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Proposal:

Abstract for the Swipa Conference 2024, Trondheim

Title:

Example of P&A collaboration model Dutch sector

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Format:

20 minutes incl Q&A

Abstract:

Nexstep's main ambition is to reduce cost for decommissioning of O&G infrastructure. We promote collaboration, sharing of learnings, drive innovation and promote effective and efficient regulations. To achieve this Nexstep initiated and managed a Joint Well Campaign for rigless decommissioning of MLS wells in the Dutch sector of the North Sea. The MLS wells are stand-alone exploration wells which were suspended for potential future development.

The collaboration by 6 Dutch operators has facilitated sharing of available experiences of the different operators and alignment in approach to well P&A techniques and ALARP-assessments. The larger scope due to combining the wells of several operators facilitated a phased execution approach with use of appropriate vessels per type of activity. This also allowed time between the different phases to adjust plans based on new information, sharing of risks, tools and supervision by operators. This resulted in great alignment in the approach towards State Supervision of Mines to get all the required approvals by being consistent in P&A programs and sharing procedures. The vessel based Joint Campaign was completed end 2023 with the full removal of 30 wells, cut at 6 meters below the seabed as per regulations, against significant lower cost.

The work has shown that collaboration can lead to significant cost reductions and risk sharing. It helped the operators to apply new technologies, such as the vessel-based approach with faster and more flexible execution, less emissions and use of a Mud Containment System to ensure Oil Based Mud containment when perforating and cementing some of the MLS wells. It requires building trust between operators to open-up for new ideas, allowing use of different terms & conditions and sharing of experiences and learnings.

Nexstep is the National Platform for Re-use and Decommissioning in The Netherlands. Nexstep is an association of all Dutch E&P operators and the State participation company EBN.