



Erskine Well Intervention Campaign 2017

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1. Problem Statement

The normally unmanned Erskine platform has a max POB of just 12 people which makes labour intensive well interventions a major undertaking. There had been three years of unsuccessful attempts to remove scale and replace key down-hole equipment. Needed to ensure that the 2017 campaign was a success.

2. Aims

A 55-day well services campaign on the Chevron-operated Erskine platform to be delivered safely, on time and on budget.

The campaign involved work on three wells, including the change-out of a wireline retrievable safety valve and two lower manual master valve stem seals and bonnets.

3. Method

New approach using tools trialled onshore, but new to the market and not used down hole before, including an expandable mill, allowing intervention crew to pass through narrow restriction at surface then out into the tubing where it was opened-up.

Completed down hole well-data logging, followed by the setting of plugs in the well - necessary barriers to allow the change-out of the lower manual master valve and the replacement of a Pacson valve, which is used to control pressure to the safety valve.

Other work included replacement of stormchoke valves, down hole safety valves controlled by pressure, and well-data logging.

4. Impact

The well services campaign is the culmination of years of work and involved the dedication of the Erskine team, Chevron well services, Base Business Operations Support and business partners Altus, Welltec, GE Vetco and Halliburton.

The well services work required Erskine to be manned for 55 days, split into a 14 and 41-day campaign from April to June 2017. With limited facilities on the platform and a max of 12 people on board, including 5 emergency response team core crew, this only allowed for 7 other crew to carry out the complicated and labour intensive work.

Specialised equipment meant deck space was limited to team work and collaboration was key. Working with wireline companies Chevron changed how teams worked in order to carry out 24 hour working, saving over 20 days offshore occupation and production losses.

The work was carried out safely and successfully, eliminating three significant well anomalies, allowing the wells to return to full integrity. Completing all three work scopes incident free was a great achievement by the whole team. The first work scope was challenging, with the alternatives for reinstating the down hole safety valve would have resulted in either a costly coiled tubing campaign or a completion workover, which would have cost millions of pounds to restore the integrity of the well.

Total hours saved

21.75
working days

Total savings anticipated

£4.7M