

AGR drills the northern-most wells in the Barents Sea

OVERVIEW

AGR were assigned by OMV to drill a well in the Barents Sea. As a result of establishing different drilling targets and challenging reservoirs, the operation ended with two wells drilled with the Leiv Eiriksson rig.

The wells were delivered with no major delays, within the budget and good results performed in HSEQ and environmental statistics. Additionally, at the time the operation was executed, the wells were recorded as the northern-most wells drilled in the area and AGR's first wells drilled in the Hoop area of the Barents Sea.

CHALLENGE

- Environmentally sensitive area with harsh weather conditions and icing possibility
- Limited offset well data available
- Unexplored area for drilling activity
- Extremely shallow reservoir
- Logistical challenges due to geographical location
- Challenging well control

APPROACH

The Hoop area, where the wells were drilled, had seen little exploration at the time of drilling. In addition, the availability of relevant offset data was limited to the team. The geographical location of the wells and its environmental conditions required increased focus and extended amount of efforts invested into securing safe operations. The rig had been used in milder weather conditions in comparison to the harsh weather period during which the operational phase of the project took place. Also, the reservoir was located less than 250 m below the seabed causing the team to have enhanced focus on well control.

AGR developed a separate procedure for raising the well control awareness. The team planned and prepared for the Operations using modified HPHT well procedures. Special technology was required due to the unique design of the first well, the Wisting Central.

The latter was drilled to TD of 930 m, and proved to be an oil discovery. The second target, the Kobbe formation, was reached by spudding the second well, Wisting Alternative, which drilled to TD of 2,535 m. After 95 operational days in total, both wells were permanently plugged back and the rig sailed from the location.

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SOLUTION

Upon AGR's recommendation a Safety Coach / Environmental Coach was present on the rig throughout the operations to make sure the daily drilling met to the highest standards of safety. Prior to spudding the first well, AGR assisted the client in applying for the discharge permit and in correspondence with the governmental Safety authorities. The wells will be used as reference cases for future operations in the undiscovered and evolving Hoop area.

AGR teams were well prepared for working on the Leiv Eiriksson rig. The previous knowledge and experience transfer from operations managed on the rig in other locations globally guaranteed the team's efficiency and technical excellence. Despite harsh environment and limited knowledge about the new location, AGR mobilised its team and delivered wells according to planned time and budget. As a result of the operation, two exploration wells were drilled without any discharge to the environment.

VALUE BROUGHT TO THE CLIENT

- Hands-on experience in shallow reservoir drilling available in-house
- Strategically compiled team with outstanding expertise from previous similar projects
- Industry leading knowledge and network in securing high standards of environmental safety
- Highly skilled Safety and Environmental Coaches
- Complying with environmental and legislative requirements despite challenging operational conditions caused by the weather and well location in undiscovered area
- On time delivery of project despite challenges in operational phase
- Solving logistical challenges

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