

Successful Ekofisk '2013 Shutdown'



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Oil and gas production has been normalized on all facilities in the Greater Ekofisk Area after 'Shutdown 2013', the most comprehensive maintenance, upgrade and brownfield project work shutdown ever conducted at Ekofisk.

A total of more than 280,000 hours of work were carried out at the installations in the Greater Ekofisk Area (GEA) during the regular shutdown, which is held every three years. In addition, comes work executed on the now shut down booster station B-11 in the German sector of the North Sea and at the Teesside terminal in the UK.

Impressed

"I have been very impressed by the sheer amount and quality of planning that went into preparation for the shutdown, and the disciplined management by all involved during the execution of the shutdown activities," said Mark Tompkins, General Manager, Norway Operations.

All planned activities were carried out within the scheduled time frame, after production of the Eldfisk field shut down in late May, and the Ekofisk field early June. The start of production from the four fields in the GEA occurred at different times, but on 23 July, all production had resumed and 'Shutdown 2013' was officially over.

"Many employees and contractors have been involved in the planning and execution of demanding and challenging work in conjunction with 'Shutdown 2013' over a long period of time," said David Hendicott, Operations Manager GEA. He added that the campaign was very successful and was completed without serious incidents.

Integrity

Maintenance shutdowns are carried out to ensure the integrity of the existing facilities of the installations, and ensure continued high operating efficiency. Moreover, there has been a substantial amount of brownfield project work related to the integration of the major development projects Ekofisk South, Ekofisk 2/4 L and Eldfisk II.

Preparations for the shutdown began in early 2012, and Hendicott tells of a very well planned and executed process. With the completion of the maintenance, upgrade and brownfield project work planned for the shutdown period, ConocoPhillips has reached a key milestone in the current peak activity period that the company is in.