

Future Forward



The loss and impact of the 20 April explosion on the Deepwater Horizon are felt throughout the entire offshore industry. Experts fear that the spill will probably result in the largest environmental disaster to date. There has been and still is a variety of ongoing efforts to stem the flow of oil at the wellhead. In this issue a short look back at the incident.

The main theme of this issue is however renewable energy – energy that comes from natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, and geothermal heat, which are renewable (naturally replenished). Wind power, for instance, is growing at the rate of 30% annually, with a worldwide installed capacity of 157,900 MW in 2009, and is widely used in Europe, Asia, and the United States. The Dutch government wants renewable energy to meet at least 10% of the overall demand for energy in 2020, and is also clearing the way for the realisation of 6,000 MW of offshore wind energy in the year 2020.

Directly related to both offshore trends and the renewable energy market in particular, a new breed of offshore vessels is at the brink of entering the industry and includes a number of innovative solutions. The Dan Swift for instance – a former cable-laying vessel – is expected to be the cutting edge of the offshore accommodation market. An eye-catching project is also GustoMSC's NG-9000C wind turbine installation design, a state-of-the-art jack-up vessel design. The dawn of a new era of offshore ship types is fully underscored by the CSS Derwent – a compact groundbreaking DP3 semi-sub fitted with a 200t multi-purpose tower and a 150t crane; the culmination of a five-year project designed to deliver 'large boat capability' at a price of a much smaller vessel with a primary focus on light well intervention.

Last but not least, in this issue ample attention for the Asian offshore market. A rapid growth and development of the offshore oil and gas market in Asia is forecasted. It is expected that the Asian market will return to strength with a wide range of opportunities in both the shallow and deepwater markets, especially as China, India and Vietnam look to exploit their more distant offshore shelves. Further growth in offshore activity throughout Asia seems assured for the foreseeable future.

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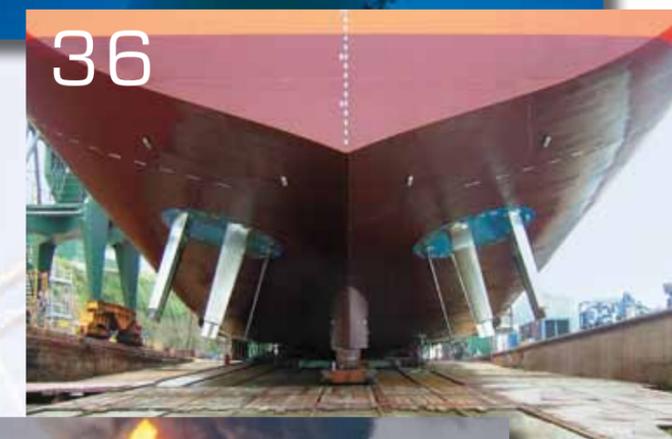


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Photo courtesy of EWEA



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Frontpage and background photo (contents): Finishing touches on the lower marine riser package (LMRP) containment cap, BP has deployed on 3 June, to collect oil and gas flowing from the MC252 well as a consequence of the Deepwater Horizon disaster (more on page 8). Image courtesy and copyright BP p.l.c.