

Wonder



It is one of our main features in this issue of Offshore Industry – the Gjøa platform of the Norwegian coast, north of Bergen, being the country's first floating platform to get electricity from the mainland. The plug-in took place on 11 July and the platform started production on 7 November. It is one of those feats of which I always hope they will get some general attention – and not just end up in trade journals and on engineering websites. After all, there is a nice 'general-concern, all-the-rage, very-now' edge to it: an annual reduction of 210,000 to 250,000 t of carbon dioxide emissions per year – the equivalent of what exits the exhaust of some 100,000 cars each year.

I wonder why – although it probably made some Norwegian headlines. One possible explanation could be that on the scale of things, it might be considered a drop in the ocean. Which under the current circumstances is probably a figure of speech anyone would like to avoid. Although it is just a drop. Then again, I can imagine there are journalists who would like to use the saying to pester some spokesman or -woman commenting on any achievement of the industry for years to come. Or is it just that when there is nothing to see – which is the case when you avoid emissions – the general audience just does not care?

In that case, they are missing out on a lot. Even on things probably anyone can relate to. The Aubin deepwater seabed manoeuvring solution based on low density liquid gel in bags immediately reminded me of some famous ducks and their efforts to raise a sunken treasure – although I think they used ping-pong balls. So, maybe the industry itself should get more creative in trying to involve the public in what they are doing. The solutions they come up with for their engineering challenges certainly are.

True, there will always be misconceptions – it is not the same lingo – but we might also be able to make them work for us. The festive season might be a nice opportunity for those installing subsea christmas trees. Anyway, from everybody at Yellow & Finch Publishers, a joyous festive season for you and your loved ones and all the best for the year to come, both in your private and professional life.

Robin Zander

Editor-in-chief

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Front cover: This year's winner of the much coveted Ship of the Year award from Nordic shipping magazine Skipsrevyen is the Skandi Aker. Capable of riser-based and riserless well intervention, light drilling and subsea construction at depths down to 3,000 m, the ship is the second member of a dedicated fleet of subsea service vessels operated by Aker Oilfield Services. The Skandi Aker is the first vessel to be designed, built and outfitted by STX Europe subsidiaries to win the title, following five previous STX wins as a builder and outfitter. More on page 34. Photo courtesy of Harald M. Valderhaug.

Background picture contents page: Sunday 11 July 2010 Norwegian oil company Statoil switched on the power, making the Gjøa platform Norway's first floating platform to get electricity from the mainland. At 15.24 hr on 7 November 2010, the Gjøa oil and gas field developed by Statoil began production. More on page 8. Photo courtesy of Gyro for Statoil ASA.

