

## Nexen and NCA achieve new world record subsea wellhead removal at 365m

### Summary

NCA was contracted by Nexen Exploration Norge AS to cut and recover an exploration well at 365m (1200ft) depth at the Brand field West of Florø in Norway. NCA together with Nexen, conducted a detailed operational planning and execution risk assessment. The scope of work was successfully completed May 2010, utilising the DOF Subsea offshore construction vessel MV Geosund, and was a part of a multi client campaign for Nexen Exploration Norge AS, Det Norske Oljeselskap ASA and Petro Canada Norge AS.

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 and is a proven technology with more than 250 conductors cut.

### Project Facts

Locations:	Northern North Sea – Brand
Timing:	May 2010
NCA Client:	Nexen Exploration Norge AS
Cutting depth	365m (1200ft)
Wellhead Type	DrilQuip Stack-up, WH SS-15
Casing configuration	20" and 36"

The environmental friendly operation was done in line with Nexen's HSE&SR (Health, Safety, Environment and Social Responsibility) commitment to conduct the business with respect and care for people and the environment.

### Scope of Work

NCA was contracted to project manage, plan, supervise and execute the offshore operation. The planning phase was done in close cooperation with Nexen, and included well assessment, interface coordination, QA of vessel, preparation of deck layouts and work program, facilitation of operational reviews and risk assessments with all involved parties.

As part of the in-depth project management, the well was thoroughly assessed together with Nexen, and 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 mobilisation phase included design and manufacturing of project specific equipment, function testing of all equipment and installation of the equipment onboard the MV Geosund.



ROV pictures during cutting operation. A lot of fish and marine life.



MSV Geosund



Recovery of wellhead using the active heave compensated crane on MSV Geosund

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.

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

The operation was done from the offshore construction vessel MV Geosund, utilising the heave compensated crane and ROV for guidance and surveillance.

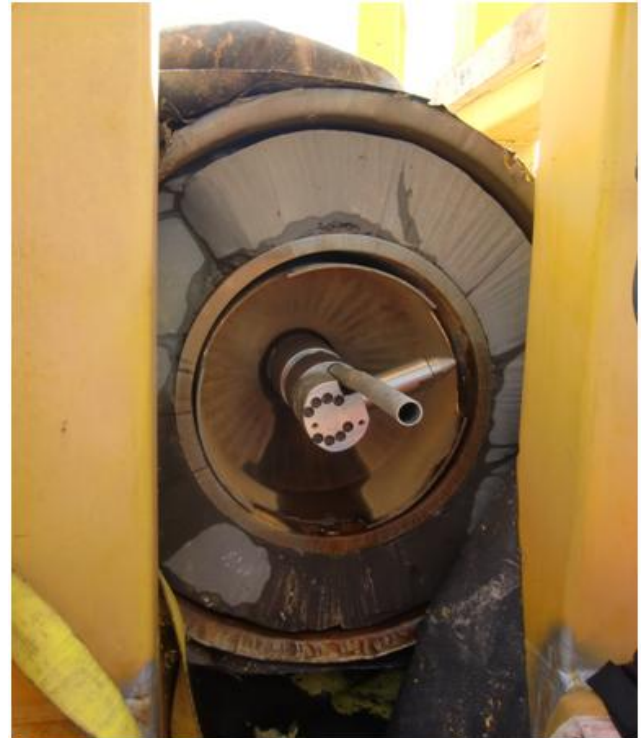
### Achievements

- ✓ No LTIs or LTAs
- ✓ No harm to the Environment
- ✓ The world's deepest, 365m watedepth, multistring conductor cut using Abrasive Waterjet Cutting.
- ✓ Cutting operation was done on planned time.

### Contact Persons

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Cut and cutting tool. Cement between the 20" and the 36".



Wellhead in NCA purpose built landing frame for safe landing of wellheads on the vessel deck.