

Subsea Flowline De-Oil & Abandonment

Achievement

Prior to the removal of the topside and jacket of the Murchison platform, it was discovered that two 3.5" subsea flowlines, containing hydrocarbon, were still connected to the platform. These lines had to be flushed and cut prior to the heavy lift, but no valve offering suitable positive isolation and no access points to the flowline were available.

STATS Group resolved the problem by deploying their hot-tap installed BISEP® double block and bleed isolation tool. This enabled the flowlines to be cut and flexible coiled tubing installed into the line through a pressure competent launcher. The coiled tubing was used to de-oil the flowlines prior to temperature-activated, rigid-setting fluid being pumped into the flowlines for abandonment.

OGA Decom Team Comments

An example of how supply chain innovative technologies can provide cost-effective solutions to unexpected problems encountered during decommissioning.

Key facts

- Practical and cost-effective topsides solution for the isolation and abandonment of live or contaminated subsea flowlines.
- The solution was completed solely from the platform topsides and eliminated the need for a potentially diver intensive operation
- The approach reduced the risks to personnel / environment and provided significant time and cost savings for the operator.
- The isolation, de-oiling and plugging of the two 3.5" unpiggable flowlines was successfully completed, allowing the platform decommissioning to progress on schedule, delivering the project on time and with no lost time incidents.
- BISEP® Tool Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvELU6QneDE>



Flowlines with mechanical tie-in clamps and BISEPs installed



Flowlines isolated, mechanical connectors & valves installed