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New safety case decommissioning guidance offshore duty holders

A joint industry collaboration, led by ABB, has developed a safety case guidance targeting the decommissioning and dismantling of platforms

A major project which enables offshore duty holders to better plan and manage offshore safety cases and major accident hazards in the decommissioning and dismantling of platforms has been overseen by ABB’s Engineering and Consulting group.

The firm led a Joint Industry Project (JIP) to develop safety case guidance and technology solutions during End of Life, decommissioning and dismantling of offshore installations.

Technical exchanges during the JIP allowed offshore operators to share ideas and learn from each other as they prepare to decommission their platforms.

The resulting document offers guidance to duty holders in maintaining compliance with the Safety Case Regulations (SCR2015) during End of Life, decommissioning and dismantling.

Guidance for UK Safety Case Management during End of Life, Decommissioning and Dismantling is launched at the industry event Offshore Europe in September.

Meanwhile, the JIP will continue to investigate opportunities to develop technology aimed at reducing facility running costs with a target of between 30 and 50 per cent.

Trish Sentance, health and safety manager at Oil & Gas UK, says: “The UK oil and gas industry is beginning to see an increase in the number of installations moving towards decommissioning and final dismantlement. A fresh look at the identification and management of the hazards is required during this phase; as is the recording of this information in the installation’s safety case as required by the UK regulations.”

Operators and industry trade bodies contributed to the new guidance, which is based on experience from current and recently completed decommissioning projects.

Decom North Sea, Chief Executive, Roger Esson says: “I am delighted that Decom North Sea member, ABB, has been instrumental in leading this JIP. The resulting report has been borne out of a co-operative environment, demonstrating that industry has come together to provide a solution to an identified problem.

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“The more we can encourage this type of engagement within decommissioning, the more we will see sector cost reductions over the coming decades.”

Steve Andrew, ABB’s head of decommissioning says: “The JIP has demonstrated the value of industry collaboration, allowing both operators and suppliers to learn from their experiences and those of others to develop this guidance. It proves that collaboration works when you have a team of likeminded people working towards a common goal.”

The document covers a range of important insights, including the benefits of making an early start to preparation and the value of maintaining a strong working relationship with regulators and verifiers. ABB oversaw the JIP in collaboration with Genesis Oil and Gas, a number of operators and suppliers, Oil & Gas UK and ITF.

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