scope of work was successfully completed November 2009 utilising the offshore construction vessel Olympic Zeus.

The cutting and recovery operation used NCA's innovative and patented Subsea Wellhead Picker and Internal Multistring Cutting Tool (IMCT). The IMCT is based on the environmentally friendly Abrasive Waterjet Cutting method.

The operation was done from Olympic Zeus, utilising the heavy compensated crane for recovering the net guard, deployment of the cutting tool and recovery of the wellhead.

Project Facts

Locations: Northern North Sea – Trolla 6609/10-2
Timing: November 2009
NCA Client: Det Norske Oljeselskap / OWM
Cutting depth: 270m (886ft)

Scope of Work

NCA was contracted to project manage, plan, supervise and execute the offshore operation. The planning phase included well assessment, interface coordination, preparation of deck layouts and work program, facilitation of operational reviews and risk assessments with all involved parties. The mobilisation phase included design and manufacturing of project specific equipment, function testing of all equipment and installation of the equipment onboard the Olympic Zeus.

The offshore operation included recovery of the net guard to deck, cutting of the wellhead 5 meters below the mudline, recovery of the wellhead to deck and perform as left survey.

The severance cut below mud line was made in accordance with NORSOK guidelines, i.e. 5 meters below the mudline.

Well Configuration

Wellhead Type: DrillQuip Stack-up, WH SS-15
Casing configuration: 9 5/8" – 20" – 30" (the 9 5/8" seal assembly was removed)



NCA used Abrasive Water Jet Cutting (AWJC) with the Internal Multistring Cutting Tool (IMCT) for severance of the wellhead. All the casings were cut from the inside out in one operation. NCA's IMCT has a proven track record of more than 250 conductors cut.

As part of the in-depth project management, the well was thoroughly assessed and using the information supplied by the OWM and the wellhead vendor, DrillQuip, several new challenges were identified in respect to the previous campaigns undertaken by NCA with respect to water depth and lack of seal assemblies (packoffs).

The operation was done from the offshore construction vessel Olympic Zeus, utilising the heave compensated crane and ROV for guidance and surveillance. The vessel showed outstanding performance which is a key to the success when performing Northern North Sea offshore operations in November.

Achievements

- ✓ The world's deepest multistring conductor cut using Abrasive Waterjet Cutting
- ✓ No LTIs or LTAs
- ✓ Project Scope of Work executed within estimated time and budget
- ✓ NCA has received very favourable reviews from Det Norske Oljeselskap ASA and Odfjell Well Management

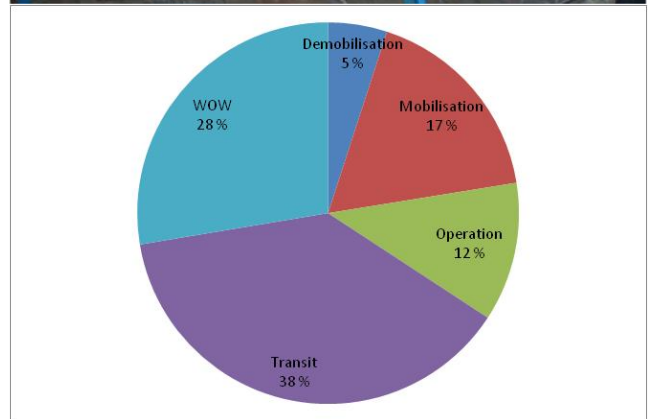
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