Reduce, Recycle and Re-use
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Over the summer months, Decom North Sea has been planning ahead for a busy autumn. This will be kicked off on 14 September with our first lunch & learn session. The purpose of the lunch & learns is to give our supply chain members the opportunity to present their offshore decommissioning capabilities both to raise awareness of their expertise with the operators and major contractors and also to allow the rest of the supply chain to seek opportunities for collaboration. These events will be run every couple of months and will either showcase a group of complimentary companies or focus on a specific area.

At the end of September we will be holding an Offshore Decommissioning Challenges Workshop in County Durham. The event will be run using an innovative facilitation process called “Open Space” which will allow a much higher degree of active participation and ownership by delegates attending. The purpose of this event is to take forward one of our key strategic themes ‘Members working together’ with the hope that the workshop will result in a number of small focus groups being created with a view to stimulating collaboration, sharing ideas, addressing technology issues and building local capacity.

The beginning of October will see the return of our Annual Conference which is organised in partnership with Oil & Gas UK, more information on this can be found below.

Later in October we are organising a Trade Mission to Holland and Belgium. The aim of this mission is to explore offshore decommissioning opportunities in the Dutch Continental Shelf, promote Decom North Sea members capabilities to the Dutch and Danish markets and explore opportunities for collaboration. We will be working with our partner organisations – IRO in Holland and The Carbon Energy Club in Belgium to organise this mission. We aim to organise introductory meetings with operators and the key organisations in these markets such as Heerema, Allseas, Mammoet, SMIT, Scaldis, Svitzer etc. We also plan to organise a seminar and a ‘speed networking’ session in both Holland and Belgium. The visit to Holland will coincide with a major conference and exhibition in Amsterdam – Offshore Energy and there will be time in the programme for delegates to visit the exhibition and/or attend some of the conference sessions.

We hope to catch up with the majority of our current members over the next few months either at these events or through individual meetings and we also look forward to meeting potential new members.

Director’s Foreword

Brian Nixon | Chief Executive | Decom North Sea

Where Demand Meets Supply – The North Sea Decommissioning Market

The 2011 Offshore Decommissioning Conference will build upon the successes of the 2009 and 2010 conferences and will focus specifically on the role and needs of the oil and gas industry’s offshore decommissioning supply chain.

The two day event will comprise of four main sessions following an opening keynote address:

1. Feedback on outcomes from 2010 conference
2. How the decommissioning sector works in practice
3. Decommissioning and the environment – challenges and topical issues
4. Technological – current developments and future opportunities

The key objective of the conference is to bring a wide spectrum of oil and gas companies together; small supply chain companies, contractors and many of the large operators to facilitate open and honest dialogue between all parties. Previous conferences have resulted in delegates being actively involved and willing to contribute and discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with offshore oil and gas decommissioning in an open and shared arena.

More information and how to register for the conference can be found at www.decomnorthsea.com
Forthcoming DNS events and exhibitions

SPE Offshore Europe, Aberdeen, 6th – 8th September
Decom North Sea is exhibiting at SPE Offshore Europe on stand SC100 and welcomes visits from potential new members to discuss opportunities in the decommissioning market. We would also be delighted to catch up with our current members.
The topical lunch on Wednesday 7th September will focus on decommissioning and is being organised by Decom North Sea. For more information on this lunch and how to book your space see www.offshore-europe.co.uk

Decom North Sea Lunch & Learn, Aberdeen, 14th September
This is the first of a series of events where supply chain companies will have the opportunity to give 15 – 20 min presentations on their capabilities in offshore decommissioning. This event will include presentations from SMRU Ltd, Norse Cutting & Abandonment Ltd and RBG Ltd. For more information and to register your interest for this event, contact shillyear@decomnorthsea.com

Offshore Decommissioning Challenges Workshop, Xcel Centre, County Durham, 29th September
This interactive event will explore the main challenges and opportunities affecting the offshore decommissioning industry which the supply chain is willing to collaborate on finding solutions to. More information about this event can be found on page 6.

Offshore Decommissioning Conference 2011, Dunblane Hydro, 4th – 6th October
Decom North Sea in partnership with Oil and Gas UK are holding a two day Offshore Decommissioning Conference at the Dunblane Hydro again this year. For more information and to book your space see www.decomnorthsea.com

Decom North Sea Trade Mission to Holland and Belgium, 10th – 14th October
The aim of this mission is to explore offshore decommissioning opportunities in the Dutch Continental Shelf, promote Decom North Sea members capabilities to the Dutch and Danish markets and explore opportunities for collaboration. We will be working with our partner organisations – IRO in Holland and The Carbon Energy Club in Belgium to organise this mission. For more information and to register your interest in participating in this mission contact shillyear@decomnorthsea.com

Decommissioning Supply Chain - Developments Update, Aberdeen, 1st November
Decom North Sea will be hosting this seminar with Maclay Murray Spens LLP and will explore the legal, technical and commercial issues related to decommissioning. The seminar will be repeated in Edinburgh and London later in November. This seminar is part of a series of oil and gas focused events being hosted by MMS. The first seminar – ‘Carbon Capture and Storage - a Viable Proposition’, will take place on the 19th of September at The Marcliffe Hotel. For further information or to register for this event, please visit www.mms.co.uk/MMSKnowledge/EventSeries/mms-seminars.aspx

Decom North Sea Members Meeting, Marcliffe Hotel, Aberdeen, 9th November
Marathon Oil will share their decommissioning plans for the Brae Fields. They will discuss the timescales for these projects, how they plan to engage with the supply chain and any issues they are facing. This is also an excellent opportunity to network with other key players within the decommissioning industry. For more information and to register your interest for this event, contact shillyear@decomnorthsea.com

Supply Chain Management in Oil & Gas, Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London, 28th – 29th November
SMi’s forthcoming Oil and Gas Supply Chain Management conference will address challenges, innovation, solutions and lessons learned, as influential players from the oil and gas landscape come together to understand how to generate value, create efficiency and improve productivity.
Decom North Sea are presenting at the conference on ‘Decommissioning Supply Chain Development’.
For more information and to book your place visit www.smi-online.co.uk/events/overview.asp?is=5&ref=3756

Please visit www.decomnorthsea.com for details of future events.
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Decom North Sea believes this could be about to change. Earlier this year we were asked to chair a conference in Amsterdam entitled “Re-Use and Decommissioning”. The conference attracted senior industry professionals from across Europe, with several of the speakers highlighting opportunities for re-use. These included:

- Re-configuration for use with carbon capture and storage
- Conversion to gathering hubs or transformer stations for offshore wind farms and marine energy developments
- Conversion to booster stations for the planned North Sea Electricity Super Grid
- Modification of jackets for use on new developments with similar or different water depths
- Modification of topsides for use on new developments
- Toppling of jackets near to shore to assist the reduction of coastal erosion

We live in a society that quite rightly encourages us all to progressively Reduce, Recycle and Re-Use. With regard to Reduce, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency has recently announced a 36% reduction in landfill waste from businesses and households between 2005 and 2009. The Oil & Gas industry has also contributed to the Reduce concept with some innovative designs for lighter platform structures which have resulted in marginally smaller carbon footprints. When it comes to Recycling, early decommissioning projects in the North Sea have recorded an encouraging focus, with some impressive percentages being quoted. However, on the UK Continental Shelf, Re-Use has not yet featured strongly.

Topsides being lifted off the Welland platform prior to being refurbished and redeployed on a new development in West Africa.

The accommodation modules from BP’s North West Hutton platform were refurbished and redeployed as office accommodation units at the onshore disposal yard. Clad vessels (perhaps designed for sour service) are likely to remain in good condition and be potentially suitable for re-use on new developments. Drilling derricks could be upgraded and modernised. Gas turbines and power generation sets are capable of being overhauled and put back into service. And it is worth bearing in mind that many of today’s new developments will be designed for much shorter life-spans than those facilities being decommissioned.

It is clear that the industry must move to reduce its energy footprint, improve its environmental performance and help to reduce the overall costs of the decommissioning programme over the next twenty to thirty years. Re-use must surely have a growing contribution to play in this ambition?
Skills for the Future

Konstantin Nazaaruk is one of a growing number of graduates and students who view decommissioning as a future career. He graduated in 2010 and had the choice of going on to Imperial College London or Aberdeen University to continue his education. He decided to take up the place in Aberdeen because he wanted to work in the Oil & Gas industry and believed there would be more opportunities in Aberdeen.

He describes the Oil & Gas Enterprise Management course he has just completed as half technical and half management. His thesis is on economical evaluation of field decommissioning and when he started researching decommissioning he said he emailed around 30 organisations he found online to ask for a placement, including Decom North Sea chief executive Brian Nixon.

Following discussions with Konstantin, Brian organised a three-month placement for him with John Allan – CNR International Development Projects & Decommissioning Manager, who is also working on the Oil & Gas UK Decommissioning Base Line Project, a JIP to gather data.

"From speaking to fellow students on my course, I believe I was the only one out of 25 to get a practical placement while doing my thesis. Decommissioning is a very interesting sector and I know I want to make my career in it because the work can be so different day-to-day," said Konstantin.

Skill Shortages

There has been huge concern regarding the potential engineering and technology skills shortages in the offshore energy sector and Decom North Sea is regularly asked if this will also impact on offshore decommissioning. A first pass at exploring this issue has been undertaken by a student at The Robert Gordon University who undertook her final year project exploring ‘Potential Skills Shortages in the UKCS Decommissioning Phase’. This project was endorsed by Decom North Sea and the final report can be downloaded by Decom North Sea members from the members only section of the website. Her results indicate a 32% shortage of skilled onsite personnel. Results for offsite professional personnel differ greatly indicating an initial 14% shortage rapidly tapering off over 5 years. In summary, her findings indicate that there will be a significant shortage of skilled and professional personnel over the next 20 years if action to mitigate this eventuality is not taken immediately.

As mentioned in Issue 4 of Decom News, Decom North Sea is also reviewing the skills requirements of the offshore decommissioning sector and a Skills Steering Group has been set up under the chairmanship of Graham Gall, MD of Falck Nutec, with assistance from Jamie McGregor of PSN, Colin Turnbull of Mintra, Ruth Christie of Petrofac Training and David Gordon of Tyco. The steering group has now commissioned a consultant who is currently undertaking research into the likely skills and competencies that the forthcoming decommissioning programme might require. His research includes face to face interviews with individuals who have been involved with previous decommissioning projects to get an understanding of what skills they think are needed for offshore decommissioning and where the skills gaps are if any.

An online questionnaire will also be sent out to the members of Decom North Sea at the end of August. This research is expected to be complete in time for the offshore decommissioning conference in October and the full report will be shared with the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) and OPITO, the Oil & Gas Academy, to assist them in considering what may be needed in the design of decommissioning technician training modules and accreditation standards etc.

“It has been very important to me to have people from industry to talk to and chat with. Everyone at CNR International has been open in giving me their views and offering help when I have needed it. I have been given far more responsibility and practical work than in previous placements and the experience has been invaluable.”

“Decommissioning is a very interesting sector and I know I want to make my career in it because the work can be so different day-to-day,” said Konstantin.

CNR International’s decommissioning department started in earnest around 18 months ago, with a focus in the UK on the Murchison Field and Ninian Northern Platform projects. UK Government tax changes announced in March have had major impact, according to John, and accelerated Murchison decommissioning work so COP is now forecast for 2014.

“We are now at full steam ahead with the decommissioning projects and have a firm timeline in place. These really are exciting, challenging projects with emerging technology and several world firsts. There are major technical challenges to overcome with significant budgets involved – and, of course, we have to make sure throughout that we can be as environmentally friendly as possible.

“We’re going to be increasingly competing with other projects not just for assets, like single lift vessels, but for the most talented people. This means facing and overcoming the challenge of recruiting experienced people with the skills we need. So we are out recruiting and building the team and part of that is bringing in students,” said John.

“Konstantin is the first student we’ve had working on the decommissioning side and it’s working well and we’ll look at doing more in future. It’s good to see the initiative of graduates or students going to DNS and asking about placements. These can and do lead to jobs in the future and we view taking on placement students as an investment in developing a skills base for the future. We try to get a balance between experienced people and more recent graduates with different skills.”

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OFFSHORE DECOMMISSIONING CHALLENGES WORKSHOP

The Xcel Centre, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham
Thursday 29th September
10:00am – 5:30pm

Offshore decommissioning is expected to cost up to £30 billion over the next 30 years in the UKCS. In the next decade alone it is forecast that over 250 installations and elements of infrastructure may commence decommissioning, with over 900 wells being plugged and abandoned.

There is much to be done if the industry is to become cost effective, competitive and efficient, and our supply chain is to secure the significant business development opportunities that accompany this programme.

As a company either already involved with the Offshore Decommissioning industry or planning to become involved, this is an excellent opportunity to identify the key industry issues which need to be addressed to ensure the supply chain gains maximum benefit from this forthcoming programme of work.

You are invited to participate in this event which will address and answer the following question:

“What are the main challenges and opportunities affecting the offshore decommissioning industry which the supply chain is willing to collaborate on finding solutions to?”

There will be no pre-set agenda or formal presentation; attendees will be invited to create an agenda on the day which will address the above question. The issues identified will then be explored in more detail through lively discussion with other attendees.

By the end of the day we will have prioritised the challenges issues, and opportunities discussed during the workshop and also recorded our best ideas about how the industry can collaborate to address each of those main priorities identified.

Earlier this year, Decom North Sea developed a number of strategic priorities following consultation with its members, board members and wider industry. One of the strategic themes was ‘Members working together’. This event will be the first event to address this with the aim of creating a number of small focus groups with a view of stimulating collaboration, sharing ideas, addressing technology issues, building local capacity, and similar.

If this event is a success the aim will be to hold similar events across the UK. Anyone with an interest in offshore decommissioning is invited to attend this workshop.

For more information or sign up for the workshop, please contact Sarah Hillyear on SHillyear@decomnorthsea.com by the 16th of September 2011

www.decomnorthsea.com
AF Decom Offshore Targets UK

Following an exclusive agreement with Lerwick Port Authority last year to develop a deep-water decommissioning facility at Dales Voe, the official launch of the company’s UK operations and the office coincides with September’s Offshore Europe in Aberdeen where AF Decom Offshore will be exhibiting on the Lerwick - Shetland stand.

Kenny Anderson, a Mechanical Engineer with over 13 years’ experience in the decommissioning industry, has been appointed Project Manager by AF Decom Offshore UK to head up its new Aberdeen office in Centurion Court. “Combined with excellent progress being made towards redeveloping the environmental base at Dales Voe, the latest moves are designed to place the company in prime position when the market emerges,” Mr Anderson explained.

At the consents and approvals stage, Dales Voe will evolve to match the facilities at AF Decom’s Vats base in Norway, the most advanced in Europe. Norwegian-headquartered AF Decom Offshore is a market leader in the removal, demolition and recycling of North Sea installations. Targeting the UK sector – from northern waters to the southern basin – is in line with global expansion plans. Services include project management; feasibility studies; offshore decommissioning and onshore disposal. Offshore removal as the main contractor includes piece small and reversed installation methodologies.

AF Decom’s track record includes projects on Ekofisk, in the Norwegian sector, Indefatigable and the Kittiwake loading buoy, in the UK SNS and CNS respectively, and a contract awarded by Statoil in June to remove the H-7 platform, in the German sector. www.afgruppen.com

CSL Strengthens Decommissioning Capability

Project management and engineering company CSL has increased the scope of its decommissioning services following the acquisition of a highly-specialised vessel by its parent company, DOF Subsea.

The recently acquired Skandi Constructor is a light well-intervention and subsea construction vessel capable of working in challenging deep-water environments but is also ideally suited to decommissioning projects.

Neil Knowles, CSL’s Managing Director, said: “With CSL’s decommissioning management experience and the addition of a multi-purpose support vessel into the group, we are well placed to offer a complete service for the safe, economic and environ-mentally acceptable removal of subsea infrastructure.”

The vessel is equipped with a 150-tonne heavy compensated crane, a module handling tower with moon pool and two remotely operated vehicle (ROV) spreads. “Due to the vessel’s high specification it has the ability to carry out the entire scope of many subsea decommissioning projects making it a cost and time efficient option for projects of this type in the North Sea,” Neil added. The CSL and DOF Subsea approach is already established with work on the Hess Ivanhoe/Roy decommissioning project currently underway. “The provision of an integrated service, which offers a single point of contact, has proved to be attractive and beneficial to operators”, says Neil.

“The services of CSL and DOF Subsea are complementary in the decommissioning arena and we believe collaboration between the two company’s results in a wider and more attractive offering to our clients.”

For more information contact Claire MacLeod, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, cmacleod@csle-engineering.com
Evolve Training in Dyce, Aberdeen, has rolled out a new mobile Restricted Access Trainer (RAT), to provide more readily accessible confined space training to companies across Scotland.

The 14-foot long mobile unit has been purpose-built to meet the demands and requirements for confined space training across a range of industries including oil & gas and marine. The RAT offers companies the convenience of training staff at their own premise, which eliminates the inconvenience of staff travel costs and time.

The Health and Safety Executive Confined Space Regulations 2007 define confined space as a place which is substantially enclosed (though not always entirely), and where serious injury can occur from hazardous substances or conditions within the space or nearby, i.e. lack of oxygen or build-up of harmful gases in a chamber, tank, vat, silo, pit, trench, pipe, sewer, flue, well or other similar space.

The RAT is an addition to Evolve’s existing Confined Space/Vessel Entry and Rescue facility in Aberdeen and aims to provide people who may be exposed to working in a confined space, the information that will enable their work to be carried out safely.

Practical exercises using the RAT include a full rescue scenario with the use of breathing apparatus, winches and rescue equipment. These exercises can be tailored to simulate specific working environments.

Susan Garvie, Managing Director at Evolve Training, commented: “The Health and Safety Executive’s Approved Code of Practice for Confined Space Training states that ‘Rescue techniques including regular and periodic exercises training should be realistic and not just drill based’.

“Having a mobile training unit will enable us to provide that vital practical element on clients’ premises in a controlled, realistic environment. Evolve has provided Confined Space Training for 18 years in our training centre and this new unit will ensure that we continue to provide what our customers are requesting.”
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Email SARAH HILLYEAR for rates and availability at shillyear@decomnorthsea.com
New NORM Decontamination Facility in Aberdeen

A new NORM decontamination facility which is being developed in Aberdeen is scheduled to be operational in around October this year.

The multi-million pound facility, which is being constructed on a large industrial site on Greenwell Road, East Tullos, Aberdeen, will trade as NORM Solutions Ltd and is a joint venture between scrap metal and steel trading specialist John Lawrie Group, and leading waste management company Enviroco Ltd. The facility will receive NORM contaminated tubulars and equipment from oil and gas companies for

descaling. The equipment will be decontaminated utilising ultra high pressure (UHP) water jetting in a controlled environment. The waste water from the process will be collected, filtered and recycled on a continuous basis, with the removed NORM scale being treated and encapsulated with cement into drums for safe disposal to an authorised and engineered landfill site.

The entire process will be carried out in a closed loop system with no discharges to atmosphere or water courses. The facility will have substantial storage capacity to receive large parcels of contaminated equipment either from ongoing offshore operational activity and workovers, or decommissioning projects. Decontaminated equipment will either be returned to customers for reuse, or scrapped and recycled as appropriate.

By utilising John Lawrie and Enviroco’s many years of expertise in servicing the oil and gas industry, this new facility will provide a fully integrated and sustainable one stop service.

NORM Solutions will be exhibiting at this year’s Offshore Europe exhibition on the Enviroco stand, number 1B101, just inside Hall 1.

For more information, contact Ray Grant, ray@johnlawrie.com

APEX’s solution to solubilise NORM

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veloped in 1997, Dizzolve remains the most efficient product within the offshore industry for its outstanding ability to solubilise naturally occurring radioactivity (NORM) and Low Specific Activity scale (LSA). A water-miscible product designed for the removal of "difficult" scales, this product will also tackle deposits that are commonly sulphates arising from formation water – typical cations involved are, Barium & Calcium but the radioactivity is delivered by a whole collection of isotopes including Ac-228 Pb-212 Bi-212 Tl-208 Ra-226 Pb-214 Bi-214 Pb-210.

Apex Speciality Solutions LTD has data which not only shows that Dizzolve can solubilise the barium and calcium sulphates but will also pro-rata solubilise the Radium and Actinium isotopes. When it comes to the “daughter” elements, Apex’s extensive data suggests the dissolving rate is better than pro-rata – i.e. “washing-out” the radioactive daughters.

Following treatment the resulting solution stays as a stable liquid. This allows several disposal routes, the most popular being to pump back into formation. Alternatively, the liquid can be used as the make-up water for concrete blocks or there is the option to boil off the water and leave a “crust” of dissolved salts behind. However, the latter is the least favourable as (a) it needs lots of heat and (b) the process may cause the entrapped radioactive elements to be released as a dust.

For further information, contact Nicola Hodgson, Offshore Business Manager Nicola.hodgson@apex-chemicals.co.uk

Further Expansion of Lerwick Harbour’s Deep-water Infrastructure

The latest significant expansion of Lerwick Harbour’s already extensive deep-water infrastructure will further enhance facilities for vessels supporting decommissioning projects. A £5.2million reclamtion-and-construct project by Lerwick Port Authority, due for completion around the turn of the year, will create 100-metre-plus of berthing at the new berth at Greenhead Base.

The reclaimed land and piling operations underway at the location for the new heavy lift pad at the new berth at Greenhead Base.

Captain Calum Grains, the Port Authority’s Harbormaster, said: “We’re seeing increasing numbers of large offshore construction and diving support vessels using Lerwick. By enhancing the ability to handle these ships though extending berthing with nine metres’ water depth, adding another heavy lift pad and complementing existing laydown areas, the new quay will improve services for current operators and help generate further traffic.”

The development, along with the deepening of two existing berths, will extend continuous berthing with nine metres’ water at the Base to 345 metres.

The latest land reclamation adds to that in a major dredging project completed in 2008 to deepen the harbour and improve access.

Lerwick is a leader in decommissioning - both marine support and in dismantling, recycling and disposal of structures and equipment onshore. Major projects have been carried out by PetersonSBS and Veolia Environmental Services at the main Greenhead Base, while AF Decom Offshore UK is developing a deep-water decommissioning base at Dales Voe, following an agreement last year with the Port Authority.

All four are exhibiting on the Lerwick – Shetland stand (SD100) at Offshore Europe in Aberdeen in September.
Decommissioning can be a daunting business. There are miles of old pipeline and out-of-date assets. Information is scattered across multiple companies and contractors. Just knowing where to begin and how much it will cost is a project in itself. To get a clear picture of their decommissioning options and costs of the Balmoral field in the North Sea, Premier Oil contracted subsea engineering specialists, Jee.

“A cost estimate mechanism existed, but it was complex and tricky to manipulate,” said Mik Crosby, Jee engineer. “We set about creating a live working document that would generate a cost estimate for the assets associated with the Balmoral FPV. The model has an inbuilt logic based on current legislation and will make an assumption of the likely decommissioning option according to the data in order to develop the cost estimate. “We were pleased with our result which was a cost model that allows Premier Oil to manipulate the cost estimate based on current market rates and duration of activities,” said Mik. “This gives them an accurate projection of costs.”

Glyn Pritchard, Balmoral Area Projects Manager for Premier Oil, said: “The thorough and robust study was conducted in a professional manner by a team of competent engineers. The deliverable and the supporting report met exactly the specification defined in the original scope of work. I look forward to doing other business of a similar nature in future.”

Jee Ltd is an independent company specialising in pipeline engineering and training for the oil and gas industry. As well as developing a cost model for Premier Oil, Jee has been involved in decommissioning projects of the Don, North West Hutton, Miller and SNS fields.

Jee Designs ‘Robust’ Decommissioning Cost Model for Premier Oil

Proserv Offshore Completes Decommissioning Cutting Contract for Seaway Heavy Lifting

Proserv Offshore were contracted by Seaway Heavy Lifting to carry out cutting operations to assist with the removal of the Inde field platforms. The platforms, of various structural designs, were situated in water depths of 30m, within the Southern North Sea sector. The work scope included the cutting of all jackets 3m below seabed level and hole cutting for the fitment of the lifting equipment. This specialist cutting was completed utilising Proserv Offshore’s proprietary high performance range of high pressure water abrasive cutting tools powered by their in-house designed and manufactured 15,000psi Jetcut system.

Proserv Offshore provided all equipment, personnel and procedures to complete the cutting phases which resulted in a 100% success rate. The operations were carried out offshore using Seaway’s heavy lift vessel, Stanislav Yudin. The success of this project depended on the cutting equipment performing at critical times. Proserv Offshore delivered by ensuring all severances were completed without downtime and all platforms removed according to schedule.

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- Experienced personnel with an impressive track record in decommissioning cutting projects worldwide.
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Optimus Looking for Collaborative Approach to Decommissioning

Although North Sea platform decommissioning dates have tended to shift to the right, the reality is that decommissioning is appearing on the radar for several North Sea fields. This moves the industry into largely uncharted waters with operators gearing up for their first decommissioning project and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) about to enter an era of multiple and overlapping decommissioning programmes.

Stuart believes Optimus offer a service that adopts innovative approaches to help operators understand their liabilities and manage them. He said: “Risk management, decision making and numeric modelling techniques are commonly understood and used across the Oil & Gas industry and we have been successfully applying these to decommissioning. At its heart, a liability review is really about compiling and understanding information and we are proving we have the tools to do that.”

He also feels that innovation is something that must be carried on throughout the project: “Once the liabilities are understood and can be quantified we are looking for new technologies and approaches in the execution of decommissioning projects.”

Optimus anticipate increasing opportunities to work with operators, contractors and the Government via the framework provided by Decom North Sea. Director Alasdair Reid frames the opportunity: “There are great opportunities for Government and operators to reduce cost by adopting a collaborative approach. Our skills and our innovative approach puts us in a leading position to assist this process.”

For more information, contact Stuart Heggie, stuart.heggie@optimusprojects.com

For more information, visit decom-north-sea-news.com
Decommissioning Solutions

Offshore removal operations are highly complex, often even more so than the original installation itself. The condition of the platform, its residual strength and actual weight must all be assessed and taken into consideration. An experienced contractor is essential to plan and execute such work.

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Wood Group PSN - a Leading Force in North Sea Decommissioning

In April this year, Wood Group PSN, formed by the merging of Wood Group’s Production Facilities business, with PSN, became a leading force in North Sea decommissioning.

Attracting the best employees and the best customers is a key driver associated with ‘getting it right’ when selecting the surface process and methodology. Manning the flow ditch with roustabouts armed with ‘garden rakes’ to manually recover swarf cuttings is inefficient and also introduces unnecessary risk to people and process – and ought to be consigned to bygone days within the global offshore oil and gas industry that is focussed on innovation and the elimination of potential HSE issues at source.

Romar International therefore ensures adequate consideration is made for the mobilisation of a bespoke swirl removal and disposal system to (both) eliminate manual intervention and mitigate operational constraints whilst adding further value to milled casing activities. The risks associated with having inadequate swirl recovery processes in place can be significant and possibly lead to down-hole tools becoming stuck and unwelcome rig down-time. Optimising swirl recovery and disposal is an important area of drilling-related operations where PREVENTION is infinitely better than CURE.

Surface Recovery Processes During Casing Milling

Casing milling operations are associated with either cutting a ‘window’ for well side-tracks and/or retrieving sections of casing during well P+A campaigns and will generate significant levels of metal swarf cuttings into the fluids system.

Great care is therefore required to ensure swarf is removed in a safe and efficient manner at surface to avoid blockages i.e. ‘birds-nesting’ forming down-hole as a consequence of inadequate swirl recovery rates. As well as providing the right processes to assist with oil & gas production, Romar International’s solutions are ideal for the decommissioning sector where business will ramp up in the near future.

In terms of swirling recovery, handling and disposal there are HSE and economic key drivers associated with ‘getting it right’ when selecting the surface process and methodology. Manning the flow ditch with roustabouts armed with ‘garden rakes’ to manually recover swarf cuttings is inefficient and also introduces unnecessary risk to people and process – and ought to be consigned to bygone days within the global offshore oil and gas industry.
**Spotlight on New Members**

**A New Alternative to the Removal of Multi-string Conductor**

**Abandonment & Cutting Energy Services Ltd (ACES), an Edinburgh based firm, which is a division of UK based energy company Angus Energy, has facilities in Great Yarmouth and is capable of delivering a project from the planning stages right through to implementation, using the latest technological advancements in well abandonment.**

Managing Director Stuart Kilnan said “Abandonment & Cutting Energy Services Ltd (ACES) has identified the obvious expansion in decommissioning activity over the next 30 years and has targeted well abandonment operations and specifically the removal of multi-string conductor. ACES dedicated team of highly skilled personnel coupled with high class equipment will ensure project costs are kept to a minimum, whilst carrying out the Clients tailor made project in a safe, but efficient manner.”

ACES operations encompass various services including removal of conductor / multi-string, conductor slot recovery, rigless plug and abandonment of oil / gas wells, subsea cutting, subsea drill / pin and cold cutting services.

Mr. Kilnan added "ACES offer a unique service whereby the dedicated team of highly skilled well abandonment Engineers also comprises of Senior Drilling Supervisors who have project managed well abandonments of North Sea platforms. ACES feel this experience and understanding from an Operators perspective will prove invaluable to the overall running of operations.”

For more information please contact skilnan@aces-engineering.com or telephone 07880 927770.

**Focus on Safety for Quickflange**

**It is appropriate that after 30+ years of service, the decommissioning of offshore platforms should benefit from the technologies developed in that time, especially since they have the industry’s demand for safety at heart.**

To the very last moments of the life of an offshore facility, safety has the highest focus. This remains throughout the decommissioning process amid wholesale cutting of pipes, breaking of joints, re-routing, blinding-off and securing old piping systems.

The time proven, DNV-qualified Quickflange system delivers the most up-to-date safety-focussed approach to pipe connection. This system of installing standard flanges dispenses completely with the gasses, ignition sources, flame and hot-work of welding, replacing it with the safest, quickest mechanical connection method available, whilst ensuring the joints are as good as a weld itself. Available in a wide variety of pipe materials, ratings, diameters and flange types, Quickflange is already used by most North Sea operators for live pipe-work repair and modification.

Flanges and welding were used for many years before the start of the North Sea oil boom, and will be around for many years into the future. But improvement of this proven combination, making it safer, faster and easier to use is a huge step that the North Sea industry’s approach to safety has catalysed more than any other sector.

For more information contact John Spain, 01224 722265.

**New Company Facilitates Safe and Cost-effective Onshore Disposal for Offshore Platforms**

With onshore disposal of offshore facilities being a key element in offshore decommissioning, the challenge is in ensuring that this work is carried out safely, cost-effectively and within programme.

For example, during the planning and programming for the decommissioning activities, it is essential that there is a robust supply chain in place with the capacity to deal with the onshore disposal.

D3 Consulting is a professional services company that is able to support offshore clients within this field, with a team with more than 20 years experience of decommissioning, decontamination, dismantling and demolition.

Currently, D3 Consulting is CDM Coordinator for the ongoing disposal of Shell’s INDE platforms by Veolia Limited taking place at the former Swan Hunters yard in Newcastle. The company also provides other services such as project programming, planning and budgeting, waste characterisation and facility audits, complex dismantling activity engineering, environmental monitoring, and the overseeing of projects.

Based in the UK, D3 Consulting is able to provide knowledgeable technical expertise that ensures projects are implemented and progressed within legislative compliance and supported throughout by its experienced engineers, project managers, and CDM Coordinators.

For more information contact Martin Bjerregaard, martin@d3-consulting.com.
Member Listing

Full membership of Decom North Sea is open to any commercial organisation involved with decommissioning. Associate membership is open to non-commercial organisations and individuals who wish to be kept informed of Decom North Sea activity and attend networking events and conferences. For further information, visit www.decomnorthsea.com

Members of Decom North Sea – as at 1st August 2011

- 60 North Recycling Ltd
- Abandonment & Cutting Energy Services Ltd (ACES)
- Aberdeen Council
- Accenture
- Advanced Underwater Surveys Ltd (ADUS)
- AF Decom Offshore AS
- AGR Subsea Ltd
- AKD Engineering Ltd
- Aker Qserv Ltd
- Aker Solutions
- AMEC
- APEX Speciality Solutions Ltd
- Applied Drilling Technology International
- Aquatic Engineering & Construction
- Arnlea Systems Limited
- ASCO UK Ltd
- Asset Development & Improvement Ltd (ADIL)
- Atlas Interactive Limited
- Aubin Ltd
- Avanteq Ltd
- Babcock Marine Rosyth
- Baker Hughes
- BIS Salamis (M&I) Ltd
- BJ Process & Pipeline Services
- BMT Cordah Ltd
- BONDS
- BP
- Brimmond Group
- Cape Industrial Services Ltd
- Champion Technologies
- Claxton
- CNR International (UK) Ltd
- Codaoctopus Products Ltd
- Contitec Beattie Ltd
- Cortez Subsea Ltd
- CSL
- Cutting Underwater Technologies Ltd
- D3 Consulting
- Derrick Services (UK) Ltd
- DNV
- Douglas Westwood
- Dutton International Limited
- E.M.W Consultancy Ltd
- EAP ASSOCIATES LIMITED
- EC Harris
- Engineering Resource Solutions Group
- Ethan Consultancy Ltd
- Evolve Training
- Expro North Sea Ltd
- Falck Nutec
- Genesis Gmbh
- Geoprobe Drilling
- GP Decom Limited
- Grup Servicii Petroliere
- Gulfstream Services International UK Ltd
- Halliburton
- Hawk Enviro Ltd
- Heavy Decom International
- Heerema Marine Contractors
- Hertel (UK) Ltd
- Hess Ltd
- Hilti
- Infield Systems Limited
- Interact Activity Management
- J. Bryan (Victoria) Ltd
- JEE Ltd
- John Lawrie (Aberdeen) Ltd
- KDC
- Keltbray Group Holdings Ltd
- Kishorn Port Limited
- Ledingham Chalmers
- Lerwick Port Authority
- Lloyd's Register EMEA
- M&E Global Resources
- Maclay Murray & Spens
- Maersk Oil UK Ltd
- Mammoet Salvage BV
- Marathon Oil U.K. LLC.
- Marex Marine & Safety Services
- McDermott Marine Construction Ltd
- MSIS Group
- Mwaves Ltd
- Norisol
- Norse Cutting & Abandonment Ltd
- North West Trading Co Ltd
- Nuvia Sita NORM Ltd
- Oceaneering International
- Offshore Installation Services Ltd (OIS)
- Oil States MCS Ltd
- Oilmac.com
- Optimus Projects
- Pangeo Subsea Scotland Ltd
- PDL Solutions (Europe) Ltd
- Pegasus International (UK) Ltd
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- Perenco UK Ltd
- Peterhead Decommissioning Limited
- Peterson SBS
- Petrofac
- Port Services Group
- Premier Oil Plc
- Project Development International (Pdi) Ltd
- Project, Time & Cost International Ltd
- Proserv Offshore
- Quickflange UK LTD
- RAM Tubulars Scotland Ltd
- RBG Ltd
- Red Stone Drilling Ltd
- Roman International Ltd
- Rotech Subsea
- Royal Bank of Scotland
- Sabre Safety Ltd
- Scanmet A.S
- Scannudging
- Scopus Engineering Ltd
- Scotsafe Testing Ltd
- Seajacks UK Ltd
- Seal-Tite UK LLC
- Shell UK Limited
- Shepherd & Wedderburn
- Silverdot Ltd
- Simmons & Company International
- Siskin Asset Management Ltd
- SMD Robotics Ltd
- Smit Marine Projects B.V.
- SMRU Ltd
- Spartan Solutions Ltd
- SPEX Services Ltd
- Squibb Group Ltd
- Strategic Fit
- Subsea Asset Location Technologies Ltd (SALT)
- Subsea Protection Systems Limited
- Subspection Ltd
- Superior - Wild Well Energy Services Ltd
- Talisman Energy (UK) Limited
- Technical Lifting Solutions
- Tepa Oil & Gas BV
- TETRA Technologies Ltd
- Thinktank Maths Ltd
- Titan Salvage c/o Titan Maritime (UK) Ltd
- Tracerco Ltd
- URS Corporation
- Valuta Limited
- Veolia Environmental Services
- Wikborg Rein LLP
- Wood Group PSN

Partners
- Caithness Chamber of Commerce
- Carbon Energy Club
- Danish Marine and Offshore Group
- East of England Energy Group (EEGR)
- ERO
- NOF Energy
- NSIG
- Scottish Renewables

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