

FEATURE FOCUS

Global Offshore Market Forecast

24 Bringing subsea projects "in the money"

Jon Fredrik Müller and Audun Martinsen, of Rystad Energy, take a look at rising costs and the downturn, and share how these two will affect the subsea market going forward.

28 The floating production market: 2016 & beyond

While depressed commodity prices lend to pessimism, floating production systems are projected to remain an integral component of offshore field development. Quest Offshore analyst Andrew Jackson explains.

32 First cut is the deepest

OE reached out to Wood Mackenzie and IHS Energy to get the full view on exploration prospects over the next 12-18 months. Audrey Leon and Elaine Maslin report.

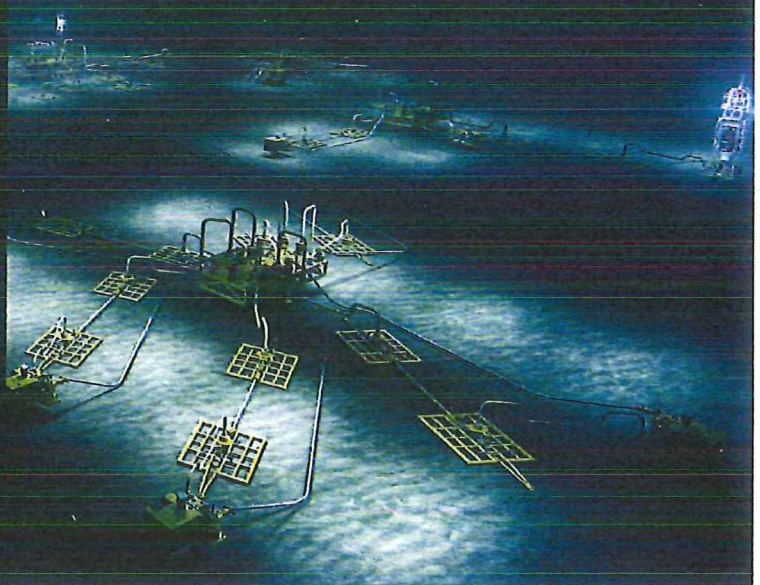
34 Top projects by expense in 2016

Infield Systems breaks down the year's highest capex projects currently under development.

36 Offshore's opportunity?

Innovate, collaborate, standardize; lead with lean, suggests Hess' Rob Fast.

Photo from Aker Solutions



Features

EPIC

38 African FPSOs

Nigeria is eyeing an opportunity to integrate floating production units on home turf, potentially even building them from scratch. Elaine Maslin found out more.

40 FPSOs: On the horizon

Infield Systems presents a list of conversion and newbuild construction projects.

PRODUCTION

42 Tackling the backlog

With many assets now more than 25 years old, asset integrity is a daily concern on the UK Continental Shelf. Is the industry keeping up? Elaine Maslin reports.

44 Model engineering for asset integrity

Aging assets and life extension are consuming ever more engineering hours in the offshore oil and gas industry. How can engineering tools help? Meg Chesshyre looks for answers.

46 Assessing caisson inspection techniques

Battling corrosion and wear offshore is a challenge faced by many operators. Elia Barnett surveys the companies tasked with inspections to find out more about today's solutions.

DRILLING

50 Wear and tear

Audrey Leon spoke with DNV GL's Michiel van der Geest about its new joint industry project regarding wear acceptance criteria for jacking systems. Currently 13 companies have signed on to the project, which aims to provide criteria for better assessing self-elevating units.

AUTOMATION

52 Asset integrity from the start

Greg Hale takes a look at how Shell integrated an asset integrity program into its new Prelude FLNG project with the intent of saving millions over the next 20-25 years.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: MIDDLE EAST

54 Middle Eastern resilience

Both maintaining and launching new offshore production is high on the agenda in the Middle East, not least in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran. IHS' Mirzi Moralde outlines current activity in the region.

58 Digital gains

Middle Eastern ground

As easy oil depletes all over the world, Middle Eastern producers are turning to digital oilfield technology to not only enhance recovery but make finds economical to produce. Heather Saucier investigates the region's technological gains.

ON THE COVER

In the cards. While times are uncertain, one thing is clear: the future is subsea. And, that's why OE chose this illustration from Aker Solutions, depicting their subsea power distribution systems, as part of our January cover art.



8 Undercurrents

Celebrating the new in the New Year.

10 Opinion: The Barrel

The mantra for oil service companies in 2016 must be to do everything possible to stay in business.

14 Global Briefs

News from the around the world, including discoveries, field starts, and contracts.

18 Field of View: Giving ABK a boost

Abdelghani Henni reports how French major Total was able to keep the ABK field offshore Abu Dhabi up and running past its initial life span.

21 In-Depth: Pain in the Annulus

Well plugging and abandonment activity as part of offshore decommissioning campaigns is starting to ramp up – but could it be done better? Elaine Maslin reports.

60 Solutions

An overview of offshore products and services.

61 Activity

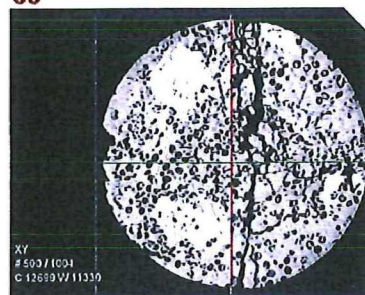
Company updates from around the industry.

62 Spotlight: Laurent Decoret

Aging infrastructure, deep waters, high-pressures and rising levels of H₂S and CO₂ are all on the hit for Technip's VP of technology development.

64 Editorial Index**65 Advertiser Index****66 Asset of the month**

Voxels, submicrons and synchrotronic optics are coming to an oil and gas laboratory near you. Well, almost. Elaine Maslin reports on the University of Aberdeen's new high-spec scanner.

18**61****66**

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BUSINESS

FEATURE FOCUS

Well intervention

28 Staying ahead of the game

Despite slower than anticipated demand for well intervention services, service firms are ploughing ahead with new designs and solutions to help operators get more out of their wells. Elaine Maslin highlights some of the activity in the market.

32 Battling fatigue

2H Offshore's Mike Campbell and John Gaver discuss design challenges of riserless well intervention systems and best practices.

Features

EPIC

38 Currents and cold fronts

Jerry Lee looks at a case study concerning a deepwater drilling riser operation in high currents, typhoons and cold fronts offshore Japan.

SUBSEA

40 For AUV eyes only

Heather Saucier investigates how wireless technologies used by AUVs can make sea-bottom surveillance more cost-effective and time-efficient.

42 Making nodes fly

How to place ocean bottom nodes for seismic acquisition could be set for a revolution if Autonomous Robotics Ltd gets its flying nodes the technology right. Elaine Maslin reports.

PRODUCTION

46 Every barrel matters

A relentless focus is required to maintain and optimize production on often aging North Sea assets. Elaine Maslin reports.

49 Opinions on efficiency

OE asks what can companies do to become more efficient in this lower-for-longer market?

DRILLING

50 Breaking ground on Butch

Open water coiled tubing drilling has been used offshore Norway in an industry first. Elaine Maslin found out more.

53 Tools of the trade

Weatherford's Alex Goodwin explains how a RFID circulation sub displaced seawater to facilitate a formation integrity test in the Gulf of Mexico.

AUTOMATION

54 Automation: Extending assets' lifecycle

Greg Hale and Dora Laine explain how digitizing information can help improve uptime, increase production and optimize resource utilization in this global and asset intense industry.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

58 Underdeveloped Down Under

Both Australia and New Zealand hold vast petroleum potential and many of which remain undeveloped. Audrey Raj sets out the detail.



ON THE COVER

Hardworking. This month's cover depicts a completion workover riser system (CWOR) from GE Oil & Gas, a riser player in the well access and intervention market. GE is one of the firms OE spoke with in February's special report on well intervention. See pages 28-35 for more. *Image from GE Oil & Gas.*

Departments & Columns

8 Undercurrents

2015 was the slowest year in a decade for merger and acquisition activity. What's the deal?

10 The Barrel: Fighting for survival

Colin Welsh argues that only the fittest companies will survive this downturn.

12 Global Briefs

News from the around the world, including discoveries, field starts, and contracts.

23 In-Depth: Finding meaning in standardization, replication

To create meaningful cost reduction – or value creation – the industry will need to be more aligned in its understanding of what exactly terms like standardization and fit-for-purpose mean. Meg Chesshyre reports.

18 Field of View: Ichthys LNG one step closer

Audrey Raj speaks to Japanese gas giant INPEX about its US\$34 billion Ichthys LNG development and the key components that make up the offshore production facilities of the project.

60 Solutions

An overview of offshore products and services.

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Company updates from around the industry.

64 Spotlight: Gerald Stone

Audrey Leon chats with Gerald Stone, senior vice president, Fluor Offshore Solutions, about his unlikely career in engineering, his take on the current market situation, and his work in harsh environments.

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FEATURE FOCUS

Rig market review

22 The downward spiral

Most of the news in the rig market is bad, but there are bright spots if you look hard enough. Audrey Leon sets out the details.

24 The final countdown

The floating rig market is preparing for the most challenging year ahead, says Leslie Cook of Quest Offshore.

26 Charting demand

35 offshore projects and 100 rig years have slipped after the oil price collapse. Oddmund Føre, Analyst, Rystad Energy, explains.



The Polar Pioneer semisub in Seattle. Photo from Shell.

Features

PRODUCTION

30 Studying hydrate management

Jerry Lee takes a look at recent work conducted by the Colorado School of Mines and the University of Tulsa (Oklahoma) to mitigate gas hydrate formation.

32 Fiscal focus

Today's flow metering systems for petroleum products must not only precisely monitor production and transfers; they also need to provide robust data to underpin digital intelligence for improved decision-making, says Honeywell Process Solutions' Tim Vogel.

SUBSEA

51 All in the water

For subsea separation and produced water re-injection or discharge to really take hold, technology gaps in subsea water quality measurement must be closed. Progress is being made, says NEL's Ming Yang.

EPIC

54 Clever composites

Sometimes, new materials and new manufacturing processes fortuitously emerge, just at the time they are needed. At least Magma Global hopes that's the case. Elaine Maslin reports.

56 Embracing nanotechnology's potential

Elaine Maslin examines some of the potential uses for nano-scale manufacturing in the oil and gas industry.

58 Popularizing polymers

Elaine Maslin visited with Nylacast to find out more about engineering polymers and their benefits to the offshore industry.

DRILLING

64 In your (completion) dreams

Elaine Maslin reports on Saudi Aramco's work to improve recovery through "smart" completions, thereby simultaneously reducing intervention.



35 GCE Subsea

In partnership with GCE Subsea, OE reports on Norway's subsea sector's technology and trends.



67 OE Region: Mexico Offshore

OE examines the Mexican oil and gas market after energy reforms were enacted.

AUTOMATION

83 Managing data as an asset

ABS is developing guidance for data analytics and data management, and setting standards for best practices, Henrique Paula sets the scene.

84 Cyber shy

Efficiency gains could be made through better use of digital technologies, but the industry is still shy on the uptake. Nada Ahmed, senior consultant, DNV GL - Oil & Gas, looks at the opportunities and risks.

86 Dawn of the data engineer?

Oil and gas has all the resources for a Big Data revolution – so what's holding us back? Robert Dickson, Director – field development project excellence at io sets out his view.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: LATIN AMERICA

90 Great expectations

Brazil and Mexico are not the only games in town. The deepest well ever drilled is lined up for offshore Uruguay and Exxon is set to test Liza offshore Guyana. Elaine Maslin reports.

93 FPSOs at the forefront

Despite the ongoing bribery investigations, Petrobras is ploughing ahead with new FPSOs. Pietro Ferreira, of the Energy Industries Council, outlines current contracting activity in Brazil and in Mexico.



ON THE COVER

Big & Bright. While surveying the offshore rig market may make one depressed, one bright spot is the contract secured by Transocean's new *Deepwater Thalassa* drillship, which graces the cover of this issue. Read more on page 22.

Photo courtesy of Transocean.

Departments & Columns

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What's next for Mexico after Pemex appoints a new CEO?

10 The Barrel: Mood swings

Colin Welsh discusses how speculators influence the oil price.

12 Global Briefs

News from the around the world, including discoveries, field starts, and contracts.

16 Field of View: Taming a Sea Lion

Since its discovery in 2010, the Sea Lion field offshore the Falkland Islands has been subject to a string of development options. Elaine Maslin looks at Premier Oil's optimized final plan.

19 In-Depth: Tug of war

BSEE has proposed a new well control rule that the agency says will make operating in the Gulf of Mexico safer. But, the industry disagrees, and now it has two studies to prove it. Audrey Leon sets out the detail.

Is your company still hopeful about the Mexican market? Why or why not?

66 Voices

Our sampling of leaders offers guidance.

94 Solutions

An overview of offshore products and services.

95 Activity

Company updates from around the industry.

96 Spotlight: Vidar Fondevik

Vidar Fondevik's career has spanned challenging the limits of diving to developing remote operated systems. He reflected on his career with Elaine Maslin.

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FEATURE FOCUS

Asset Integrity

24 Let's get predictable

If topsides asset integrity management is a bane, imagine looking after subsea assets. Elaine Maslin reports on the challenges associated with keeping up with both older equipment and newer, more complex equipment.

28 Cracking the code

Scot McNeill and Kenneth Bhalla, of Stress Engineering Services, show how measured data coupled with engineering analysis can increase asset utilization.

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Features

EPIC

32 Life goes on

Elaine Maslin takes a look at the Dan Bravo complex offshore Denmark, which, at 44 years old, has a new lease on life thanks to some serious steel reinforcement.

SUBSEA

34 Getting fishy

The race is on to create an autonomous, resident underwater vehicle capable of long-term inspection operations and eventually a level of intervention. Elaine Maslin takes a look at BG Group's version.

36 Robots in disguise

Elaine Maslin talks to Oceaneering about its latest underwater technologies and its thoughts on the future of the ROV and AUV industry.

PRODUCTION

40 Keeping it simple

Sometimes it's not all about throwing the latest bells and whistles at a production facility – its best to keep it simple. Elaine Maslin looks at how an educator has kept a gas field going.

42 Keeping a stiff upper lip

There's a lot of doom and gloom in the North Sea as operators battle to make operating costs profitable. Yet, it's not all bad on the UKCS. Meg Chesshyre reports.

DRILLING

44 Team work

Weatherford and Chevron teamed up to develop a LWD service capable of running in high temperature environments, such as those in the Gulf of Thailand. Jerry Lee reports on how the project came together.

46 X-ray vision

When people think about X-rays, they most likely think about hospitals or maybe even pipeline inspection. Elaine Maslin examines how X-rays could be deployed in a wellbore near you.

AUTOMATION

48 PDA on the drillfloor

The lack of automation in the oil and gas industry is a puzzle to Brian Evans from Curtin University, Australia. Elaine Maslin learned how he hopes to redress the situation.

50 Automating drilling fluid analysis

Clint Galliano and André Rand of Halliburton and Steve Sparling and Pat Watson of Anadarko Petroleum discuss how automated, real-time measurement of fluid density and rheology can enhance drilling operations.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: MEDITERRANEAN & N. AFRICA

52 Sea of opportunity

Heather Saucier examines the geology of the Mediterranean and North African region, and assesses where more discoveries could be made.

56 Bucking the trend

Chad Barnes, of Energy Industries Council, reports that contrary to industry norms, contracting activity in the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa region is on the rise.



ON THE COVER

ROVs are just like us.

Oceaneering International provides OE's April cover, featuring the Magnum remotely operated vehicle (ROV) taking a "selfie". See more of Oceaneering's latest underwater technologies on page 36. Image from Oceaneering.

Departments & Columns

8: Undercurrents

The oil and gas industry is an industry of paradoxes.

10: The Barrel

Colin Welsh, of Simmons & Company International, says stop selling us short.

12: Global Briefs

News from the around the world, including discoveries, field starts, and contracts.

16: Field of view: Egypt's breadbasket

Italian major Eni has found what could be the biggest gas deposit, Zohr, in the Mediterranean and it is eager to develop. Jerry Lee reports.

19: In-Depth: Proof of concept

Allseas' *Pioneering Spirit* mega-vessel is finally due to set out into the seas to perform its first heavy lift. Elaine Maslin provides an update.

58: OTC Preview

OE Staff highlights topics and events delegates can expect at this year's Offshore Technology Conference in Houston.

60: Solutions

OE Staff profiles this year's OTC Spotlight on New Technology winners.

62: Activity

Elaine Maslin shares details on Balmoral's new subsea test center.

64: Spotlight: Brenda Wyllie

Elaine Maslin speaks with Brenda Wyllie, who aims to confront the UK's challenges as part of the industry's new regulator, as well as chairman of the DEVEX conference.

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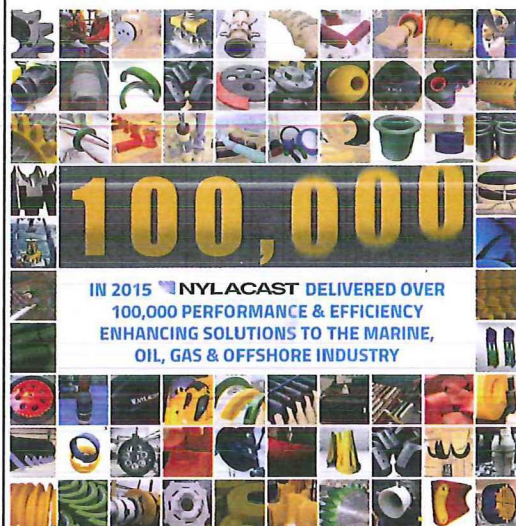
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Global Deepwater Review

FEATURE FOCUS

28 Harsh realities

Remaining competitive through the downturn is a tall order for some. Caitlin Shaw, of Quest Offshore Resources, examines how the exploration, drilling and subsea segments are expected to fare through 2017.

34 Let's get deep

Ultra-deepwater exploration on the Atlantic margin could be the opportunity the offshore industry is looking for, according to geoscience firm Spectrum. Elaine Maslin reports.

38 How deep is your well?

This year, the deepwater drilling record could be broken not just once, but twice, breaking the last record, set back in 2013. Elaine Maslin takes a look.

The Delta House platform in the Gulf of Mexico. Photo courtesy of InterMoor.

Features

EPIC

40 Small is beautiful

Tapping small fields and coming up with economic early production system solutions offers engineers an interesting challenge. Elaine Maslin reports.

44 More than mini eyeballs

Meg Chesshyre reports on how mini ROV systems have advanced significantly and, thanks to their size, they can get up close and personal.

SUBSEA

46 Joining the dots

While it offers a theoretically coherent concept, subsea processing can seem fragmented. Elaine Maslin spoke to Intecsea about how the company views the broader picture.

50 It's all about the boost

JDR Cables is boosting its capacity and its capability, in both the oil and gas and renewables space. Elaine Maslin explains.

56 The need for speed

There's a war on: who can produce the fastest inspection ROV with the highest quality data?

60 Power trip

Subsea boosting is coming under the spotlight, despite and also because of the current low oil price environment. Elaine Maslin reports from Subsea Expo and Subsea Valley.

64 Worlds collide

Mark Smith, Staci Stephenson and Brent Fergusson, of Oceaneering International, show how NASA's neutral buoyancy lab is helping cut costs and cut risks involved in subsea initiatives.

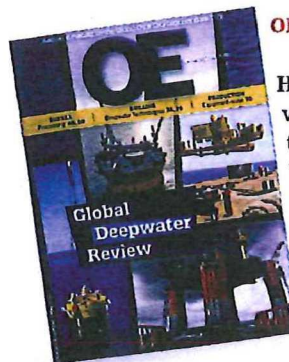
PRODUCTION

68 Strength in monitoring

Structural integrity monitoring should be a lifecycle tool and could make jackup moves safer. Meg Chesshyre reports from Oceanology International.

70 A new lease on life

Scrap or refurbish and reuse? It's a question being asked on the UK Continental Shelf. Elaine Maslin reports.



ON THE COVER

Hard at work. OE's cover features various deepwater projects from around the globe. Included: ExxonMobil's US\$4 billion Julia project in the Gulf of Mexico (learn more on page 100), LLOG's recently onstream Delta House development, and Eni's Goliat FPSO in the Barents Sea. Photos courtesy of ExxonMobil, InterMoor (Delta House), and Eni (Goliat).



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Installation work on the deepwater Julia field. Photo courtesy of ExxonMobil.

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74 Taking drillships to deeper levels

Ken Richardson and Ian Simpson, of ABS, review current deepwater drillship designs and technologies.

78 Drilling on a global scale

Weatherford's Snorre Lutnes examines managed pressure drilling applications across key regions. two or three lines of text here

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82 Are cyber security risks deterring digitalization?

With big data also comes big risks to security. DNV GL's Nada Ahmed discusses security standards can be raised within the oil and gas industry.

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86 Ready for prime time

Kory Kinney, of IHS, takes a look at some of the projects underway in the US Gulf of Mexico.

90 Gulf of Mexico deepwater overview

Quest Offshore assesses the drilling, subsea, and marine construction dynamics affecting of one of the world's pre-eminent deepwater basins amid the downturn.

96 Deepwater Gulf of Mexico project primer

OE charts recent project start-ups (2014+). Data compiled by Quest Offshore.