



Newsletter

Summer 2005

Skipper approved!

In early June, the environmental statement for the Skipper Development was approved by the DTI. Skipper is an exciting new central North Sea oil development which will make use of a state-of-the-art floating, drilling, production, storage offloading (FDPSO) vessel built according to the MOST (Multi Operational Service Tankers Inc) concept. The MOST concept involves combining the latest technologies in oil exploration and production into one multi-purpose drilling and production unit.

One of the main factors for the EIA was the delivery of the ES on a tight deadline as the schedule is very important for the future operators of Skipper: Focus Energy Ltd and Ingen-Ideas Ltd. The ES was delivered on time, and approved by the DTI without any delay. In fact the DTI had the following to say about the ES:

"... this was an excellent example of an Environmental Statement. All the issues have been thoroughly identified and discussed so that the Consultees have been able to review the EIA and no additional information has been required. I may say that this is a very rare occurrence and that we are very content that our part of the process has progressed so smoothly".

We wish the developers of Skipper good luck throughout the next phase of the project, and hope to be invited for the "first oil" party in the third quarter of 2008!



Ingeborg McNicoll with environmental managers from PRSS

ERT Director at Oil and Gas Asia 2005, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ERT (Scotland) Ltd was one of ten companies represented on the Scottish Development International stand at Oil and Gas Asia 2005. This was the first exhibition to be held in the new Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre next to the Petronas Twin Towers. ERT Director, Ingeborg McNicoll also took the opportunity to make contact with clients and old friends including staff from Petronas Research and Scientific Services, with whom ERT have been working closely on the first deepwater environmental impact assessment in the Malaysian oil and gas sector.

ERT consultant gaining tropical experience

ERT consultant, Kirsty McWilliam, is currently taking a four month sabbatical from her post to assist in a project which aims to achieve the establishment of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) on a small island off Sumbawa, Indonesia. The island is within an area known as the 'Wallacea hotspot', a region recognised internationally for its high number of endemic species, and also known as the global centre of diversity for coral reefs and their associated communities. Major threats are pollution from land-based sources, sediment pollution from logging, intensive destructive fishing (dynamite) and live reef fish trade (for the aquarium trade). Kirsty will be helping to train in techniques used for diving and monitoring, and also running educational lectures for tourists whilst on the island. Kirsty will be back in the office (with a tan!) by November, maybe



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Sullom Voe terminal diffuser surveyed using remote sampling/photography techniques

Due to a halt of diving activities at BP's Sullom Voe terminal, a new approach to the annual statutory survey was required. ERT reviewed available technologies and recommended a 'revised' strategy for the collection of sediments and horse mussels including photographic/video assessments of the seabed. The revised strategy was successfully implemented for the 2005 annual survey and involved the utilisation of a Seabeve Falcon mini-ROV (equipped with a 5-function manipulator arm) system to collect the required samples and to obtain video

footage around the diffuser. The ROV was equipped with a high resolution colour zoom video camera (single CCD, 480 TVL) that could be tilted $\pm 90^\circ$, together with two 75 W tungsten halogen lamps. The surface control unit included video monitors and a digital recording unit using the mini DV tape format.

In addition, a video camera system mounted on a Day grab sampler was employed to identify areas of sediment suitable for sampling prior to grab deployment on the seabed. The photographic system as a whole comprised a miniature Sony colour video camera (single CCD, 480 TVL) and 100 to 150 W tungsten halogen lamp, both rated to 1,000 m, and a Bowtech surface control unit equipped with a large colour monitor and a digital recording unit using the miniDV format within a waterproof carrying case.

For further information on these systems and assistance with your project requirements please contact jim.mcdougall@ert.co.uk



Edinburgh marathon

ERT consultant Gregor McNiven completed the 2005 Edinburgh Marathon on Sunday 12 June, in the respectable time of 4 hours 20 minutes. Gregor and his sister Trudy ran the 26.2 miles in aid of their chosen charity the International Myeloma Foundation (UK), for whom they have successfully raised over £1,200. Myeloma is a deadly form of bone marrow cancer which results in the over-production of plasma cells that inhibit the marrow's ability to produce red blood cells and also results in the destruction of bone through the loss of calcium. It is the third fastest growing cancer in people aged 65 and under. The International Myeloma Foundation (IMF) aims to help all those affected by myeloma and to improve standards of treatment and care through education, support for patients and their families and research. Whether Gregor decides to try and better his time at next year's event remains to be seen, however if you would like to sponsor Gregor for this years outstanding achievement then it's not too late! Visit his Marathon sponsorship website 'www.justgiving.com/gregormcniven'.



ERT are currently recruiting and have two vacancies available. The positions are:

General Office Co-ordinator

Laboratory Technician

Details on both these positions can be obtained by visiting our website www.ert.co.uk

We are interested in hearing from anyone with enthusiasm and passion for the environment, enjoys the flexibility of working in a small dynamic company with other like-minded individuals and is prepared to travel at a moments notice. Numeracy and GIS proficiency would be a bonus. If interested contact Ingeborg McNicoll on ingeborg.mcnicoll@ert.co.uk



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