Well-Safe Solutions provides a ground-breaking approach to the safe and cost-effective decommissioning of onshore and offshore wells.

Offering a specialist well abandonment service that allows operators to meet the challenges and regulatory requirements around decommissioning, while significantly reducing costs.

Working in collaboration to create the perfect package, offering you more.

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Welcome to Decom News.

Our last edition was published during the height of lockdown and now that we appear to be moving out of that situation, I thought it timely to reflect back on the last few months and assess how Decom North Sea has reacted to this highly-unusual set of circumstances. In doing so, I have identified a number of positive outcomes that we may not have thought possible, back in early March.

Supply Chain Solidarity
First off, that well-used word “collaboration”. As you know, it’s a word that in recent years has grown in popularity within the oil and gas industry – and in particular, the decommissioning sector. Practical collaboration is the ideal, but certainly not the most straightforward objective. However, what I have witnessed over the past few months is a massive shift towards behavioural collaboration. I’m aware of a solidarity emerging amongst the supply chain, with far more evidence of companies supporting and helping each other. I can give you a couple of examples of this straight from my own experience, with one member company offering to provide power at cost to the exhibitors at our upcoming Decom Live event at Aberdeen Harbour, and another providing an all-weather location to us, free of charge, simply because it’s the right thing to do. My hope is that this greater level of trust and mutual respect is maintained over the coming months and years and can help engender a truly collaborative mindset throughout all aspects of our sector.

A Trusted Source
As an answer to the restrictions of the past few months, we launched our Decom Digital series of webinars and the interest in those has genuinely delighted us. With over 1,200 attendees so far (and the knowledge that most attendees have then shared our content widely), we’ve reached a far greater audience than we could ever have anticipated. Each event has attracted new attendees and we’ve welcomed participants from the UK, Europe, USA, Australia, India, Brunei and Malaysia. We have aimed to go far beyond the decommissioning sphere, by having recognised industry leaders provide free insights and information in key areas including finance, employment law, marketing and so on. Our objective has been to provide free access to practical information, to help the decommissioning supply chain navigate its way through this unprecedented challenge and the feedback we’re receiving is that we’re delivering value through these webinars.

Connecting You
Like so many organisations across the globe, the ramifications of the pandemic have really made us get our thinking caps on in how to keep our members and the wider industry connected. In doing so, we have created a programme of events that is quite unlike anything we have previously offered.

Decom Live @ Aberdeen Harbour, which takes place in September, will – we believe – be the first “in person” industry event to take place in Aberdeen since early 2020. Compliant with social distancing rules, the event will allow exhibitors to demonstrate the technology they operate, with the technical experts on hand to discuss. In other words, this is a highly practical event, taking place in an industrial setting we all know and a fabulous opportunity for visitors to really “kick the tyres” of the tech on show and chat with those who create and operate it.

This will be the first in a series of at least four Decom Live @... events, which will take us up to the early months of 2021. Following that, I can confirm (hot off the press), that May 2021 will see the launch of the inaugural Decom Week. Revolving around our traditional conference, Decom Week takes accessibility to a whole new level and will involve a programme of technical and information sessions, site visits and social events not just in Aberdeen, but across Scotland and the UK. With the option to attend in person or virtually, we are allowing our visitors unprecedented access to the decommissioning supply chain, regardless of either party’s location. This type of event is completely new to the decommissioning sector and we are proud to be offering this to our members and the wider sector, alike.

Widening Our Reach
Individuals have traditionally engaged with Decom North Sea via their employer’s membership. Reflecting the current industry landscape - where uncertainty over employment increasingly climbs the agenda - we’ve recognised that this needs to change. With that in mind, we have introduced the option for individuals to subscribe to a temporary personal membership. Costing just £50 per quarter, this option is there to ensure that we continue to engage with the expertise out there and provide the opportunity for individuals to maintain their profile and network over the coming months. Please contact us direct for further information.

And finally, I would like to remind you that we are just weeks away from the virtual Decom Offshore and Awards 2020. Taking place 25 – 27 August, the opportunities to learn, engage and network are there as always, in addition to a very welcome chance to celebrate the very best of decommissioning activity across the sector.

I look forward to speaking with you then,

Will Rowley
Interim Managing Director
A lifelong partnership

19km east of the Moray Firth Caithness cliffs lies Ithaca Energy owned Jacky; a normally unmanned wellhead platform in the decommissioning phase of its life.

Wood has been the duty holder for Jacky since it was commissioned and tied back to the Beatrice field facilities in 2008 and has managed the evolution of the asset across its life cycle, through production decline, late life optimisation, cessation of production and, now, decommissioning.

Delivering Value in Partnership

Wood and Ithaca Energy have forged a collaborative and open partnership which has enabled a culture of empowerment and bold decision-making. Challenging the status quo and delivering innovative ideas and solutions have allowed the integrated team to reduce and simplify interfaces, delivering operational efficiency and cost optimisation.

Working in this way has delivered real and tangible results for Ithaca Energy’s operations, securing increased production efficiency during the operational phase of field life, a material reduction in operating costs for the Beatrice field assets between 2008 and 2015, and the production of 11 million barrels for the Beatrice and Jacky fields between 2008 and 2015.

Smart Decommissioning

In 2019, Wood and Ithaca Energy began accelerating the decommissioning programme for Jacky. In April 2020, the Valaris 101 drilling rig arrived on location at the field and began combined operations for the plug and abandonment (P&A) of the wells.

As a small, normally unmanned platform, one of the key challenges was to ensure the installation and commissioning of safety and environmentally critical systems and services needed for the P&A works. A significant amount of pre-work was carried out to minimise the amount of rig time required for interfacing the two platforms and to reduce the overall project cost and duration.

Wood was able to leverage the depth of its expertise to assist Ithaca Energy and Valaris with the successful and safe delivery of their P&A operations.

With the platform having been designed with decommissioning in mind, the removal will be a reversal of the installation process and will be executed in 2021 by Sleipner, the world’s largest heavy lift vessel. The jacket and topsides will be separated at a flange on the monotower, with the topsides removed to the deck of the vessel during the first lift. Water will thereafter be pumped into the three suction buckets to float the jacket, ready to be lifted to Sleipner.

The way Ithaca Energy, Wood and the other stakeholders have worked together in order to safely execute the work demonstrates the enhanced level of success that can be achieved when working in true partnership.
A Message from
Paul Wheelhouse, MSP
Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands

The Coronavirus pandemic has created what has become an unprecedented global crisis that has fundamentally changed every aspect of our lives.

I am fully aware that this has been a particularly difficult time for businesses – and none more so than for those within our oil and gas sector and its supply chain, the challenge for which has been compounded by the significant oil price shock and fall in gas prices. I am determined to do everything within our devolved powers to support the industry as we learn from the experiences of the pandemic; it will continue to play a critical role in Scotland’s energy mix as we build a green recovery that drives forwards our ambitions for a net-zero economy and society.

We must capitalise on both present and future opportunities, building on more than 40 years of experience in the oil and gas sector operating in Scotland’s waters. We have the people, skills and expertise in Scotland to rise to all the challenges decommissioning may present and that expertise can not only service our own needs, but also deliver projects around the globe from here.

The Scottish supply chain is capable of providing solutions for all stages of the decommissioning process, but is also focused on developing new concepts for the market that are expected to result in significant savings. It is actively engaged in ensuring that the appropriate infrastructure is in place to continue to develop competitive capabilities, become a champion of decommissioning excellence, and to develop expertise which can drive export earnings. In support of this, Scottish Development International continue to build a greater understanding of opportunities in international markets through building a deeper understanding of the culture, business traits and characteristics of these markets into which Scotland’s decommissioning sector can trade.

We have worked with Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to establish wide ranging support for the decommissioning sector. The Decommissioning Action Plan, Capability Statement, and the Decommissioning Challenge Fund (DCF) have all provided clear signals to industry that Scotland is ready for business.
The DCF in particular has directly supported infrastructure upgrades and capital equipment for decommissioning, encouraged engineering scoping work at key sites to build business cases, supported feasibility studies that will help to attract private investment and has made funds available to support innovation in approaches to decommissioning. We have just announced ten further projects across Scotland which will benefit from grants totalling £1.84 million in the fourth round of the DCF. This means £12 million has, to date, been invested through the fund to support the Scottish decommissioning supply chain.

More broadly I have reconvened and am chairing the refocused Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) on Oil & Gas and Energy Transition to respond to the impact of COVID-19 and the oil and gas price crash and decommissioning, including opportunities around wider energy transition, features strongly in our discussions. These discussions have been integral to understanding how the Scottish Government can, critically, support our workforce, and ensure the energy transition agenda continues to meet our net zero emissions ambition and deliver a just transition, too.

And we are backing that up with tangible action. In June, we committed £62 million to help the energy sector recover from the coronavirus pandemic with funding over the five years to support businesses in the Oil & Gas, Decommissioning and Energy sectors as they grow and diversify.

This package, largely focused on the North East of Scotland, will support the sector to make significant progress on energy transition as we move towards a net-zero society by 2045. The investment will also benefit the wider Scottish energy sector and broader supply chain, working with local businesses to maximise the economic benefits, support sustainable jobs and contribute to inclusive economic growth across the country.

This fund matched industry’s asks of us, and was developed in consultation with industry leaders and members of the SLG. We will continue to engage with the sector on projects as we go forward. The Scottish Government also continues to engage with the UK Government and key stakeholders to ensure there continues to be a cross-government approach to supporting the oil and gas sector’s transition and to protect jobs as best we collectively can and to help those whose jobs are affected.

We are not out of the woods yet, but whilst we will, I am sure, face further challenges as our economy recovers from COVID-19, I am also confident that our energy sector has the knowledge, capability, expertise and opportunities to ensure a strong recovery - and to play a vital role as we continue Scotland’s journey to a sustainable, net zero future.

We are delighted to announce the finalists of the 2020 awards are:

**Technical Innovation in Decommissioning Award**
Sponsored by The National Decommissioning Centre
- Utility ROV Services
- Unity
- Ecosse IP Ltd

**Excellence in Collaboration Award**
Sponsored by Spirit Energy
- Brimmond Group
- Forth and Tay Decommissioning Alliance
- Augean North Sea Services supported by Forth & Tay Decommissioning Alliance members

**Innovative Contracting Models**
Sponsored by the Oil & Gas Authority
- Maersk Decom
- Petrofac

**Decom North Sea Member Award**
Sponsored by James Fisher Offshore
- John Lawrie
- Bureau Veritas
- Brimmond Group

**Young Professional in Decommissioning Award**
Sponsored by Wood
- Craig Roberts of Utility ROV Services
- Simon Reid of Repsol Sinopec
- Andy Fowlie of Well-Safe Solutions
A Structured Approach to Decision Making: Engineering Case Study

Towards the end of 2019 Well-Safe Solutions was approached to perform a Select gate Well Decommissioning Study for >30 platform wells, located in the Central North Sea. Production from the field has been decreasing for many years, multiple wells were shut-in or plugged due to integrity concerns and sustained annular pressure was posing a challenge amongst the ageing well stock. The field Cessation of Production (CoP) was called during late 2018, accelerating the decommissioning requirements.

The study work followed the successful completion of a similar work scope throughout 2018, where Well-Safe Solutions led the decommissioning of five wells near to the main field platform. Building on experience and knowledge gained from the successful abandonment of these wells, Well-Safe Solutions was able to perform the select gate planning, design and optimisation for the main platform wells.

This scope required the creation of a well abandonment basis of design with a supporting probabilistic time and cost estimate to inform the field level decommissioning estimate.

Well-Safe Solutions adopted a flexible approach that enabled different well abandonment execution methodology to be selected from a full range of options on a case-by-case basis.

In order to satisfy the operator’s internal requirements, Well-Safe employed its bespoke Well-Decommissioning Delivery Process (WDDP) and outlined a clear structure from Option Identification through Option Selection and Evaluation. Multi-criteria decision analysis techniques were utilised to support the evaluation and comparison of alternative well abandonment solutions across key selection criteria. This process compared the isolation quality, technical execution, commercial, and health and safety considerations of each potential viable solution. This approach structured the decision-making process and provided a platform for discussion and debate. The process also encouraged explicit involvement with key stakeholder groups and decision-makers, to build confidence in the decision making and maintain project momentum.

The outcome following the detailed analysis provided the client with a basis of design and a cost/time estimate, allowing them to progress to the next gate review.

Figure 1 below outlines an example process flow for the option selection stage of the evaluation process which fitted perfectly with the operator’s internal governance requirements. This demonstrates how the output from the coarse option identification exercise feeds the more detailed option selection assessments. The final selected options go on to form the well abandonment basis of design, providing a clear and transparent rationale to support the well abandonment design and execution.
Transforming Decommissioning

The NDC is taking its capabilities to the next level to enable more efficient decommissioning and the transition to net zero:

- **Smarter:** Assisting in data visualisation and basin wide decision-making through the investment in a £1.6million simulator suite and use of its high power computing cluster
- **Safer:** De-risking by enabling trialling operations in the simulator before deployment
- **Cheaper:** Developing a barrier qualification chamber to allow developers to trial new cost-effective well plugging and abandonment technologies
- **Cleaner:** Undertaking projects on cleaning and contaminant mitigation to make onshore and offshore decommissioning safer

Working with SMEs and operators, from small to large scale projects – let us help you transform the way you think about decommissioning, contact us to find out more and learn about our simulator suite launching later this year.

Get in touch today to find out more about partnering with us.

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There are no two ways about it: the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the commodity price instability has fuelled a degree of uncertainty that is playing on the minds of operators and supply chain alike. Across the whole life-cycle there are unforeseen challenges, with budgets being reappraised and projects deferred, something that has been particularly felt by those working in decommissioning.

The OGA is fully aware of the concerns voiced by industry, is listening, and taking action. Almost daily discussions are being held with companies to understand the challenges operators and the supply chain are facing. In these unstable times the OGA is working closely with industry and government to maintain focus on delivering cost-efficient decommissioning. But cost-efficient decommissioning does depend upon a competitive and sustainable supply chain, and predictable, stable work that allows businesses to invest and plan for the future.

It’s clear that decommissioning isn’t discretionary - it will happen. However, the timing and scheduling of work in the next couple of years will be impacted by COVID-19 and the low commodity prices. While some operators may defer activity, others may see that current market conditions offer a unique opportunity to progress work. The suspended well market is a good example of this and the OGA is working with industry to explore the potential to decommission suspended wells which are overdue for final plug and abandonment in the short to medium term. Not only would this stimulate much needed activity in the basin and maximise the benefits from a lower cost market; it would also tidy up the legacy of suspended wells, allowing operators to demonstrate their social licence to operate and their commitment to the UK’s net zero ambitions.

The OGA recognises “activity” is desperately needed to prevent large numbers of redundancies and the loss of long-term capability and capacity within the sector. In this respect the OGA is looking closely at project economics and actively encouraging operators to update information on the online Pathfinder portal. Additionally, in relation to maintenance and operational activity, there is a renewed focus on the Forward Workplan Database which is hosted on the Achilles website.

Whilst the industry is in the midst of challenging times, it must not lose sight of the UK’s 2050 net zero commitment. With this in mind, the OGA is refreshing its current strategy to drive greater focus on the UK’s net zero ambitions. The proposals for the new strategy are aimed at ensuring net zero is more deeply embedded in the OGA’s work. Decommissioning and net zero are complementary. Managing late-life assets means considering life beyond hydrocarbons. Traditionally decommissioning has been seen as being the only solution, but the options are more nuanced. Some mature assets that would have been destined for removal may now have the chance of a life beyond their current use, with the range of alternative concepts that energy integration creates. The potential reuse or re-purposing opportunities of these assets are far ranging and make excellent use of the legacy infrastructure in the UKCS. Indeed, there will be a viable future for the UKCS well beyond the end of the hydrocarbon age.

The OGA’s Energy Integration Project is looking at how integration of various offshore energy systems (oil and gas, renewables, carbon capture and hydrogen) across the UKCS can unlock mutual benefits and contribute to net zero. The study considers how these technologies can be enabled and promoted, and how regulatory hurdles can be overcome. If the quick-wins identified can be implemented, and UK companies afforded a level playing field, the UK could become a leader in these technologies, supporting jobs and business opportunities. With the transition towards new energy sources now underway, UK business is well-placed to further develop lessons learned from six decades of locating and producing oil and gas from some of the harshest offshore conditions in the world.

Traditional oil and gas companies have a profound understanding of the infrastructure and the practical aspects of how it is constructed and operates, which must not be overlooked. For future reuse - in wind or hydrogen projects - this expertise will be invaluable especially for a move to floating offshore wind in the deeper waters where the UK’s greatest wind resource can be captured.

There are some encouraging projects out there showing how late-life infrastructure can play a critical role in generating alternative energy sources. The Hynet project in the East Irish Sea is based on storing CO2 offshore proposing to reuse infrastructure which connects the Connah’s Quay power station. In the Central North Sea, Pale Blue Dot’s Acorn project is working to reuse one (or possibly all) of the Miller, Goldeneye and Atlantic pipelines to transport CO2 from the onshore gas refinery. The team has found some pipelines with only four years of use, but with operational design lives of 20 years, and that the cost savings through reusing these will be considerable and possibly make otherwise uneconomical projects viable. Both Hynet and Acorn are proposing at-scale hydrogen production for supply to industry and homes. These inspiring examples demonstrate how companies are really starting to see aging assets as an opportunity for the basin rather than a burden.

The impact of this epidemic has been utterly astounding and far-reaching. There is a lot of talk of industry returning to ‘business as usual,’ but as the decommissioning market looks to the future, there needs to be a new approach. In essence, industry must make sure that when activity does pick up again, it is against the backdrop of much greater awareness, appreciation and commitment to net zero.

ogauthority.co.uk
The impact of this epidemic has been utterly astounding and far-reaching. There is a lot of talk of industry returning to ‘business as usual,’ but as the decommissioning market looks to the future, there needs to be a new approach.
Cut to the Chase
How Vessel-Deployed Mechanical Cutting can Reduce the Unavoidable Costs of Wellhead Removal

Authors: Gunnar Oksefjell and Knut Inge Dahlberg, Baker Hughes

End-of-life assets have become a much-debated topic in the past few years, not least because many are now operating far beyond their originally expected lifespan.

Efforts in the past decade to reduce both CAPEX and OPEX, and create efficiencies throughout upstream operations, have optimised output while controlling costs. But those efforts have their inevitable limits, and in tightly regulated regions - such as the North Sea - certain costs are simply unavoidable. This includes the removal of end-of-life production wellheads - as well as non-productive exploration wellheads - unless special dispensation to leave them in-situ is granted.

Facing uncertain times once more, operators are naturally looking for ways to control those costs. Several older wells that had been temporarily abandoned with the intention of being removed later - when the capital would be available - have now reached that ‘later date’ when no more delay is possible.

However, almost all the operational fat has already been trimmed and most E&P companies emerged from the price crash of 2014-2015 much leaner than they went into it. They are also operating with less capital reserves and a drop in available external financing and investment.

Finding additional efficiencies in these circumstances is a tough ask at the best of times. However, doing so during 2020’s pandemic-induced fall in demand adds an extra layer of complication. Inevitably, every aspect of upstream operations is back under the spotlight, and unavoidable costs, such as wellhead removal, are ideal candidates for building new efficiencies into operations - particularly in harsh, remote or deep waters.

Cutting costs
The costs of wellhead removal largely derive from the complexity of the conventional means of carrying it out. Take a traditional abrasive water-jet cutting system: it will require a team of six to eight people operating a high-pressure system in a high-risk environment. The equipment itself can weigh between 50 and 60 tons and take up to 1,500-2,000 square feet of space. Such is the extent of the deck equipment itself can weigh between 50 and 60 tons and take up to 1,500-2,000 square feet of space. Such is the extent of the deck spread on the transporting vessel that it leaves little room onboard for the removed wellhead.

All this increases the costs: the two days needed at the quayside just to bring onboard and interface all the equipment; the multiple voyages needed to remove multiple wellheads; the hours involved in planning and coordination of all the moving parts – not to mention the carbon emitted during each voyage. What’s more, the tools themselves can be extremely energy intensive: 1,000 horsepower to operate the equipment spread is common.

Then there are the circumstances where abrasive water-jet cutting systems simply cannot be used at all. Where the wellhead is concerned is installed at a depth greater than 1,200ft., the surrounding water pressure renders the pressure cutter all but useless. In these cases, a mechanical cutting system is necessary. This cannot be deployed from a vessel; instead a drilling rig, with all its associated costs, is needed. Typically, a rig-based deployment will take more than twice as long as a vessel-based deployment – and can increase the cost by a factor of ten or more.

As with many of the changes seen in the past decade, this is an area where smart thinking, innovative technology, and close relationships between suppliers and operators can challenge established ways of working and deliver newer, simpler and more cost-effective solutions.

Innovative thinking
Working closely with an operator in Norway, Baker Hughes began looking for ways to combine the deep-water capabilities of a mechanical cutting system with the cost advantages of vessel-deployed abrasive waterjet cutting methods. The overall goal was not just to match existing capabilities of both, but to create a new solution that improved on their results.

The Baker Hughes team turned to its existing three-knife, hydraulically operated multi-string cutter, which has extensively been deployed for rig-based casing cutting operations. To make it compatible with vessel-based deployment, Baker Hughes’ experts developed a simple subsea system, to be deployed in conjunction with a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), a connector and the industry-proven mechanical cutter - and named it Terminator™. The prototype was trialed at a testing facility in a Norwegian fjord before the operator deployed the new system on a remote abandoned exploration well in the North Sea.

The advantages of the new approach were immediately clear. Like its rig-based counterpart, the cutter can cut through multiple strings of casing or large-diameter strings safely and quickly, and it can be used for any application where rotation and pressure can be applied but requires only 100 horsepower to do so. Instead of relying on power supply from a rig, the system is driven by the ROV hydraulics, which immediately eliminates the need for any extra downlines, hoses or cables – and the associated risk of them becoming entangled.
Once the system is deployed overboard, no additional equipment remains on the deck, the small surface footprint is leaving room for multiple wellheads if needed. The ROV then guides the cutting system into the well where the connector latches on to the wellhead to be removed. The ROV will power the hydraulic motor that can rotate the cutter and adjust the pressure to the knives’ actuator to make the cut. As a result, the system only requires two people to operate it.

The new system can take as little as 35 minutes to complete the wellhead cut. A pressure drop confirms when the full circumferential cut has been completed, to ensure that no uncut areas remain and to make it easier to recover the pipe. The conductor and spudcan can then be removed in the same sequence from the same vessel if surface handling allows. The total operation can take less than three hours. In fact, the time savings start even earlier: once the subsea engineer has secured any necessary permits to remove the wellhead, it can be just a matter of hours before all the equipment is loaded and on its way.

Systems such as this can be used in shallow waters, but the challenges of a deep-water environment mean this is the area in which new solutions can create the biggest positive impact.

Removing wellheads at the end of their exploratory or production life is inevitable. It is an issue that touches on many of the industry’s key concerns – complexity, carbon emissions, compliance, and of course safety – at a time when new cost constraints are causing operators to re-calculate the financial merits of extending the working life of aging assets.

Over the past decade or so, the oil and gas sector has seen new and innovative technologies apply to operations. Some have been tweaks at the edges. Some have been totally transformative. But as this kind of solution shows, successful innovation is about re-thinking the old ways of doing things and finding consistent and concrete improvements to familiar and fundamentally necessary processes like this.

bakerhughes.com
John Lawrie Metals Ltd, in partnership with Kishorn Port Limited (KPL), has announced the successful completion of a first-of-its-kind project, which involved the downsizing and recycling of the MV Kaami, a general cargo vessel recovered six miles off the North West coast of Skye after running aground in March.

Working to European ship recycling and SEPA regulations, Aberdeen headquartered metal waste recycling and processing experts John Lawrie provided a team from its Evanton base in Easter Ross, which successfully carried out decommissioning work including the downsizing of the full structure. A total of 1,200t of material has been recovered which has now already been shipped for processing and recycling. Following a review in conjunction with the client, certain elements of the material have been considered for reuse purposes such as the propeller and the wheelhouse, with the wheelhouse already in position at a visitor’s viewing gallery overlooking the dry dock.

It is part of John Lawrie’s ethos to maximise the opportunity to reuse or recycle materials in order to minimise disposal. Working directly with operators, Tier 1 contractors or other waste management companies, the company’s expertise and experience lies in the onshore downsizing, deconstruction, processing, reuse and recycling of a wide range of subsea materials. With a clear focus on minimising waste, pollution and consumption of finite resources, improving sustainability, reducing environmental impacts and cutting carbon emissions, John Lawrie is a keen advocate of the circular economy.

With an aim of zero to landfill, every piece of material the company handled was assessed for reuse or repurpose before being processed for recycling. By processing and recycling the metal from the Kaami, the amount of waste being sent to landfill has been significantly reduced, thereby helping to create a circular economy by keeping waste materials in use for longer. After the material was sorted and segregated and the metal processed, it was shipped direct from site by sea to a steel mill in Europe for smelting ready to be made into new products. Shipping direct from site also saved transportation by road (approximately 48 articulated vehicle loads negated) and therefore helped to cut even more carbon emissions. Built in 1994, the vessel, owned by Norway’s Misje Rederi, was sailing under the flag of Bahamas when it ran aground on 23 March this year. Coincidentally, this exact vessel has previously been used to ship John Lawrie processed scrap metals to Europe. The vessel’s length overall (LOA) is 89.8 meters and width 13.19 meters making it a considerable size for downsizing and the first project of its type for John Lawrie.

The project team, consisting of six onsite with additional HSEQ and project support from the company’s Aberdeen headquarters, was mobilised on Monday 18 May with the project reaching completion on Tuesday 30 June, just six weeks later. Overall, it was a 13-week turnaround from initial consultation to delivering depolluted and fully recycled material to the steel mill. Working efficiently, safely and collaboratively with all parties enabled this quick completion.
The salvage operation has been supported by numerous local businesses and John Lawrie continued to use the local Highland community for support throughout the duration of the project. Located on the north west coast of Scotland, Kishorn Port and Dry Dock is the ideal site for the manufacturing, laydown and assembly of renewable energy devices for offshore wind, wave and tidal sectors as well as the oil and gas and decommissioning industry. Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has provided significant support to Kishorn in recent years, along with support from the Decommissioning Challenge Fund. This is added to the significant investment made by KPL and its partners, contributing towards the costs of overhauling the dock gates, modified seals, creating a new access road, and buying and installing dry dock gate anchors and two new moorings for holding the gates in the loch.

The dock was recently fully opened to the sea for the first time in 25 years in order to welcome the MV Kaami after it was successfully floated last month.

The overall size of the dry dock equates to around 160m x 160m providing more than adequate space for cranes, handling equipment, trucks and vehicles to access the site safely. The size and capacity of the dock enables staff and contractors to work at a safe distance, in line with current government guidelines due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Dave Weston, MD John Lawrie Metals Ltd, commented; “We are delighted to have collaborated with Kishorn Port on this project, the first of many that will no doubt come to the port. After years of planning and numerous discussions with the team at KPL, it is amazing to think that we have finally assisted them in completing this first successful project. The operation ran smoothly with no safety incidents and that’s thanks to great communication and teamwork.”

Kishorn Port Director, Alasdair Ferguson added; “We are delighted with the completion of this very successful dismantle, reuse and recycle of the MV Kaami in the dry dock at Kishorn. It demonstrates the dry dock is open for business, its capabilities and heralds a new chapter in the dry dock use going forward, which is a significant milestone at the port. Our partners in this project, decommissioning experts John Lawrie have been excellent and truly professional to work with from day one. They have executed and delivered a safe, clean, and tidy job with sound professional awareness with our team at KPL for the undertaking and commitment we have with SEPA for our Waste Management License and the environment. At fairly short notice they responded and have now delivered. We look forward to working on further projects with John Lawrie where the opportunities arise, and bidding in particular on more floating assets that can be accommodated for decommissioning at Kishorn Port & Dry Dock in the future.”

johnlawrie.com  kishornport.co.uk
SECTOR NEWS

COMMERCIAL

Read our members’ commercial news as they continue to deliver safe, efficient and cost-effective solutions to the global decommissioning sector.

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS

The decommissioning sector thrives on innovation; find out about the latest technological developments across our membership.

PEOPLE

Who’s on the move? Find out more about key personnel developments within the decommissioning sector.
Acteon Thinks Differently During Pandemic

During unprecedented times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, companies have had to shift their strategic focus to adapt to this new environment and leading global provider of marine and subsea services, Acteon, is no different.

Leveraging the expertise of its operating companies, Acteon is focused on reducing offshore headcount by providing remote support wherever possible; from a safety perspective but also to achieve cost efficiencies for its clients. Proprietary remote technology, such as UTEC’s iSite platform, provides access to a google-street-view type photogrammetry view of facilities coupled with laser point-cloud data allowing clients to remotely plan works, all without having to go offshore.

Despite the challenges of the current climate, Acteon also continues to think differently and develop alternative decommissioning approaches and new technologies for hydrocarbon production and wind turbine facilities. Work is in progress on several campaigns and tooling is being prepared for upcoming projects. This includes preparation of the Claxton SWAT™ (suspended well abandonment tool) for a North Sea campaign, where they will supply a full turnkey package including cementing services and perforation charges. Proven across over 120 North Sea wells, SWAT™ will rapidly perforate, circulate and place the required environmental plug within a well.

Claxton is also performing a subsea inspection project for multiple Malaysian based operators which utilises their pipeline coating removal tool, as well as working on an ongoing contract for a client in Thailand where they are providing well severance on a multi-vessel campaign covering both jack-up rig and rigless cutting operations.

In summary, Acteon and its operating companies are actively helping clients continue with their planned decommissioning campaigns and using their inhouse R&D and design capabilities to find new alternatives to provide remote assistance where required.

acteon.com
Global Decommissioning Consortium Adds Weight with Heavy Lift Player

Dutch offshore services provider OOS International joins the already successful consortium, alongside industry leaders Lloyd’s Register and Worley, providing operators with fully managed end-to-end decommissioning, from late life through to post removal monitoring.

By pooling their considerable experience, global footprint and now heavy lift capabilities, the consortium has added further weight to its proven ability to reduce operators’ decommissioning burden, risk and cost, all through a single interface.

OOS’ fleet comprises stable and dynamic semisubmersible dual crane vessels, with accommodation capacity of 750 POB and a lifting capacity of 4,400 tons in waters up to 3,000 meters depth. In addition, the TBB OOS Zeelandia is equipped with two cranes with an impressive lifting capacity of 12,500T per crane.

Julie Copland, LR’s Decommissioning Lead said: “Decommissioning, for many, remains an uncertain cost burden, potentially even more so in the current climate.

“What is certain is that, with our combined expertise, unique ability to take well operatorship and duty holdership, and now ready access to heavy lift assets, our consortium can help operators reduce the risk and cost of decommissioning whilst safeguarding their reputation.”

John Cox, Global Decommissioning Lead, Worley (Intecsea) added: “As a consortium, we have completed successive offshore decommissioning projects, globally, from the Middle East and Asia Pacific to North America. We’ve supported operators and regulators with decommissioning and plugging and abandonment plans and guidelines, abandonment liability and expenditure evaluations. We’re actively involved in a number of full work scope provision projects. Operators see the value of our combined expertise across the full decommissioning lifecycle, because it works.”

Léon Overduin, CEO of OOS, said: “As part of the consortium, we can provide economies of scale, reduce duplication of effort, adopt campaign approaches and enable schedule flexibility, further reducing cost uncertainty and scope for operators.”

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ASCO Embarks on Premier Project

ASCO has commenced a project to support Premier Oil with its decommissioning activities associated with the Huntington Field, by providing onshore waste management services to receive and dispose of over 3000m³ of cleaning fluids and contaminated produced water from the field.

The Project

The initial stages of decommissioning the Huntington field required the flushing and cleaning of subsea and topside pipelines as well as emptying the cargo oil and slops tanks on the FPSO.

Offering a comprehensive and fully flexible Waste Disposal service, ASCO was contracted by Premier Oil to handle the decommissioning liquid waste that has been delivered onshore for treatment and disposal. The material is also contaminated with naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) requiring suitably permitted storage and offload facilities along with bespoke testing, treatment and disposal requirements.

Planning and Execution via Integrated Services

ASCO's experienced waste management team will provide and manage the full cycle of collection, logistics, treatment and disposal of the waste on behalf of Premier Oil. Key to this, ASCO has an established supply chain with partners, such as InterTerminals. The locally-based ASCO project manager ensures the coordination of all activities in line with ASCO's fundamental values of safety and service delivery.

A coordinated response enabled the liquid waste to be offloaded into quayside storage tanks, followed by detailed testing and the selection of the most technically and environmentally appropriate disposal sites, ensuring full legislative compliance and in communication with Premier Oil. The project is now in the disposal phase and will be followed by deployment of ASCO's industrial tank cleaning services to perform the deep clean post project.

Providing Compliance and Assurance

ASCO has provided Premier Oil with peace of mind by proactively managing all the legislative and environmental compliance requirements, handling the entire process, from arrival at the quayside to final disposal.

Premier Oil’s Huntington Asset Manager said: “ASCO’s knowledge and experience, combined with a flexible approach allowed us to focus on our offshore activities and gave us the confidence that the waste would be safely and compliantly managed in line with Premier Oil’s requirements.”

ASCO has a proven onshore solution for bulk liquid waste handling arising from normal operations and decommissioning activities, using in-house capabilities such as road transport, technical and radiological expertise, industrial cleaning and project management.

ascoworld.com
Cyber Prism Announces New Aberdeen Representative

Cyber security company Cyber Prism has announced Chris Middleton as its new Aberdeen representative. Chris recently retired from the Royal Marines as a Brigadier, having led the Joint Force Intelligence Group, an organisation of some 2,600 personnel. He directed the Centre for Intelligence Innovation, creating artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities to increase analytical tempo and capacity, and oversaw a £90M US/UK OT digitisation programme as Commander of the Joint Service Signals Organisation.

Martin Smith, MD of Cyber Prism, is very enthusiastic about Middleton's arrival: "Chris will be instrumental in expanding our business in the Energy Sector as we implement our network monitoring and response service, backed by the ground-breaking CyberMonitor monitoring system, whilst maintaining our range of cyber security solutions. His experience in technical development and intelligence analytics will be key to moving the company forward."

Chris said: “I’ve been impressed with Cyber Prism’s ability to support and protect clients really effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have undoubtedly seen the cyber security threat continue to increase over the recent period, and I’m thrilled to be able to provide a cost-effective and proven service to clients negotiating the current challenges as well as the reduction in the oil price.

“Our market-leading offerings are always carefully matched to the client’s specific requirements, and we have rapidly learned over recent weeks that they can be supplied without face-to-face interaction if necessary.”

cyberprism.net

Brimmond Group is Working Hard to Provide Continued Support

Brimmond Group, an engineering and rental firm, continues to support its decommissioning related clients with hydraulic engineering solutions for offshore operations in the UKCS, as well as globally. Despite the unrest of 2020 so far, Brimmond Group is working hard to provide both its staff and clients with continued support in terms of health and safety, suitable equipment and services for the future marketplace and general growth.

Brimmond Group’s Engineering Director, Tom Murdoch, recently reported: “The team has reacted amazingly well to the COVID-19 outbreak and the forced changes the company has had to introduce, such as split shifts in the workshop and office staff working remotely from home, which gives real testament to their dedication and work ethic.”

Brimmond is investing over £900,000 in its rental fleet in 2020-21, and the Group’s most significant outlay is on a new Effer 175-000 marine crane, which is due for delivery shortly. The new crane, the second crane of that size in the fleet, will ensure that Brimmond Group will be able to support more decommissioning projects. The Group’s original 175-000 marine crane recently completed an 18-month campaign on Fairfield’s Dunlin Alpha platform, where it was used for several decommissioning tasks including well P&A support and platform removal lifts.

Despite these challenging times and the knowledge that suppliers are likely to be squeezed tighter as the months go by, Tom Murdoch is still hopeful of continued growth and development of its provisions especially for the decommissioning sector.

brimmond-group.com
Lockdown Lessons Learned

Throughout COVID-19 and during lockdown, Brown and Mason maximised the use of technology to support social distancing measures. The wide implementation of ‘Microsoft Teams’ helped facilitate meetings with colleagues throughout Europe, whilst video conferencing proved an invaluable communication method to maintain contact with fellow colleagues, right across the company.

On reflection, the benefits of this technology can be enormous with easier, more fluid communication, plus a reduced need for physical travel to the traditional face-to-face meetings. There are undoubtedly significant time and cost savings to be made and measured in the future.

A lesson we’ve learnt from the pandemic is that systems and procedures can be tested to breaking point and need the flexibility to grow with innovation and reinvention to ensure the safety of our personnel, whilst at the same time optimising our business.

Our business is conducting employee surveys for assessment and our findings are being collated to conclude a strong evidence base for how our operatives have been affected and they feel about the pandemic and returning to work. The surveys conducted are transforming our approach, which seeks to inspire curiosity and spark action with strategic quality improvements which consider our work force.

As we exit the lockdown and return to the ‘new normal’, as some put it, our continued emphasis on people’s safety will remain a priority. We plan to further exploit the efficiency gains identified out of necessity during the Coronavirus crisis in order to protect our clients, staff, and our general commercial position.

brownandmason.co.uk
We have the knowledge and expertise to provide comprehensive engineering, project support and equipment provision globally, to safely deliver complex decommissioning projects.

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Ecosse IP Invests in a 950Te Cable Storage Carousel for UK Offshore Wind and Interconnector Projects

Ecosse IP Ltd (EIP), based in Banchory Aberdeenshire, announces a substantial investment in a 950Te carousel. The carousel is now ready for use at Sunderland Port. Based in County Durham A sister company to EIP Ltd. MASfab will be fabricating modifications to the carousel to significantly upgrade its current 950Te capacity.

Mike Wilson, EIP Chief Technology Officer and Chairman said: “I am pleased that EIP has invested in its first carousel. As the latest addition to its growing fleet, the carousel broadens the breadth of services that we can offer. There are a lot of spare cable storage requirements within the sustainable energy market that EIP can fulfil.”

Wilson continues: “Our ambition is for this Carousel to form the core of a cable storage service for multiple cables in multiple ports.”

The carousel will be used for the storage of cables required for UK offshore wind farm projects and works alongside both EIP’s FLOWT (Floating Offshore Wind Tension Foundation System) and Ambient Lifter technology. It also gives EIP the in-house ability to spool large volumes of pipe for the company’s patent Ambient lifting devices.

EIP specialises in designing and developing innovative and truly cost-effective subsea solutions. Established in July 2018, EIP has invested significantly in developing its unique range of technologies that includes its patented Ambient Lifter, FLOWT and MOWT.

The patented Ambient Lifter transforms subsea lifting, delivering cost savings for our customers in subsea construction, inspection repair and maintenance (IRM), renewables and decommissioning. Ambient Linear is designed for installation and decommissioning of pipelines, bundles and for conductor removal.

FLOWT is a cost-effective foundation and installation solution for floating offshore wind and marine renewables.

The patented MOWT technology was developed to provide a cost-effective method of generating energy from slow-moving 1m/s water. MOWT is designed for use in rivers, estuaries and subsea current & tidal environments, offering an energy solution with minimal environmental impact.

With the latest addition to its fleet EIP can now supply long-term and short-term cable storage to both the offshore wind and oil & gas sectors, with every project supported by EIP’s team of engineers, offshore crew, equipment and engineering capabilities.

ecosse-ip.com
From Physical to Digital – Waves Group Introduces New Remote Survey Capability

Waves Group has continued the expansion of its digital capabilities with the introduction of a new remote survey and inspection capability using mobile digital technology. The remote survey capability allows operations to continue, whilst using our problem solving and risk management expertise, even when site attendances are more difficult due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Using standard mobile devices, the remote survey is jointly conducted by the Waves Group team (based at home or our offices) and a member of the vessel’s crew or another person who can attend the site. The survey call is fully interactive and directed by our ‘remote surveyor’ in real-time, with all footage and still images saved in a secure, cloud-based server using a specifically developed application.

Each survey is fully planned and customised prior to the survey call and all relevant documentation is reviewed before the call to maximise efficiency and ensure a methodical approach to the survey, whilst also considering the health and safety requirements for the person on site.

The remote survey capability uses standard mobile devices, such as smartphones, and therefore does not require any special devices at site. All footage is streamed using standard Wi-Fi or telephone connections, or where connectivity is more limited, the survey scope is agreed and then uploaded when complete and when communications allow.

This new capability immediately offers significant benefits for our clients, as well as exciting potential applications for the future. The remote survey application will benefit clients due to the speed of response it gives, potential cost reductions due to reduced travelling and most importantly, the ability to effectively manage project risks for offshore operations and to inspect an incident, whilst still being able to rely on our expertise and experience in real-time.

Applications for the remote survey capability include:

- Marine Warranty Surveys (MWS) – Suitability surveys for vessels and for witnessing critical marine operations for a project, to issue Certificates of Approval (CoA), as part of the project risk management strategy.
- Marine casualty management and investigations – Orchestrating the management and investigation of a marine casualty using remote surveys (for inspections) and our digital evidence capabilities to provide a complete remote service.

We have already successfully undertaken remote surveys since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, proving our ability to quickly respond to challenges for our clients. If you would like to learn more about this new development and discuss how we can apply this new capability to your project, please contact us.

waves-group.co.uk
WE MAY BE VIRTUAL FOR 2020, BUT OUR EXHIBITION TAKES PLACE AS USUAL, AND WE'RE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE OUR EXHIBITORS......

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This is just another example of how Baker Hughes is committed to making energy safer, cleaner, and more efficient for people and the planet. Contact your local representative to learn more.

bakerhughes.com

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