



LERWICK'S BIGGEST DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT YET

The biggest contract in more than a decade of decommissioning at Lerwick Harbour is underway following the arrival last month of a former North Sea floating production unit from the Buchan Field. It moored initially in deep-water Dales Voe to deballast before moving alongside the extended Dales Voe Base for dismantling and recycling.

The work was awarded by Buchan Alpha operator, Repsol Sinopec Resources UK after competitive tender to Veolia in association with Peterson, both with long-term involvement at Lerwick. Approximately 12,000 tonnes of materials will be brought ashore, with Veolia targeting a recycling rate over 98%. Work over the next year or so will sustain around 35 jobs and employment in the local supply chain.

Sandra Laurenson, Lerwick Port Authority Chief Executive, said:

“The Buchan Alpha project marks another significant milestone in the development of the port as a leader in decommissioning.”

To view Buchan Alpha's arrival at Lerwick, visit www.lerwick-harbour.co.uk/buchan-alpha



ONE OF A KIND

The extended, multi-user Dales Voe Base provides the offshore industry with the strongest quay in the UK, at 60 tonnes per square metre, with unmatched capability, accepting the largest platform topsides using single lift technology.

The £11.95 million project by Lerwick Port Authority added 75 metres, taking the 12.5 metres' water depth quay to 127 metres, adjacent to 45,000 square metres of lay-down. The Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise provided £2.39 million for the project, also backed by Bank of Scotland.

“Lerwick's commitment, capabilities and competitiveness in the decommissioning and subsea development markets are underlined by our investment in the Dales Voe Base,” states Port Authority Chief Executive, Sandra Laurenson.

LERWICK AT OFFSHORE EUROPE

Lerwick Port Authority is returning to Aberdeen for the **Offshore Europe 2017 Exhibition**, from 5-8 September as part of its external relations programme which includes membership of Decom North Sea and Oil & Gas UK. The Authority's expanded facilities and vision for an ultra-deep-water quay will be highlighted. All welcome on **Stand 5D102**.



GREENHEAD ASSET

As an established location for decommissioning, Greenhead Base will complement Dales Voe Base on the Buchan Alpha contract, handling certain materials transferred for treatment as necessary.

Greenhead's big asset is a 20,000 square metre quayside licensed decommissioning pad, the only one in Scotland.

The pad is operated by Peterson whose collaborative approach with Veolia has recovered around 60,000 tonnes of offshore materials, achieving 'excellent' environmental assessment ratings. Decommissioning clients have included: Total; Hess; a west of Shetland redevelopment/ decommissioning project; CNR Murchison and Maersk Oil.

Greenhead's assets include:

- Strengthened multi-user quays, with up to 9 metres' water depth alongside
- Licensed decommissioning pad (SEPA approved)
- Heavy lift pads
- Controlled discharge areas
- Extensive open storage, laydown and warehousing
- Project support, logistics, engineering and fabrication works from experienced providers
- Quayside waste management; modern landfill site; local disposal routes



VERSATILE MAIR'S PIER

The Port Authority's strategy of developing versatile facilities is paying off, with the offshore industry among users of the recently-named Mair's Pier – at £16.5 million, the largest single capital investment in the 140-year history of Lerwick Port Authority and its predecessor Lerwick Harbour Trust.

Principally developed as part of a new hub for the fishing industry, the distinctive L-shaped pier, at 800-metres-plus, is providing deeper berthing – ultimately 10 metres, while the outer arm has created a dock which will shelter a new fish market. The east side of the arm is also being used by the cruise industry and oil-related vessels.





VISION FOR THE FUTURE

With the naturally deep waters of Dales Voe unrivalled on the UK's east coast, it is being increasingly viewed as the potential location for a UK ultra-deep-water decommissioning facility to meet the industry's future requirements. It would allow giant semi-submersible crane vessels to lift modules directly onto a quayside without requiring a barge transfer.

The technique is currently only available in Norway. With no site with such capability in the UK, the UK and Scottish Governments are keen to resolve this. The cost of such infrastructure is a challenge in an immature decommissioning market and discussions are ongoing with relevant agencies on how a project can be delivered.

Captain Calum Grains, Port Authority Deputy Chief Executive & Harbourmaster, said:

“Our experience and infrastructure means we are firmly established at the forefront of decommissioning in the UK, a position under-pinned by the Dales Voe extension. But we are not resting on our laurels and are determined to successfully demonstrate our case to be the location-of-choice for an ultra-deep development, given the right timing and terms.”



LIFE-CYCLE CLOSES AT LERWICK

The end-of-road for Buchan Alpha at Lerwick marks closure of a complete life-cycle of a North Sea structure - through exploration, development, production and decommissioning.

As the former semi-submersible drilling rig, Drillmaster, built in 1973, it was converted to a floating production unit in 1978/80, and went into production in 1981. It subsequently also produced

the nearby Hannay field. Buchan Alpha flowed almost 150 million barrels, more than three times originally expected, in a remarkable 36 years before being retired in May this year.

Buchan Alpha is the first major North Sea floating production unit to be disposed of in Scotland.

SUPPORTING NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Lerwick Harbour's traditional role over more than five decades in supporting offshore developments, initially in the North Sea and latterly west of Shetland continues, with activity in both areas, involving local, national and international contractors.

A number of heavy transport vessels carrying modules for Mariner Field, Statoil's first UK North Sea development, assembled off the port prior to installation offshore. Two of them berthed, Mighty Servant 3 at Greenhead Base and Forte at Holmsgarth, the highest structure at over 70 metres air draft to berth in the port.

Support is being provided for the Total-operated Edradour/Glenlivet project - mainly storage, heavy lift and crew changes. Logistics, equipment transfer and vessel handling has been provided for Dana Petroleum's Western Isles development.

The Port Authority is actively discussing support for potential new field developments.

BRAND NEW

A new-look Lerwick Port Authority has been launched at the Offshore Europe exhibition in Aberdeen, with the up-to-date branding featuring on stand displays and support materials, including this latest edition of

the occasional Bulletin. The new brand is forward looking and enduring, conveying the Port Authority's modern outlook. It reflects the one unchanging element linking everything together - the sea.

LERWICK
PORT AUTHORITY

AWARD CONTENDERS

Both the Dales Voe extension and the Holmsgarth North development - the latter now named Mair's Pier - have been short-listed in the Saltire Society/ Institute of Civil Engineers Scotland awards, celebrating outstanding engineering achievements in Scotland. The awards are due to be made in late-October.

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