Casing and Conductor Removal Solution Enables Recovering 24 Joints From 4 Offshore Wells in ~48 Hours

Objectives

- Develop a safe and effective method to remove 282 ft (86 m) of surface conductors and casing from each of four wells in preparation for abandonment. The client was restricted from using the conventional gas torch cutting technique because of ignition risks on the platform. The client also had concerns about the integrity of the conductor string when lifting it out of the water.

Our Approach

- The Weatherford team proposed a plan to bore and pin the conductors and to cut every 39.4 ft (12 m).
- The team began by cutting and pulling the conductors to the surface. Then they rigged up the double drilling unit (DDU), bored a 6 1/2-in. hole through the multistring casing and conductors, and installed a 6-in. (152-mm) pin.
- To rig up surface handling equipment, the team flipped over the bails from the traveling block and installed metal dog-bone links with shackles that had been tested to support the string weight.
- The team picked up the string 42.7 ft (13 m) above the rig floor and performed boring and pinning of the second section.
- The team rigged up the cold cutting saw, cut multiple-string conductors, lowered the cut joints with the traveling block and crane down to the deck, and rigged down the pipe saw.
- In each well, operations to cut six joints of multiple-string conductors lasted just 6.5 hours and to bore and pin the casing and conductors lasted 6 hours. The job was completed with no personnel injuries or environmental incidents.

Value to Client

- Weatherford recovered 24 joints—or 1,129 ft (344 m) of multiple-string conductors—from all four wells. The total operational time amounted to approximately 48 hours.
- The removal solution provided a fast and safe alternative to gas-torch cutting and mitigated the risks associated with lifting and manual handling.

Weatherford devised a plan to remove casing and conductor from four low-producing wells on different platforms. The above picture shows boring in the first section.

LOCATION
Brunei

WELL TYPE
Offshore

RIG TYPE
Platform

NUMBER OF WELLS
4

NUMBER OF JOINTS CUT
24

CASING STRING CONFIGURATIONS
- Well 1: 13-3/8 × 20 × 26 in.
- Well 2: 20 × 30 in.
- Well 3: 20 × 30 in.
- Well 4: 18-5/8 × 30 in.

PRODUCTS/SERVICES
- Conductor removal services
- Well abandonment services

Weatherford®