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Subsea Challenges

Wednesday 14 March 2007

Lecture Theatre H234, Faculty of Health & Social Building, RGU, Garthdee Road, Aberdeen

Lecture Start: 1800 Super: 1930

Chairman: TBC

The subsea environment presents continual challenges to the designer, the engineer and to offshore technical personnel - often requiring the development of unique solutions. Tonight's speakers will introduce some recent and current issues that have led to innovative problem solving and the application of a range of technologies.

Stephen McEntee, JP Kenny

Future Challenges for Subsea Engineering in Scotland

The subsea engineering section in Scotland is experiencing a boom based on the current high prices of oil and gas. This boom has brought challenges such as extending the life of subsea infrastructure and decommissioning uneconomic subsea assets, as well as the challenge of finding addition personnel to meet increased demand due to recent rapid growth in the industry. On the other hand, production in the UKCS has past its peak and may be declining faster than expected. This presentation reviews and discusses some of the technical and commercial challenges facing the Scottish subsea engineering sector in the near and medium-term future.

Philip Snowdon, Pipelay Analysis Engineer and James O'Flynn, Project Surveyor, Saipem UK

Ormen Lange Deepwater Pipeline Installation

The development of the giant gas field Ormen Lange is the largest industrial project ever carried out in Norway. When production commences this autumn, gas from Ormen Lange will be able to meet up to 20 percent of Britain's gas demand for up to 40 years. Severely irregular seabed terrain caused by a huge geological slide and tight installation tolerance necessitated pre-lay seabed intervention and the installation of counteracts to stabilise the pipelines. The convergence of arctic water and the Gulf Stream made conventional acoustic positioning unreliable.

This presentation demonstrates the methods used during pipeline installation to mitigate sliding and describes the onboard data acquisition system and survey techniques, supplemented by visual terrain recognition.

Sandy Meldrum, Senior Subsea Engineer, BP

Title TBC

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