



EnQuest PLC, 11 July 2013

EnQuest records new safety milestone on Thistle field

EnQuest PLC has marked a new North Sea safety milestone on the Thistle field after recording six years free of lost time incidents (LTIs) on its drilling operations.

The latest LTI achievement covers a period of major operational activity which saw EnQuest - the largest independent UK oil producer in the UK North Sea - bring Thistle drilling back online to drill its first new wells in 20 years.

UKCS managing director at EnQuest, David Heslop, said: "EnQuest's principal aim is to deliver safe results and what has been accomplished on Thistle is a great example of how collaboration and technical expertise, underpinned by a robust safety culture, can deliver exceptional performance safely.

"More than 1,202,000 man hours have been worked during six years without an LTI, which is an outstanding achievement under any circumstances but particularly given the challenges of both reactivating the drilling rig and operating a mature asset."

The Thistle platform, which is situated about 125 miles north east of Sumburgh in the Shetland Isles, is currently undergoing a significant programme of modifications and upgrades as part of the company's late life extension (LLX) strategy to develop sustainable growth through the exploitation of mature fields.

EnQuest's drilling team - supported by a KCA Deutag drill crew, an Aker Solutions well services crew and a team of other offshore contractors - have taken Thistle from a rig upgrade through to rig start up, followed by three-and-a-half years of drilling operations involving complex well abandonments, well recovery, work-overs, side tracks, and the installation of electrical submersible pumps (ESPs).

Rig manager for KCA Deutag, Mark Johnston, said: "The EnQuest Thistle drilling team have worked extremely hard. Their energy and commitment has been tremendous and they have carried out drill floor operations safely and efficiently by taking ownership of their work environment and looking after each other. To have safely delivered for six years is something which we are all extremely proud of and sets the highest bench mark moving forward."

The safety performance on the Thistle platform was also recognised at the International Association of Drilling Contractors' (IADC) awards where a certificate of recognition was awarded to the Thistle drilling team as part of the IADC chairman's Special Awards 2013.

Chris Appleby, assistant driller for KCAD on the Thistle platform, has worked on the asset for a number of years at the frontline of the operations. He believes that the LTI achievement is down to team work:

“There is great camaraderie in the drilling team and everyone looks out for each other to ensure that every task is completed safely, and that safety always comes before operational results.”

The safety milestone comes after EnQuest secured a brownfield tax allowance (BTA) and approved investment of £169 million earlier this year to fully exploit the Thistle field. The announcement meant that the next phase of the life extension project was able to go ahead, safeguarding almost 500 existing North Sea jobs and creating almost 1,000 new jobs across the UK oil and gas supply chain in Aberdeen, Newcastle, Manchester and Swansea over the next three years.

Following its successful rig reactivation project, EnQuest is now implementing a technology-led work programme which will simplify and streamline processes to create a reliable production environment and includes a major power upgrade featuring the installation of a 30MW power generation turbine, a new process control safety system, and wide-ranging topsides integrity work.

Ends.

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Notes to Editors:

EnQuest is the largest UK independent producer in the UK North Sea. Oil and gas development and production company EnQuest PLC, trades on both the London Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ OMX Stockholm. It is a constituent of the FTSE 250 index. Its assets include the Thistle, Deveron, Heather, Broom, West Don, Don Southwest and Conrie producing fields and the Alma and Galia development. At the end of 2012, including the licences EnQuest was offered through the UK's 27th Licensing Round, EnQuest had interests in 39 production licences covering 55 blocks or part blocks in the UKCS, of which 31 licences are operated by EnQuest. In addition, EnQuest also has an interest in two blocks offshore in Sabah, Malaysia.

EnQuest believes that the UKCS represents a significant hydrocarbon basin in a low risk region, which continues to benefit from an extensive installed infrastructure base and skilled labour. EnQuest believes that its assets offer material organic growth opportunities, driven by exploitation of current infrastructure on the UKCS and the development of low risk near field opportunities. www.enquest.com

THISTLE

Production:

In its May 2013 interim management statement, EnQuest reported that from 1 January 2013 to 30 April 2013, the Thistle and Deveron fields produced an average of 4,614 Boepd.

Location:

The Thistle Alpha installation is located 125 miles north east of Sumburgh in the Shetland Isles and 275 miles north east of Aberdeen, mainland Scotland, in block 211/ 18. The platform coordinates are 61° 21'46.93"N and 01° 34'47.14" E and the installation stands in a water depth of 161.5m

Thistle installation:

The Thistle platform is a fixed, 60 slot drilling and production installation, comprising of a conventional steel jacket with four main legs, supporting 36 modules arranged on 3 deck levels. 28 of these modules contain the equipment and machinery, which constitute the production, utilities, drilling systems and facilities. The remaining 8 modules situated on the southeast end of the installation contain living quarters (LQ), offices, the central control room (CCR), the helideck and workshops. The platform was installed on the jacket in 1978.

For more information, please visit: www.enquest.com