

Evening Technical Meeting (LTM): WILL SUBSEA COMPRESSION PROCESSING TAKE OFF IN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT?

Post Event Note on SUT Perth Branch ETM
Wednesday 14th October 2020

By Si Huai Yeaw, Perth Branch ETM Sub-Committee Member

The October 2020 SUT ETM was opened by Rex Hubbard (Atteris) and chaired by Si Yeaw (Aker Solutions), with the Q&A session hosted by Ben Stangoni (DOF).

The event was kindly sponsored by Atteris and Woodside.

Subsea compression / processing is an evolution in offshore field developments that support production of reserves that would otherwise be technically unfeasible to produce or commercially stranded. Innovative designs that push elements of the processing train further upstream, enable production from difficult reservoirs, from deep water and at long step outs from existing facilities. Globally and regionally, there are many offshore fields that require long subsea tie-backs to existing facilities, that could benefit from such subsea technology, which include: compression, pumping, separation, HV power transmission and distribution.

After years of development, qualification and engineering, today Subsea Compression Technology is a proven solution to increase recovery factors for offshore gas developments. Among the first subsea compression systems that are in operation are Aasgard and Gulfaks field, both in the Norwegian Sea, was delivered and started up successfully. This represents an important milestone for the oil and gas industry, as apart from representing the success of new subsea processing technologies development, subsea compression also proves itself a viable alternative field development option to the Oil and Gas Operators.

In this ETM, we are very fortunate to have Tim Nallipogu (Woodside), Yvonne Driessens (Shell), Drew Sage (Aker Solutions) and Luca Letizia (OneSubsea) joining us in the discussion panel, share their thoughts about the technology benefits, the development & challenges, and last but not least the applicability to the Australian fields.

Key topics discussed during the panel session include:

1. Are Subsea processing solutions more competitive than alternatives, like other conventional development solutions? What areas should processing solutions focus on to deliver capital efficient solutions?
2. Subsea Compression adoption in Australia and the world. Thus far, subsea compression is only in operation in the North Sea. Does the panel see applications beyond that?
3. Is the Australian industry too conservative to utilize the available qualified and operational tools? Is there a difference in perception on the risk of adopting subsea processing equipment & solutions in Australian waters?
4. Does subsea processing have a role to play in the energy transition to a lower carbon world?

Thank you to the SUT members, new members and guests for their attendance during the day. I would like to conclude by thanking our sponsor, Atteris and Woodside for their valuable financial support without which these ETMs would not be possible.

