CASE STUDY

Control Cutter's Decommissioning Project in Southern North Sea

Overview

LOCATION: **Southern North Sea**

CONDUCTORS: **30" x 13.3/8" x 9.5/8"**

Performance Metrics

TOTAL WELLS CUT: **9**

TOTAL CUTS COMPLETED: **36**

TOTAL PINS INSTALLED: **39**

DDU BORES: **19**

DURATION FOR EACH OPERATION: **<5 minutes**

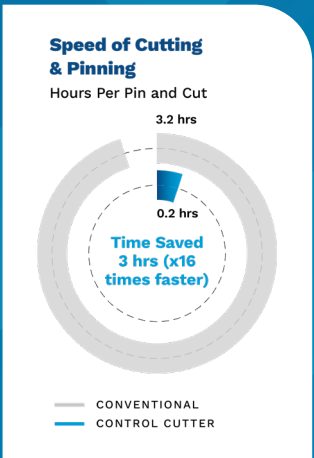
PERSONNEL ON SITE: **15 days**

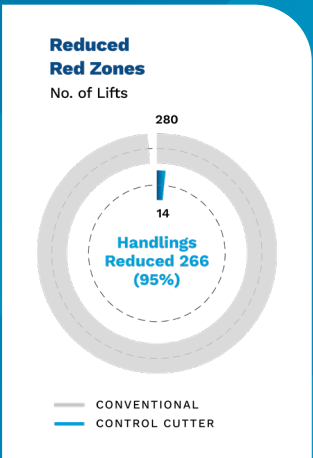
Control Cutter undertook the decommissioning of a platform located in the Southern North Sea, for a major integrated energy company. A project that involved recovering nine wells and sectioning them into manageable lengths. The operation was executed using a Jack-Up rig.

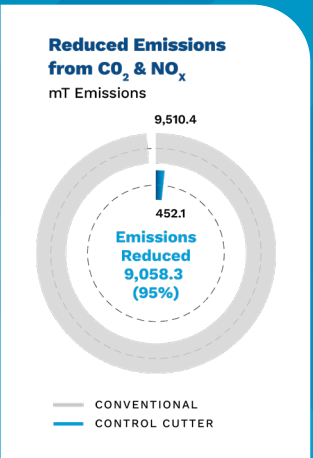
This project built upon a previous successful decommissioning operation in the same field, where valuable lessons were learned and improvements were implemented for enhanced efficiency and safety.

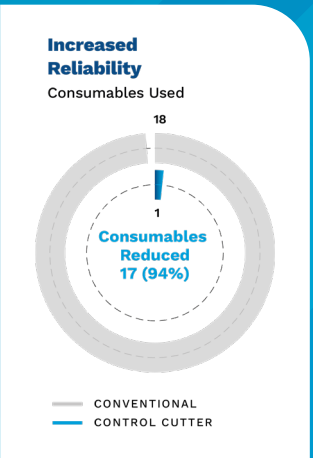
Challenges and Problem-Solving

While the operation was largely standard, it required a heightened focus on safety and efficiency. Control Cutter prioritised meticulous planning and risk assessment, ensuring that mitigative and intelligent engineering solutions were in place before commencing the job. Although the project did not involve significant innovation, Control Cutter supplied unique technical equipment and a larger tool package than standard operations to facilitate the initial pinning at the wellhead and to support lifting operations to the Jack-Up rig. One key differentiator during the operation was that none of the consumable components, such as arrowheads and knives, needed to be replaced throughout the campaign. This not only reduced the overall costs but also positioned Control Cutter significantly ahead of competitors, who would typically require several replacements, such as bandsaw blades or drilling heads, which often fail after a few operations.









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Technical Details

The technical scope of the project included utilising a Dual Drilling Unit (DDU), Lift Sub, and lifting pins for the initial lift of the severed conductor to the drill floor. The Conductor Recovery Package, including the DecomCutter and DecomDart, was installed on the drill floor to complete the sectioning of each well. The project entailed cutting nine wells into five sections each, at a water depth of 227 feet.

WELL NUMBER	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10
Conductor size	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30x26
Conductor weight	242 lbs/ft	242 lbs/ft	242 lbs/ft	242 lbs/ft	242 lbs/ft	242 lbs/ft	242 lbs/ft	242 lbs/ft	242 lbs/ft	242 lbs/ft
1st Csg size	13 3/8	13 3/8	13 3/8	13 3/8	13 3/8	13 3/8	13 3/8	13 3/8	13 3/8	13 3/8
1st Csg weight	54.5 lbs/ft	54.5 lbs/ft	54.5 lbs/ft	54.5 lbs/ft	54.5 lbs/ft	54.5 lbs/ft	54.5 lbs/ft	54.5 lbs/ft	54.5 lbs/ft	54.5 lbs/ft
1st Csg grade	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC

WELL NUMBER	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10
2nd Csg size	9 5/8	9 5/8	9 5/8	9 5/8	9 5/8	9 5/8	9 5/8	9 5/8	9 5/8	-
2nd Csg weight	40 lbs/ft	40 lbs/ft	40 lbs/ft	40 lbs/ft	40 lbs/ft	40 lbs/ft	40 lbs/ft	40 lbs/ft	40 lbs/ft	-
2nd Csg grade	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	J-55 BTC	-

Execution and Performance

The execution of the project was highly efficient, with all cuts and pinning operations completed in less than five minutes each, and zero downtime throughout the operation. Resource allocation was executed as planned, with no delays, thanks in part to the engineering support provided for designing the necessary lift sub and lifting pins.

In total, Control Cutter successfully completed 39 pins and 36 cuts across the nine wells, all within the planned timeframe and without any failures.

A noteworthy achievement was completing the entire operation without any consumable item replacements, such as arrowheads or knives. This stands in stark contrast to industry norms, where comparable equipment typically requires frequent blade or head changes, causing downtime and additional costs.

Results and Outcomes

The decommissioning project was a resounding success, with all wells recovered and sectioned as planned, demonstrating Control Cutter's capability in managing complex operations efficiently. Control Cutter's ability to complete the project without any consumable replacements reflects the reliability of the tools and technology used.

This represents a major cost-saving and performance advantage compared to conventional methods, where consumables like drilling heads or bandsaw blades need frequent replacement at considerable expense.

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Conclusion

This project allowed Control Cutter to enhance its service offerings by supplying a Dual Drilling Unit (DDU), lift sub, and lifting pins, which streamlined operations and reduced the number of personnel required on-site. The reliability of Control Cutter's technology played a key role in maintaining project timelines, providing clients with peace of mind regarding safety and operational efficiency.

Reliability:

Control Cutter's technology achieved 100% success across all cuts and pins, with zero need for consumable replacements.

Safety:

Traditional equipment requires manual handling, which poses risks such as dropped objects. Control Cutter's approach minimises manual interventions, using remote operations that enhance safety.

Control Cutter looks forward to applying the insights gained from this project to enhance performance in upcoming projects.

For more information

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