

EEEGR Platinum Sponsor:



## **Brave Tern's US Project**

FOW vessel completes at Block Island

## **Decommissioning**

Pharos Marine Sims Systems' Brent project

## **Skills for Energy**

Engineering undergraduates' Dragons' Den challenge



# The Big Lift

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm offshore substation completed

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Front cover image: The installation of the Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm offshore substation, CHPV/ Statoil. See page 5 for full story.

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## Coming soon – Events diary

### SEPTEMBER 2016

- 21<sup>st</sup>** – **ECITB MJ1-10 Bolting Course** – *Gee-Force, Great Yarmouth.*
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** – **Subsea South-East Networking Event** – *Bleeding Hearts Restaurant, London.*
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** – **Leavers' Link – Norwich** – *Maids Head Hotel, Norwich.*
- 27<sup>th</sup>** – **ECITB MJU-10 Bolting Course** – *Gee-Force, Great Yarmouth.*
- 27<sup>th</sup>** – **Economic Report 2016 Briefings** – *The Assembly House, Norwich.*
- 28<sup>th</sup>** – **ECITB WebinEYE Series – PMP – Creation and Refinement.**

### OCTOBER 2016

- 13<sup>th</sup>** – **STEM Event** – *Ormiston Denes Academy, Lowestoft.*
- 14<sup>th</sup>** – **EEEEGR AGM 2016** – *Imperial Hotel, Great Yarmouth.*
- 19<sup>th</sup>** – **Suffolk Skills Show** – *Trinity Park, Ipswich.*
- 19<sup>th</sup>** – **House of Commons Reception** – *Members' Dining Room, Westminster, London.*
- 27<sup>th</sup>** – **Leavers' Link – Norwich** – *Maids Head Hotel, Norwich.*

### NOVEMBER 2016

- 24<sup>th</sup>** – **Leavers' Link – Norwich** – *Maids Head Hotel, Norwich.*
- 30<sup>th</sup>** – **Energise Your Future at the Skills for Energy Conference** – *Zest Rooms, Potters Resort, Hopton.*

### DECEMBER 2016

- 15<sup>th</sup>** – **EEEEGR Christmas Ball 2016** – *Dunston Hall, Norwich.*

### EEEEGR's mission statement

EEEEGR's mission is to be the source of new opportunities and knowledge to enable member companies to strategically grow their businesses.

Visit our website for the latest energy stories and events, and to download this and previous versions of EEEGR News.

[www.eeegr.com](http://www.eeegr.com)

## Next issue: Gas

To mark the first flows of gas from the new Cygnus field off the East of England, the biggest new gas find in UK waters for 25 years, EEEGR is dedicating the next edition of EEEGR News to future gas production in the Southern North Sea, gas.

The first gas is expected from Cygnus in Q4. ENGIE's project, sanctioned in August 2012, is expected to contribute 5% to UK gas production at its peak – supplying gas to the equivalent of 1.5 million homes in Britain.

Gas will be very much a focus of EEEGR in the coming months as we work with the OGA towards a new Special Interest Group looking at a sustainable future for the SNS.

With many remaining opportunities in the SNS, we will be looking at how to unlock and maximise the remaining potential of the basin.

With the over-riding goal of MER (Maximising Economic Recovery), the new SIG is aimed at looking at carboniferous or tight gas and small pools and new ways of working.

The gas industry started off the East of England coast 50 years ago nurturing a rich heritage of experience, investment and skills and a robust, confident and diverse supply chain, which has many ideas about how to make the most of the remaining gas off our shores.

For the next edition, we'd like to hear about any new contracts our members have won for gas projects in the SNS and any innovations they are developing.

Please send in your stories of no more than 300 words, accompanied by a relevant high quality photograph.

To promote your business by advertising in EEEGR News, please contact the EEEGR team.

Editorial deadline is Friday October 7, 2016.  
Email: [news@eeegr.com](mailto:news@eeegr.com)

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## New SIGs to be announced soon

► *Simon Gray, EEEGR CEO*

Building on the great support and success of our special interest groups (SIGs) for decommissioning and marine, we are adding new SIGs to our suite.



The offshore wind supply chain SIG is currently seeking nominations for its steering group. It will be led by Graham Hacon, CEO of 3sun, and we are expecting considerable interest.

We are also looking to form a Southern North Sea Rejuvenation SIG in association with the OGA and we are about to be welcoming applicants to serve on its Steering Group.

Our belief is that nuclear has a firm role to play in the national energy mix with gas clearly as the interim fuel of choice, coupled with renewables. We have the infrastructure, skills and supply chain to serve this unique mix in the East of England and look forward to the government's autumn statement with great anticipation.

We are hoping for a clearer picture before our House of Commons reception on 19th October, which will be hosted by Great Yarmouth MP Brandon Lewis.

I am delighted to be able to reveal a record entry for this month's EEEGR Awards. It is so gratifying to see the engagement of our members with this annual event, keen to share their innovations, good practice and projects.

Another important event on the EEEGR calendar is our skills event, Energise Your Future, in November in association with OPITO and ECITB.

Finally, news from the EEEGR office - we are delighted to be welcoming our new general manager, Jennie Kevis-Stirling, at the end of September. Before she formally starts, she will be a judge at the EEEGR awards to meet members.

We are taking this opportunity to restructure the organisation. Siofra Driver and Sophie Wilson will take on more responsibilities to support Jennie and the new role, changing their job descriptions to events and communications executive and marketing and membership executive respectively.

Gemma Head, Skills for Energy manager, will be taking over the role of company secretary from Andrew Wood, who is stepping down after steadfastly supporting EEEGR since its inception. We all wish him well in his new role.

Good luck to all our finalists in the EEEGR awards and we look forward to seeing members and non-members at our forthcoming events.

## Brave Tern completes installation of the Block Island offshore wind farm

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Fred. Olsen Windcarrier's jack-up installation vessel *Brave Tern* successfully completed its installation project on the first offshore wind farm in the US in August.

It installed five GE Haliade 150-6MW turbines on the historic Deepwater Wind's Block Island Wind Farm project.

Offshore installation was finished safely and well ahead of schedule.

Project manager Eskil Røset said: "The Block Island Wind Farm project has truly been a team effort.

"As this project is the first ever offshore wind farm constructed in the US, it has required meticulous planning and preparations to ensure the safe and efficient completion."

Fred. Olsen Windcarrier is proud to have played a key role in this historic first offshore wind farm project in the US. The US market has a large untapped potential, which could provide significant growth to the industry, he said.

After completion, *Brave Tern* began its transit back to Europe for final demobilisation in Esbjerg, Denmark.

Fred. Olsen-related company Global Wind Service (GWS) has contributed significantly with skilled and experienced technicians for the offshore assembly work under a separate contract for GE Renewable Energy.



*Fred. Olsen Windcarrier's jack-up installation vessel Brave Tern*

## £6million fund can support oil & gas companies diversify into renewables

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Oil & gas companies developing innovations and new business models to cut costs in offshore renewables could tap into a £6million grant fund to help.

After more than 50 years' experience of developing new ideas and technologies in exploration and maximising production of oil and gas, businesses are being encouraged to adapt their ideas for offshore wind, wave and tidal power with the help of the SCORE programme.

On top of grant funding, successful applicants will have access to some of the UK's leading figures driving innovation and developing renewables technology and access to world-class testing and demonstration facilities and laboratories through the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult (ORE Catapult).

Johnathan Reynolds, of OrbisEnergy, the innovation and incubation centre delivering the SCORE programme of grants of up to £50,000, said opportunities were at every level of the supply chain across the East.

"We know we have some amazingly talented people and businesses with rich expertise across our oil & gas supply chain in the east. We're now looking to support those firms with good ideas, technologies and solutions, which can be diversified into offshore renewables. The SCORE programme, with our specialist delivery partners, can explore this with them."

SCORE grants are available for commercial innovation as well as technology.

"We are looking for new ways of doing business and new ways of thinking in the industry."

Small-to-medium sized companies can secure grants to support their innovations for offshore wind, wave, tidal and other marine renewable sectors. Businesses must have a base in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, or Suffolk.

SCORE aims to help more than 200 businesses and create 200 additional jobs for the region.

The programme is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and is open to companies with fewer than 250 employees and an annual turnover of less than 50 million euros.



## OGA and EEEGR investigate new SNS SIG

- ▶ *Eric Marston, SNS manager, OGA*
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A new special interest group (SIG) focused on remaining resources in the Southern North Sea (SNS) is being investigated by EEEGR with the Oil & Gas Authority (OGA).

The OGA estimates another 3.7 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas remains from current SNS assets.

Potentially, there is another 5 tcf from further drilling in current fields and discovered undeveloped new fields.

Eric Marston, OGA SNS Area Manager, said the OGA was committed to working with local industry to create a sustainable future for the SNS while recognising today's challenging market.

"Though remaining total volumes in the SNS are significant, they are technically and economically challenging. Small pools are



often marginal and tight gas is more complex to develop and produce.

"The challenge is further compounded by a backdrop of ageing and retiring infrastructure. Time is therefore of the essence. The OGA looks forward to working with the EEEGR community to identify ways to unlock these remaining SNS opportunities before they become stranded to maximise the remaining potential of the basin."

Mr Marston and Jim Christie, OGA head of decommissioning, were in Norwich in July at the Late in Life and Decommissioning SIG offering insight into the OGA's focus areas within the SNS and how it will support the unique decommissioning challenges in the basin.

The OGA was set up last year with the objective of maximising economic recovery (MER) from the UK Continental Shelf's (UKCS) oil and gas resources.

## Claxton wins Statoil decom contract

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Claxton has been awarded a contract with Statoil to provide rigless recovery of seven abandoned wells on the Huldra platform in the Norwegian Continental Shelf.

Work is due to start in December with completion within 21 days.

Claxton, an Acteon company, is responsible for a full scope of decommissioning work, including project planning, severance, and full multiple string recovery.

Conductor and casing severance for the Huldra project will be performed using the latest evolution Claxton recovery tower and

its abrasive cutting system 'SABRE'.

The SABRE unit and all ancillary equipment are NORSOK compliant to Z-015, with the recovery tower having a safe working load of 300Te with a modular system footprint design that minimises rig-up time and complexity.

Laura Claxton, Claxton managing director, said, "Claxton performed the world's first rigless platform well abandonment campaign on the Esmond, Forbes and Gordon field in the North Sea in 1995 and have completed more than 280 cutting and recovery projects since.

"This experience allows us now to provide the most comprehensive decommissioning packages for our clients. Being awarded this contract with Statoil reinforces our leading position in the decommissioning market and demonstrates that clients value our experience, strategic technical approach and capabilities."

## Sembmarine SLP successfully complete Dudgeon substation

The Lowestoft-built Dudgeon Offshore Wind substation topside sailed away from the Sembmarine SLP Hamilton Dock ready for installation in August, completed and commissioned.

The topside was lifted on to the jacket structure, successfully installed in May about 32km off the coast of Cromer in North Norfolk.

A team of 250 people have spent the last 18 months and 850,000 hours working on the project.

Paul Thomson, Sembmarine SLP managing director said: "It gives me great pleasure to confirm that another project has been successfully completed by Sembmarine SLP without a single lost time incident.

"The Dudgeon project has set the bar for safety, quality performance and completion, we now turn this focus to our next project Culzean, the building of a power generation module, flare and bridges for Maersk Oil which will take us all the way through to 2018."

The Lowestoft-based engineering specialists signed the contract to build the offshore structures with Siemens Transmission and Distribution Ltd in September 2014.

The Statoil, Statkraft and Masdar owned Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm will have the capacity to power approximately 410,000 homes in the UK once operational.

The completion of the Dudgeon project adds to Sembmarine SLP's portfolio of more than 90 "made in Lowestoft" contracts delivered on time and to the highest quality.



The offshore substation for the Dudgeon Offshore Wind farm sails away from Sembmarine SLP



The topside sails away to be installed on to the jacket about 32km off Cromer



The Dudgeon Offshore Wind farm's offshore substation jacket awaits the installation of the topside

## Premier result for ODE

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International engineering and operations support services contractor ODE has been awarded an extension to its Integrated Services Contract from the new owners of the former E.ON E&P UK assets, Premier Oil.

The contract, managed by ODE's Asset Management base in Great Yarmouth, covers the operation and maintenance of its newly acquired assets, including the Babbage platform located in the Southern North Sea (SNS).

This contract recognises ODE's performance, efficiency and safety record. Safety and training are fundamental to the company's business model – the company

won the ROSPA Gold award this year for the seventh year running.

Paul Chilvers, ODE Great Yarmouth regional director, said: "ODE views this sector with optimism. Whilst appreciating changes will inevitably happen, we firmly believe that the time is right for an approach to the SNS that will maximise the production from assets, achieve greater efficiencies and lower operating costs and this is the message we are sending out into the market".

"We have developed strategies for moving towards late life and cessation of production that will see ODE taking on full duty holder role, squeeze the last drop out of the reservoir and work within consortiums to manage the decommissioning needs of multiple operators through collaboration and strategic thinking."

ODE, part of the DORIS Group, has managed gas platforms and subsea

**" WE HAVE DEVELOPED STRATEGIES FOR MOVING TOWARDS LATE LIFE AND CESSATION OF PRODUCTION THAT WILL SEE ODE TAKING ON FULL DUTY HOLDER ROLE. "**

assets in the SNS for almost 15 years, experiencing many changes in the sector. Market fluctuations and ownership change has resulted in periods of uncertainty for companies in the East of England.

The award of this contract extension aligns with contracts from ODE's other clients that also see the benefit of a fit-for-purpose approach to asset management that can deliver value from within the organisation across the full range of technical services and the equally valuable supply chain, he said.

## MARINE SIG

*Waveney MP Peter Aldous congratulates the marine industry for promoting the East of England as a centre of excellence*



## MP congratulates marine industry

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Waveney MP Peter Aldous praised the marine industry for promoting East Anglia as a centre of excellence for the marine environment.

He told EEEGR's first Marine SIG event in June: "When it comes to people's livelihood and wealth in Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth, they have always looked to the

sea, in fishing and oil and gas and marine and now offshore wind industry."

The North Sea had "enormous untapped potential" but was a precious, delicate and dangerous habitat that must be managed sustainably and prudently, he said.

"We must harness the marine surveying skills in this room. Your expertise has been built over many years and you have the ability to innovate and adapt to changing market conditions," he said.

The East of England industry provided the UK with a treasured resource.

"There are many businesses here

providing offshore surveying equipment all over the world.

"In this industry, you have something unique that is missing in other industries, and that is the enthusiasm of the public and private sectors to work together and collaborate for the benefit of us all.

"These assets and features mean that your industry is well placed to secure an exciting future for Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and Norwich and across the East of England."

Chair of the SIG is Richard Salisbury, of Fugro Geoconsulting, and vice-chair is Jon Rees, of Cefas.

## New subsea technologies are cutting costs

How developers use marine and coastal surveying to choose the right sites for offshore wind farms and nuclear power stations was detailed at the first Marine Special Interest Group.

New techniques and technologies in seabed and coastal surveying to provide accurate data for the multi-billion pound decisions for the prime sites were outlined by keynote speakers.

ScottishPower Renewables' methods to select the East Anglia zone and EDF's for Sizewell and Hinkley Point nuclear power stations were described at the Surveying the Marine Environment symposium at Norwich City Football Club.

Keynote speaker Rick Campbell, of ScottishPower Renewables, said aerial photography was replacing conventional boat surveys, cutting developer costs.

"We have been innovative in how we have gone about collecting data," he said.

"We had to spend a lot of time and effort up front to bring on the technology and had to convince senior management to spend the money up front.

"Because of the scale of the project of the East Anglia zone, with its new zones further out to sea – up to 200 kms offshore – conducting these surveys were very difficult."

A huge survey, taking particles from the seabed and imagery, was conducted for East Anglia ONE as well as ornithological, fisheries, ecological, bird and marine mammal surveys with two years of surveys required.

Aerial surveys had reduced weather impact, but statutory authorities were cautious because the technology was new, he said.

**"WE HAD TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT UP FRONT TO BRING ON THE TECHNOLOGY AND HAD TO CONVINCE SENIOR MANAGEMENT TO SPEND THE MONEY UP FRONT."**

A crossover time, taking both boat-based and aerial surveys provided a huge amount of data, he said.

"Having good data increases the certainty of the decision and because of that it allows us to have intelligent conversation and worthwhile process to go through and leads to reduced costs and reduced time frames."

Colin Taylor, manager of EDF's new nuclear programme, said remotely piloted aircraft had cut costs and was safer to survey the beach frontage at Hinkley Point than ship-based work.

"We are siting new nuclear power stations where they have to sit for at least 60 years no matter what," he said.

"If you have spent billions of pounds and you have it in the wrong place, you can't move it.

## DECOMMISSIONING SIG

### New methods will cut costs in late life and decommissioning

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Oil & gas operators must be more open-minded and share campaigns and key information to make the late life and decommissioning programme a reality, the industry was told.

Sharing good practice, lessons learned and campaign management in projects was needed to bring costs down by 35 per cent, more than 100 delegates at EEEGR and Decom North Sea's Late Life and

### New methods and technologies cutting costs

New methods and technologies bringing down costs in late life and decommissioning were outlined at the SIG.

George Walker, late life and abandonment country leader, Halliburton, said Halliburton had slashed costs of well P&A by up to 40 per cent by building a multi-skilled crew.

It had a 65-strong team of multi-skilled well P&A engineers focused on the decommissioning market, saving time, bed space and helicopter transfers, he said.

"We have a team that is highly skilled and specialist in well P&A that brings

Decommissioning Special Interest Group (SIG) were told at Norwich City Football Club in July.

Better contracting models also need to be developed for the industry to move forward.

Decommissioning should only be the last resort – but to make the most of the last reserves of near-end-of-life wells and platforms, operators must look for synergies with other energies, like offshore wind, to share facilities for the greatest cost efficiencies, the SIG was told.

More than 1200 wells need to be plugged and abandoned in the UK Continental Shelf.

Well deconstruction is the most expensive part of decommissioning, estimated to be between 43 to 50 per cent

massive time and cost savings – and reduced equipment footprint."

In the last seven years, it had completed 10 P&A projects, from simple to complex in the central and southern North Sea, building experience to make well decommissioning projects smoother and more time and cost effective, he said.

"The multi skilled model definitely works. As an industry, we should be working together to achieve cost and time savings.

"If we can save one day on a well P&A, we save one day of expense.

"Get us involved in a decommissioning project as early as possible. We have experience. Get us in early and we can come together with a collaborative approach and come up with the most time efficient schedule."

### New late life planning portal



Karen Seath,  
Decom North Sea  
general manager

L2P2 is Decom North Sea's new late life planning portal offering a tool box of information to share case studies, lessons learned and best practice to help more effective and standardised decommissioning.

Karen Seath, Decom North Sea general manager, told the SIG: "We need shared goals.

"We need better contracting models, which is one of our real focus areas."

Eric Marston, the OGA's area manager for the SNS, gave a glimmer of hope for the supply chain about investment in the SNS with increasing exploration and appraisal well activity next year.

"A number of products are being brought to market and are being developed and conceived by different operators and there is a lot of investment coming."

Working with other energy sectors to access marginal gas pools that would

of the total North Sea decommissioning costs of nearly £50bn.

The Oil & Gas Authority (OGA) is demanding costs are driven down by 35 per cent.

SIG Chair Julian Manning said: "The industry is under continued and unprecedented pressure from the low oil price. \$50 a barrel of oil needs to be our new reality and we need to adapt to be profitable in that price range. A reliable schedule for decommissioning projects remains a challenge and presents uncertainty for all of those involved."

**\*The 2017 series of SIG events will be announced at the next session in December.\***

Completing pipeline decommissioning at the same time as wells also saves time and money.

"We need to look at scopes 12-24 months ahead of time – not get to the asset and realise we have a major problem."

Neil Manning, co-owner and CBDO of the US-based SLAM Group, demonstrated how 3D laser scanning unknown well heads for data for P&A activities and seabed remediation saved time and offered greater efficiency and accuracy.

On one project, 18 hours of data gave full information of the seabed structures.

On another, well damage was shown on the scan. "The client decided it wanted a 3-D print to design specific tools to recover the well."

"Everything is geo-located with the scan so we can see exactly where it is."

otherwise be uneconomic was a key opportunity to access SNS resources that were tight and difficult to access, as well as exploring shared means of bringing power to shore, he said.

The industry was investigating technologies to unlock them, looking at clusters of small pools which could be more economic to develop at the same time.

"How can the East of England as an energy hub support and deliver the remaining potential of the SNS leveraging opportunities that exist between operators and the supply chain?"

"There is the opportunity for synergies within different sectors in this geographical area – between offshore renewables and the oil and gas industry. There are synergies – and there are opportunities in capabilities and competencies in this room."



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## Cutting offshore logistics costs priority for new UK operation

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An international offshore logistics company has set up its first UK office at Lowestoft to be at the hub of offshore wind development.

From its new base in OrbisEnergy, Rhenus Offshore Logistics, part of the giant Rhenus group, is looking to the growing east coast offshore renewables sector to expand its services, targeted to cut costs and time for operations, crew transfers and supply deliveries.

Greg Howlett, UK business development manager, said: "Our clients were being managed from Germany so we wanted a UK office to build the business and look after current clients and build our client base."

Rhenus Offshore Logistics hopes to replicate its profile as the German market leader for supply runs in the UK and plans to expand.

"We are all about cost saving for clients and convenience – all at package rates."

"When we meet clients, we identify what their needs are and develop a concept designed to suit those needs exactly and

## Efficiency Task Force drives progress in the UK oil & gas industry

By Stephen Marcos Jones, business development director, Oil & Gas UK

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Facing the challenge of a relatively high cost basin, at a time of low oil prices, Oil & Gas UK's Efficiency Task Force (ETF) is helping the offshore industry pull together to drive out unnecessary waste and inefficiency in this tough business environment.

Representing the majority of production on the UK Continental Shelf and hundreds of supply chain companies across the UK, Oil & Gas UK is committed to working towards a long term future for the upstream industry and to ensuring it is the safest and most competitive basin in which to do business.

There is growing recognition of the competitive benefits to be gained through greater cooperation. Oil & Gas UK launched the ETF last year to provide the catalyst for such cooperation through sharing best practice and by spearheading cross-sector projects that will benefit the industry as a whole. Its purpose



demonstrate how we will go about it."

One of Rhenus Offshore Logistics' innovative solutions was to shave costs for clients by its shared supply runs. One vessel is loaded with supplies for different clients and drops off the containers on one run.

"We offer a one stop shop for our clients – we propose to manage as much of the supply chain as possible via one interface and a dedicated point of contact. We have found this increases efficiency, which in turn leads to cost reductions."

"Our shared supply is like a delivery van, dropping off supplies, water and equipment, at different sites for different clients, which saves time and money and means companies

Greg Howlett, UK business development manager for Rhenus Offshore Logistics, which has opened its first UK office at OrbisEnergy in Lowestoft.

Photo www.chpv.co.uk

don't have to charter their own vessel."

The company specialises in turnkey platform supply, crew change and offshore services as well as vessel support for Southern North Sea operations.

Future plans included setting up an offshore container store on the east coast with an offshore container supplier, Greg said.

Rhenus Offshore Logistics is based at Bremen with offices at Cuxhaven and Emden and other port locations.



Stephen Marcos Jones, business development director, Oil & Gas UK

is to help the sector boost efficiency, improve its competitiveness and help attract fresh investment into the UK Continental Shelf.

Inefficiency is being tackled on three fronts. The ETF is focusing on reducing the complexity of past bespoke practices across the sector and introducing widespread standardisation. It promotes the streamlining of business processes and champions greater co-operation across businesses, by challenging existing culture and behaviours.

To promote cultural transformation, the ETF is urging companies to commit to the Industry Behaviours Charter, launched in 2015 to help define and drive the cultural change the sector requires to be competitive. More than 30 companies have signed up, demonstrating their commitment to working more effectively, efficiently and co-operatively.

A recent collaboration survey Oil & Gas UK published jointly with Deloitte indicates that companies are increasingly working together to find mutually beneficial business

solutions. The survey shows the industry heading in the right direction – with feedback from supply chain companies on major North Sea operators revealing that, on a scale of 1 to 10, the Operator Collaboration Index score rose from 5.9 to 6.7 – but there's undoubtedly much scope for further improvement and further survey will be carried out in September.

To help illustrate cultural change in practice and provide a knowledge-sharing tool, Oil & Gas UK introduced the Rapid Efficiency Exchange, an online portal – which can be found on its website at [portal@oilandgasuk.co.uk](mailto:portal@oilandgasuk.co.uk). Here companies share case studies highlighting their efficiency initiatives and the benefits they deliver. To encourage a demand-led supply chain, businesses are encouraged to share their challenges and invite the market to respond with potential solutions.

This is also the philosophy behind a forthcoming ETF Share Fair Spotlight in Aberdeen on September 8 where suppliers and purchaser companies will be encouraged to engage in constructive conversations aimed at identifying where the supply chain's services, expertise and equipment can cost-effectively meet operators' most pressing decommissioning challenges.

To find out more about the ETF, or to get involved, contact the team at [efficiency@oilandgasuk.co.uk](mailto:efficiency@oilandgasuk.co.uk).

## Falck Safety Services UK invests in first class facility

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Falck Safety Services UK has invested a five-figure sum in new equipment at its facility in Dyce.

It has also added further OPITO accreditations offering new technical training packages to its customers across the UK.

Falck, which has 32 training centres across the world, has successfully completed OPITO's initial audit to offer Authorised Gas Tester Training (AGT) level 1, adding to its extensive list of existing OPITO approvals.

The new course is aimed at personnel required to test for oxygen, flammable and toxic gases. Delegates are equipped with the knowledge to conduct gas testing, including within confined spaces.

They are also educated on relevant legislative requirements, gas measuring and monitoring equipment, and how to document gas test results.

“A BROAD RANGE OF TECHNICAL COURSES ARE NOW BEING DELIVERED BY OUR EXPERT INSTRUCTORS AT OUR ONSITE TRAINING CENTRE.”

With its increased technical offering, Falck is now able to provide versatile technical packages including AGT level 1, Breathing Apparatus (BA) Awareness and Face Fit Testing, or Confined Spaces level 1, 2 & 3 and Face Fit Testing to a variety of onshore and offshore industries.

The Dyce facility has also been fitted out with a new working at height frame for a variety of courses, including: Working at Height Awareness (Unit 1), Working at Height & Harness Equipment User (Unit 2), Use of Rescue Equipment (Unit 3) and Management of Working at Height (Unit 4).

Niel Ritchie, Falck technical commercial manager, said: “A broad range of technical courses are now being delivered by our expert instructors at our onsite training centre, which allows us to tailor packages to the customer's requirements so their time spent training is efficient, yet maintains the high standards we are recognised for and deliver throughout all of our centres.”



Niel Ritchie, Falck technical commercial manager

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International learning technologies leader Atlas Knowledge Group has increased its East of England presence with a new business arm operating across the region.

Joseph Duckworth and Jeroen Pichal are driving growth for the technology-led learning solutions business across the region's petrochemicals, manufacturing, construction and engineering sectors.

Atlas has won 16 new awards in the last year globally. Its digital learning solutions are being used to skill workers in 116 countries with its client base more than doubling to more than 1600 companies internationally.

Mr Duckworth said the company had a 20-year record of successful delivery of courses to the oil & gas industry globally. It had seen significant interest from East of England companies. It could tailor learning to suit each person on each project, he said.

“The fact that our digital modules, courses, e-books and assessments can also be served to remote locations lacking internet access and needing support, such as offshore vessels, is also very appealing.”

“With the East of England's rich industrial heritage, the future for companies requiring training will centre on ensuring courses bespoke to the individual's needs. This is necessary for many reasons including safety where personnel are operating in often hazardous and challenging conditions.”

Clients operating in safety critical industries in the United States, Africa and Asia had supported the company's drive to diversify from supplying digital courses to the oil and gas industry, he said.

## Global Marine Achieves SPS Notation for C.S. Sovereign

*The C.S. Sovereign multi-role DPS-2 vessel*

► [www.globalmarinesystems.com](http://www.globalmarinesystems.com)

Global Marine Systems Limited has achieved SPS (Special Purpose Ships) notation for its C.S. Sovereign multi-role DPS-2 vessel, which will offer greater flexibility for customers.

The notation means the world leader in subsea system design, installation and maintenance's vessel can now carry up to 50 people, above the working crew, including client representatives or project specific personnel.

Captain Simon Hibberd, Director Fleet & Operational Support at Global Marine, said: "Gaining SPS notation has taken two years and a lot of hard work in consultation with ABS (our classification society) and the UK Flag State for the vessel in the form of the MCA.

"It opens up opportunities for C.S. Sovereign that we previously have not had. It's been a big undertaking for the ship and crew to achieve; however, this is an important development as the SPS notation offers genuine market differentiation positioning us

to meet the demands of the ever changing offshore market."

The SPS Code, introduced 1983, and updated and revised into the SPS Code 2008, provides an appropriate level of safety for the vessel and the people on board.

The code bridges the gap between the regulations required for cargo or passenger ships and is already proving valuable to Global Marine's customers, providing operational flexibility to multiple industry sectors including offshore renewables, Captain Hibberd said.

## Pharos Marine Sims Systems AtoN system for iconic Brent platform

► Hanna Darwish  
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► [www.sims-systems.com](http://www.sims-systems.com)

Navigational aids specialists Pharos Marine Sims Systems has completed the design, manufacture and installation of a bespoke solar navigation aid system for one of the most iconic North Sea platforms.

The Great Yarmouth team completed the project in just eight weeks as part of the decommissioning process of the Brent Delta, one of four platforms on the Brent field off the Shetland Islands currently being decommissioned.

The leading designer, manufacturer and supplier of specialist and bespoke marine and aviation warning systems produced and installed a customised solar-generated system of lanterns and radar warning system to lighthouse the platform.

Two 10-nautical mile marine lanterns – with two more as back-ups – were installed on two of the platform's opposite corners giving 360-degree white light visibility.

A Racon system- a radar beacon that transmits on X and S band to alert vessels of



*Members of the team who manufacture and install the company's highly-specialist equipment.*

the structure - and aviation obstruction lights were installed on top of the two flare stacks on the platform.

The team worked closely with operator Shell to interpret regulations that govern the marking of offshore structures during decommissioning to design the most cost-effective, safe and efficient solution.

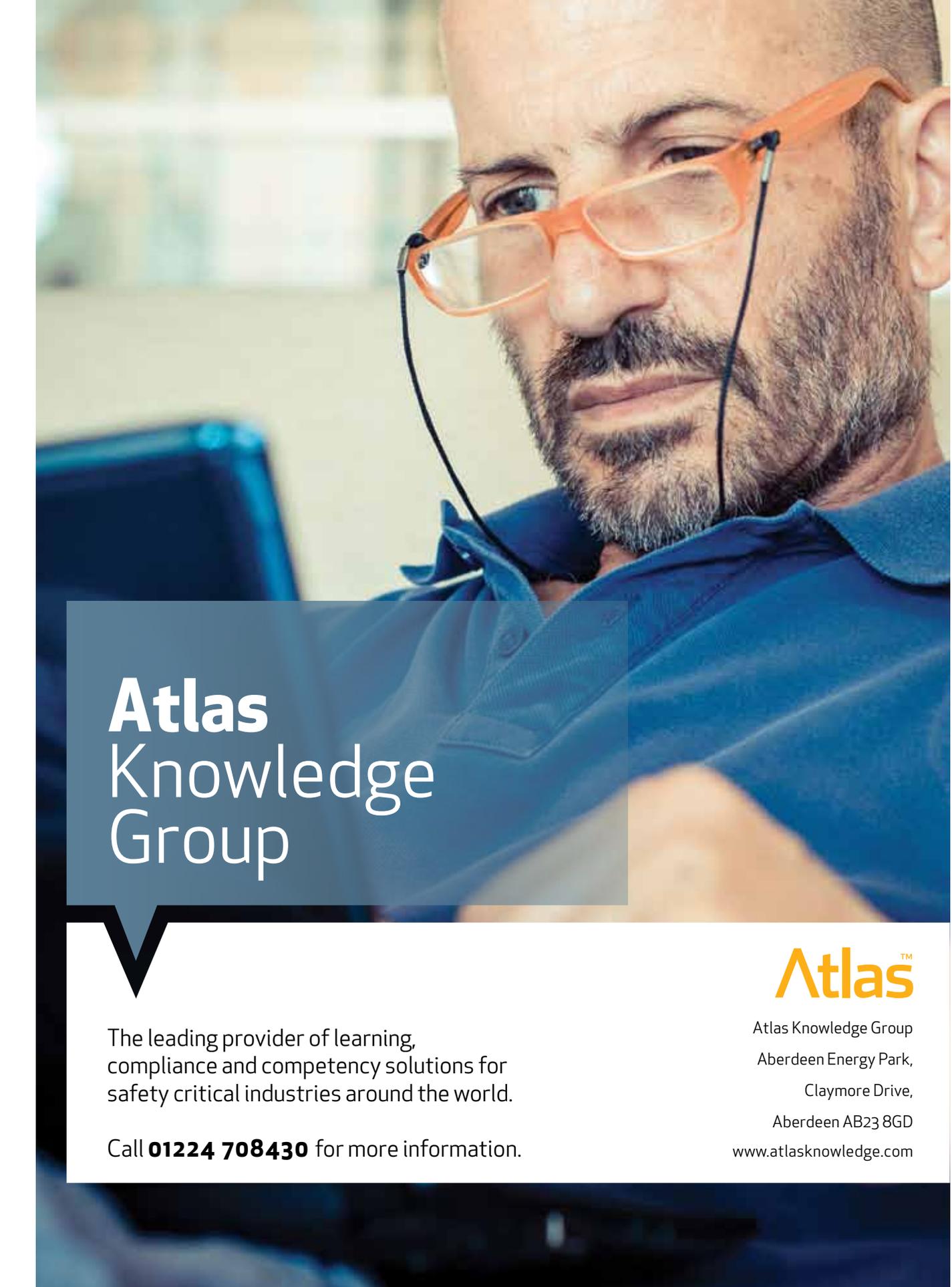
The company says it can cut the design-to-installation time further by keeping standard products and equipment in stock to mobilise swiftly once systems have been customised to suit clients' individual needs.

It is the latest of more than 15 decommissioning projects for the company with more in the pipeline in the SNS, North Sea, Norway and Netherlands.

David Mann, nav aids service manager, said: "One of our greatest strengths is interpreting the DECC regulations that govern the marking of man-made offshore during decommissioning to design the best solution for the clients."

"Our solar skids and systems are designed, engineered and built by skilled and experienced engineers. Normally this would take 8-10 weeks."

Darren Webster, operations manager, said: "The use of a standard design also allows for continued stock availability and to achieve turnaround times of a shorter duration. The deadline for this project was short but completely achievable."



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## New joint venture to replace services lost to Great Yarmouth

Two business partners with decades of oil & gas industry experience have returned to Great Yarmouth for a joint venture with an award-winning company offering services lost to the industry during the downturn.

Adrian Smith and Adrian Hak have expanded Pressure Integrity Ltd (PIL) to Great Yarmouth from Dorset where it has worked for some of the biggest oil operators for more than 20 years.

The well-head installation and maintenance company – that maintains up to 200 onshore wells – hopes to create jobs at facilities it shares with offshore engineering company, EPIC International, Great Yarmouth Spirit of Enterprise Business of the Year winners 2015.

Both companies believe the move will fill the gap of some services lost when large multi-national companies shut their Great Yarmouth operations.

Machinery transported from Dorset is now unique in Great Yarmouth and should

save businesses being forced to send work to Aberdeen or carrying out costly operations offshore, they say.

Dave Rowan, EPIC International managing director, said: “There has been a void in some services in Great Yarmouth since companies shut down and pulled out of Great Yarmouth. I want those services to be here for when the industry picks up again”.

“EPIC has successfully completed topside decommissioning projects while PIL has the capability for the surface wells so a joint venture makes sense for customers.”

PIL’s breakout machine – which splits pipes and threaded connections on drilling tools, well completion assemblies and other oilfield related equipment – is the only machine with its capability in the area, he said.

The company is also planning to install a pressure testing facility in EPIC’s Vanguard Road yard, another facility missing in Great Yarmouth since a big multi-national company pulled out last year.

Its services in Great Yarmouth include core well-head services including procurement and installation of well heads, procurement and installation of Christmas trees and API valves and maintenance and servicing of welheads, trees and valves.



Epilc International managing director Dave Rowan (far left) with Adrian Smith (far right) and Adrian Hak, of Pressure Integrity Ltd, who have expanded the business to his Great Yarmouth base

## Danny joins Gee-Force

Gee-Force Hydraulics, the specialist supplier of controlled bolting and flange working equipment, has appointed Danny Peachey as sales engineer for Great Yarmouth and the wider Norwich post code area.

Managing director Graeme Cook said: “Whilst we look to expand our presence down the east coast in to London and the south east, our single most important area of operation remains Great Yarmouth and its immediate vicinity.

“Danny’s experience and knowledge of our core market place will ensure that we continue to provide an unrivalled level of service to our local customers.”

Danny said: “I am excited to be joining a company looking to base its wider expansion out of my home town. Despite set-backs over the last year or so, Great Yarmouth remains uniquely positioned as a skill base for southern North Sea energy-related activity and our presence in the town can only complement the specialist services that the town’s businesses can offer.”



## Cloud-based accountancy service launched

▶ James Shipp  
▶ 01493 335100



Accountants and business advisers Lovewell Blake has launched a new cloud-based accountancy service which combines cutting-edge online technology with traditional face-to-face advice.

MyLB from Lovewell Blake uses the market-leading technology of Xero as its base – but unlike many cloud-based accountancy packages, it also includes face-to-face advice from qualified, experienced accountants.

The unique combination offers local businesses the best of both traditional service and innovative cloud-based technology, said Lovewell Blake partner James Shipp.

“There are lots of cloud-based accountancy packages on the market, but too many of them seek to use the technology to replace the kind of personal relationships which business owners value.”

“Many local companies are embracing online bookkeeping. The Xero smartphone app and tablet based financial dashboard are user friendly and totally flexible. Technology can do a lot to increase efficiency and provide quality information to help business owners make good decisions – but this has to be complemented by personal interaction with a qualified, experienced accountant who really understands the business.”

All of the MyLB packages include outsourced bookkeeping, a locally hosted payroll bureau and dynamic KPI reporting, all for a fixed monthly fee.

The service utilises the market-leading technology of Xero to provide real-time information direct to electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets, laptops and even smartwatches.

“What sets MyLB apart is face-to-face meetings with a qualified, experienced accountant,” said Mr Shipp. “You cannot automate the relationship a business has with their trusted advisor. Face-to-face advice is vital, and when the meetings are included as part of the package, business owners can rest assured that they are properly informed and advised without unwelcome charges. Accountants are starting to embrace technology, but need to be careful not to neglect traditional, good quality advice.”

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## New premises for expanding Gee-Force Hydraulics

▶ Graeme Cook ▶ 07949 633604  
▶ [graeme@gee-force.co.uk](mailto:graeme@gee-force.co.uk)

Gee-Force Hydraulics, specialist supplier of controlled bolting and flange working equipment has moved to new, larger premises on Beacon Business Park in Great Yarmouth.

The company used the strapline The Beach Got Bigger at EEEGR's SNS2016, when it announced a new rental and training partnership with industry leader HTL.

Managing director Graeme Cook said the beach was local vernacular for "onshore." Its previous strapline "the beach got closer" signified the company's presence in Great Yarmouth, at the heart of the Southern North Sea oil & gas operations.

The new HTL partnership offered access to an unparalleled hire fleet of controlled bolting and flange working equipment, flushing, test and instrumentation equipment, portable machines as well as cutting and subsea equipment, he said.

The partnership also brought ECITB approved training and testing from the new



Beacon Park premises. HTL's team of industry experienced technical trainers ensures that Gee-Force and HTL can continuously deliver approved courses which meet local customer needs, including the new Wind Turbine Bolted Connections courses, MJI31 and MJI32.

Mr Cook said: "Gee-Force Hydraulics already supply controlled bolting and flange working equipment to a wide range of industry sectors including oil & gas, power generation and renewable energy, however a partnership with HTL allows us to offer

customers a complete portfolio of solutions through a full range of hire equipment. In discussions with HTL we felt that a partnership could bring about an unrivalled level of customer service to the local area, which has already been enthusiastically received by our customers.

"With the new premises, a much wider range of equipment is readily available on our hire shelves as well as a full training calendar filled with courses in demand from industry; the beach has certainly got bigger!"

## New Chair Designate of East Coast College

▶ Paul Warmington  
▶ [paul.warmington@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:paul.warmington@suffolk.gov.uk)

Andrew Thomson has been confirmed as chair designate of East Coast College.

The boards of Lowestoft College and Great Yarmouth College welcomed the appointment.

Andrew will take on responsibilities with immediate effect and lead the set-up of East Coast College for launch in early 2017.

East Coast College is the working title for the name of the college that will be created by the merger of Great Yarmouth College and Lowestoft College.

A formal consultation about the name of the college will be undertaken late in 2016.

Tina Ellis, chair of Lowestoft College board said: "The Lowestoft College board is delighted that Andrew has agreed to do this. Bringing two colleges together successfully is a tricky process and in his leadership of the joint committee overseeing this Andrew has

**"THE BOARD OF GREAT YARMOUTH COLLEGE IS UNITED IN ITS PLEASURE THAT ANDREW WILL LEAD THE SET UP FOR THE NEW COLLEGE."**

shown the tact, impartiality and belief in the future for East Coast College that are most needed to make the merger succeed."

Rob Evans, chair of Great Yarmouth College board, said: "The board of Great Yarmouth College is united in its pleasure that Andrew will lead the set up for the new college. He is vastly experienced in the education sector and in the ways colleges can best work with their business communities and has shown exemplary leadership in his work on the merger to date."

Andrew Thomson has had a distinguished career in further education, having been principal of four colleges, CEO of two public corporations, CEO of a charity and CEO of social enterprise.

He has latterly worked in consultancy at the interface of industry and further education.

## ACN Offshore launch subsidiary

▶ [www.acnmarine.co.uk](http://www.acnmarine.co.uk)

ACN Offshore has expanded and created a new subsidiary, ACN Marine.

Its range of marine services to the energy sector includes vessel sourcing, vessel chartering, marine logistics, marine personnel, project management and offshore maintenance.

ACN Marine was set up as a single-source solution for clients, working with them to achieve cost savings and innovation. It is headed by Michael Martins, who is well known within the local marine industry.

The Lowestoft-based company, which has more than 40 years' experience, said it was a natural progression to expand into the marine sector with its opportunities and projects leading directly into the marine market.

The expansion moves ACN closer to achieving clients' desire for a full turnkey solution.

Based at the former Shell UK's Southern Operations base, the company believes it is in a prime location to service the North Sea offshore industry.

For further details please visit [www.acnmarine.co.uk](http://www.acnmarine.co.uk)

# Skills for Energy

## EAST OF ENGLAND



Gemma Head

### Skills are shaping future careers

- ▶ Gemma Head, SfE programme manager
- ▶ 01493 412194
- ▶ gemma.head@eeegr.com

#### Where do I start?!

During the last quarter, we were really pleased to be able to attend Lowestoft College's Celebration of Student Achievement and Great Yarmouth College's Further Education Awards. It was fantastic to hear about the students' activities throughout the past academic year.

Multiple partners took part in an energy engineering event at the John Innes Centre in Norwich as part of National Women in Engineering Day on 23rd June, and it was great to be able to take a stand at this event, to meet the aspiring female students and to hear a variety of presentations from female engineers, all with the aim of inspiring and encouraging the potential future generation of women in engineering.

The Energy Skills Foundation Programme (ESFP) Celebration Event took place on 28th June (see page 19); this is the final event in the ESFP calendar and it has

been brilliant to be involved in and to support the development of each of this year's cohort. We wish the students all the very best for their future careers within the energy industry.

We have attended a variety of external events including the Enterprise and Employability Conference, the South East and East Careers Transition Partnership (CTP) Employment Fair and a STEM Fair at Sir John Leman High School. Each of these events is geared towards a different group of people and it really is fantastic to be so involved in the various skills initiatives across the region and beyond.

Our work with Energy Employment Adviser Heidi King remains ongoing (see page 18), as does our involvement in the Oil & Gas Taskforce and many other projects which are there to provide support to individuals that are facing difficult times as a result of their changing employment status within the energy industry.

Behind the scenes, we have been busy making plans for each of the forthcoming events, and we are really pleased to be able to confirm that our annual skills event, Energise Your Future at the Skills for Energy Conference, will be taking place at Zest Rooms in Hopton on 30th November and we're really looking forward to it.

### Engineering undergraduates' Dragons' Den style challenge

- ▶ Mike Betts
- ▶ 01502 525122
- ▶ m.betts@lowestoft.ac.uk

Engineering students at the University of Suffolk at Lowestoft College tested their research and problem solving skills with a project that ended with a Dragons' Den style presentation.

Students on the Foundation Degree in Operations Engineering had to put forward a 'tender' for a hydro-electric power generation contract. Working in groups they created ideas for small scale hydro-electric power generation units for commercial and residential customers.

The students had several weeks to design, construct and test a scale model of a generator which had to meet certain technical specifications including a £100 budget.

The groups then had ten minutes to present their design process to a panel of judges made up of engineering lecturers from Lowestoft College and Tony Dale, a former student who set up Geo Therm Ltd,



Engineering students from the University of Suffolk at Lowestoft College with their small scale hydro-electric power generation units

a Lowestoft-based company specialising in thermal imaging.

Marks were awarded for meeting the brief, innovation, teamwork and the overall presentation.

The event is set to be held annually and Geo Therm Ltd has agreed to be a sponsor and provide trophies for the winners.

The winning team this year, Pelton Power, was made up of Christian Burkert, Daniel Clarke, Ed Page and Lee Yates. Students on the course combine studying for the foundation degree with employment. Christian works for RWE, Great Yarmouth

Power Station, Daniel and Ed work for M&H Plastics and Lee is employed by Prior Diesel.

Module tutor Dr. Adrian Durrant, said: "I am incredibly proud of what the groups have all achieved, and in a relatively short period of time. It is patently obvious that each one has travelled along the path of learning, as is clearly evidenced in their results."

Places are available for the foundation degree and Bachelor of Engineering in Operations Engineering at the University of Suffolk at Lowestoft College.

For information contact Mike Betts on 01502 525122 or ring Karen on 0800 854695.

## Learning about STEM skills in the workplace

- ▶ John Best, Best Proactive
- ▶ 07710 680519
- ▶ john@bestproactive.com

Students are getting a taste of how their science, technology, engineering and maths skills can be used in the real world of work, thanks to a new internship scheme.

The East Coast Energy Internship plugs the gap between work experience and apprenticeships through a four-week placement with local companies.

This summer four students from Lowestoft Sixth Form College used the scheme to get involved in exciting science-based projects. They are:

- ▶ Joel Pointon – RWE – Galloper Wind Farm Ltd – developing the onshore base (vessel fuel)
- ▶ Felicity Levett – James Fisher & Sons – developing the onshore base (vessel access)
- ▶ Richard Hindes – E.ON – exploring science through the Scroby Sands Visitor Centre
- ▶ Oliver George – Windcat Workboats – science and safety through the WindGrip



Felicity Levett (19) and Joel Pointon (17), both students from Lowestoft Sixth Form College, are working at Galloper's Offshore Construction Coordination Base in Lowestoft for a four-week period over the summer.

The new internship scheme was established by The Royal Academy of Engineering, The Ogden Trust (which fully funds the project) and Suffolk County Council in association with Waveney District Council.

It is part of a wider scheme called The Lowestoft Engineering Project, providing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) opportunities to pupils at 12 primary schools, four high schools and two colleges in the town.

Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, said "The east coast is the natural place for a scheme like this. This is a great opportunity for Felicity, Joel, Richard and Oliver to get a

true understanding of the sector and to make their mark on these vitally important projects that will contribute to a secure supply of low carbon energy."

John Best, of Best Proactive, who has been working with all stakeholders to help design and deliver the scheme, is keen to hear from EEEGR members about future internships.

"Gemma Head of East of England Energy Group (EEEGR), through Skills for Energy, Anthony Vaughan-Evans, STEM Director, and Judith Masters, director of teaching and learning at Lowestoft Sixth Form College all worked seamlessly to deliver the pilot programme."

## Paul leads specialist energy skills drive

- ▶ Paul Warmington
- ▶ paul.warmington@suffolk.gov.uk

Paul Warmington is the new man seeking to establish Suffolk as a significant player in specialist energy skills training.



Paul Warmington

He has been appointed as the Energy Skills Coordinator working as part of the Skills Team at Suffolk County Council.

This role is to lead the development of a successful energy skills programme, which maximises the future benefits for residents, businesses and the learning and skills system across Suffolk.

He is working with the further education sector to maximise the use of training assets.

Paul has worked in the Further Education (FE) sector since 2010. After achieving his teaching qualifications, his focus has been on managing apprenticeship programmes both in colleges and for a group training association.

Paul's background is engineering, as a process engineer in automotive production.

He said he was relishing the new role because of the "diversity of energy within Suffolk, and the opportunity to work within one of the most successful and forward-looking regions."

"I am very much looking forward to contributing to improving skills and to inspiring young adults to work in the world-leading energy sectors and companies based here.

"I look forward to meeting and working with you in the future."

## Have you booked your stand at the Suffolk Skills Show?

- ▶ hello@suffolkskillsshow.com

The Suffolk Skills Show in October is expected to be the largest skills and careers event for young people in the area.

It will take place on Wednesday 19th October at Trinity Park in Ipswich from 9am to 4.30pm.

The event - run by Suffolk County Council and partners - last year attracted more than 4,000 visitors and thousands have already booked to attend in 2016.

The day gives a unique view of the scope and diversity of employers who operate across Suffolk and the surrounding counties.

It showcases the careers available in the region and helps attendees narrow down future education and training choices.

Exhibitors are encouraged to provide hands-on experiences to inspire young people to explore careers and motivate them to find out more about the world of work. They will also have information available.

This year, more than any other, the aim is to represent the full breadth of the energy sector jobs.

Your support is needed to challenge the common myths and highlight the emerging opportunities. The show will also give young people an understanding of how your sector works and what they need to do if they wish to become a part of it.

If you are an energy sector (or supply chain) employer who would like to exhibit on the day, or explore the exciting new sponsorship opportunities, please contact [hello@suffolkskillsshow.com](mailto:hello@suffolkskillsshow.com) or visit [www.suffolkskillsshow.com](http://www.suffolkskillsshow.com)

## Refresher sessions help rebuild a career

- ▶ Heidi King, DWP energy employment adviser
- ▶ Heidi.king@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Wow, what an exciting time I have had so far as the appointed Energy Employment Adviser, supported by Suffolk County Council and EEEGR.

In June, I had the pleasure of attending the Women in Engineering Event, a collaborative event lead by STEMNET, WEN UK, OPITO, Institute of Engineering Technology and Institution of Mechanical Engineers at the John Innes Centre.

This was a fantastic event attended by many female students of all ages from across Norfolk and Suffolk. I was able to chat to the students about training and apprenticeships, and the guest speakers were truly inspirational, demonstrating how important it is that women continue to progress into careers within engineering.

The Energy Employment Adviser role has provided me with the opportunity to meet a wide variety of local employers. I have been given access to vacancies and I have shared these with those that have been unfortunate during this period of downturn, particularly within the oil & gas sector.

I have been working hard to increase the awareness of the services which the Jobcentre Plus (JCP), the Oil & Gas Taskforce and the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) can offer to support organisations that are experiencing difficult times.

## Energise Your Future at the Skills for Energy Conference

- ▶ Gemma Head, SfE programme manager
- ▶ 01493 412194 ▶ gemma.head@eeegr.com

Skills for Energy, OPITO, ECITB and our industry partners invite companies to take part in 'Energise Your Future at the Skills for Energy Conference'.

Exhibitor spaces are **FREE OF CHARGE** so don't delay, book your place today!

This event will bring students, their key influencers and education providers together with the energy industry to demonstrate what's to come within the industry and to showcase the innovation behind this buoyant sector.



Women in Engineering Event at the John Innes Centre Norwich

In addition, I have worked with local training providers who have provided me with details about the various grants and discounts that are currently available. I have accessed these support grants and via government services, have been able to fund refresher courses which has resulted in individuals securing new employment within the industry.

I have been working with someone who had been made redundant from the energy industry and some of his certificates were due to expire. Without the refresher training and certification, he wouldn't have been able to pursue employment opportunities within the energy industry. So, between us, and because of the available grant funding, we were successful in both securing his

During the first half of the day, students studying GCSE, AS/A-Level, City & Guilds and BTEC subjects will have the opportunity to interact with companies at their hands-on exhibition stands, participate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) based activities, and relate their subjects to career options and disciplines through interesting interaction and discussions.

The second half of the event will offer parents and teachers the opportunity to hear from a variety of high level speakers who will be aiming to paint a clear picture as to what's to come for the energy industry within the region and what this means for the younger generation.

A talented and enthusiastic workforce is one of the industry's most important assets. Investing in our young people makes real economic sense and develops the quality of our next generation of employees.

**“ I AM SO PROUD THAT IN MY ROLE I WAS ABLE TO PULL TOGETHER DIFFERENT TYPES OF SUPPORT AND GET SOMEONE BACK INTO THE JOB THEY LOVE ”**

refresher and further employment.

The person we helped later emailed me to say: “Thank you so much for everything that you've done; I wouldn't have been going offshore next week if it wasn't for you. Thanks again.”

I am so proud that in my role I was able to pull together different types of support and get someone back into the job they love, retaining their skills and expertise within the local energy industry.

Breakfast (with an event briefing), lunch and refreshments will be provided.

### Why should your company participate?

- ▶ Provide the opportunity for young people to engage with positive, energetic businesses
- ▶ Support Skills for Energy, OPITO, ECITB and the industry in its drive to inspire the future workforce
- ▶ Showcase your business to the next generation

### How to book

For more information, to express an interest in a **FREE** exhibitor space or to discuss any ideas for STEM activities then please contact: Siofra Driver, Email: siofra.driver@eeegr.com, Tel: 01493 412196.



## Great careers ahead for energy students

- ▶ Gemma Head, S/E programme manager
- ▶ 01493 412194
- ▶ gemma.head@eeegr.com

Huge career opportunities in the energy industry lie ahead for skilled young engineers, students completing an energy course were told.

More than 30 students completed the one-year Energy Skills Foundation Programme (ESFP) at Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth colleges.

Most of the students are moving on to apprenticeships or more advanced engineering courses, including 18-year-old Lowestoft College student Bailey Payne who has won a coveted four-year apprenticeship with EDF against talented competition from more than 100 other potential nuclear engineers.

EEEEGR chief executive Simon Gray told an end-of-programme celebration the East of England was unique in its mix of jobs in the growing offshore wind sector, the 50-year-old gas industry and nuclear as well as marine.

“There are huge new opportunities in offshore wind with East Anglia ONE offshore wind farm, the £2bn project being built off our shores by ScottishPower Renewables and RWE’s Galloper, as well as SSE, which has the Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, off our shores because of the shallow water and strong regular wind.”



Top: Bailey Payne, who has started a four-year apprenticeship with EDF.

Middle: Lowestoft College ESFP students.

Bottom: Great Yarmouth College ESFP students.

## Levy review offers a new deal on skills

- ▶ Chris Claydon, ECITB chief executive
- ▶ corporateaffairs@ecitb.org.uk

A leading skills organisation is seeking views about planned new levies to fund the training costs of apprenticeships.

The Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) has announced the start of an industry consultation with companies about the new levy proposals for 2017-2019.

It is prompted by government proposals to introduce the levy on companies with a pay bill in excess of £3million to fund the training costs of apprenticeships from April 2017.

The ECITB is keen to ensure that the benefits of its widely-supported current industrial training levy for the industry are not lost or harmed by the new demands of the Apprenticeship Levy.

ECITB chief executive Chris Claydon said: “The need for home-grown skills has never been greater. We must ensure that we do not damage the great work that has been achieved in ensuring a consistent supply of skilled labour.

“As a model of an employer-led body, we have spent many months meeting and discussing with our in-scope employers to ensure that our proposals reflect the will and needs of the engineering construction industry.”

The consultation proposals are based around recognition of the economic realities for infrastructure and process industry companies. They offer phased financial relief, by temporarily reducing the industrial training levy to ensure that skills are not lost to the industry and wider UK economy.

“We are offering an injection of reserve capital into the system in order to maintain the same level of support,” added Mr Claydon. “These are tough times for our member companies and we need to help them mitigate uncertainty.”

As well as nuclear at Sizewell and the growing marine industry, there were still “30,40,50 years of gas still to come,” despite current problems in the industry, he added.

Mr Gray told the students at the celebration event held at Lowestoft College: “Come and talk to us at EEEGR if there is anything you want to know or if there is anything we can do for you. We are here for you.”

The industry-led ESFP course was launched at Lowestoft College in 2009 and Great Yarmouth College in 2012.

Previous students have gone on to apprenticeships and employment at employers including SSE, RWE, Claxton Engineering, EDF, Proserv, Aker Solutions and many other local, national and international companies.

Its steering group is led by EEEGR’s Skills for Energy programme and is made up of representatives from both colleges, the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) and the National Skills Academy Nuclear (NSAN).

Nigel Spencer, director development and quality at the ECITB, which has supported the ESFP since it started, said the course offered students the chance to sample the energy industry before committing long term.

The vote to leave the EU meant a skilled UK workforce was even more important than ever, he added.

Caitlin Ann Wright was announced as ESFP Student of the Year for Great Yarmouth College and Liam Bullard, for Lowestoft College. As well as certificates, the students were presented with a voucher for training courses from Petans at Horsham St Faith worth up to £300.



Chris Claydon, chief executive, ECITB

The ECITB has also undertaken a restructuring exercise to ensure that it continues to offer better value. It includes reshaping its regional operations to be more responsive, shifting its focus to policy as well as skills delivery and slimming down its administrative function.

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EEEGR's **FIVE** annual events:

- ▶ **Energise Your Future at the Skills for Energy Conference**  
30th November 2016, Zest Rooms, Potters Resort, Hopton.
- ▶ **House of Commons Reception**  
19th October 2016, Members' Dining Room, Westminster, London.
- ▶ **EEEGR Christmas Ball**  
15th December 2016, Dunston Hall, Norwich.
- ▶ **SNS2017**  
1st - 2nd March 2017, Norfolk Showground, Norwich.
- ▶ **EEEGR Awards 2017**

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