

# Gas for Britain

IN NORWAY, THYSSENKRUPP XERVON IS CONTRIBUTING ITS SKILLS AND MATERIALS TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GAS PROCESSING PLANT, WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GAS SUPPLIES TO BRITAIN.



WITHOUT SCAFFOLDS, everything grinds to a halt – at least on a large construction site. Because scaffold erection is an indispensable auxiliary trade that gives fitters safe access to all conceivable – and inconceivable – parts of a construction site. And the situation is no different at the Ormen-Lange gas field in Norway. This is where, since June 2005, work has been proceeding swiftly on the construction of a gas processing plant – currently one of Norway's biggest plant engineering projects. Lending a helping hand is ThyssenKrupp Xervon Norway. The reason why client Akker Verdal called on the services of one of the world's biggest scaffold erectors is obvious in this case. First, ThyssenKrupp Xervon has all the experience and expertise of an international group for the handling of such major contracts. Second, on a project of this magnitude, supplying the scaffold materials alone calls for resources on an enormous scale. This is particularly acute in the Ormen-Lange

case, because at the Hammerfest gas field in northern Norway a concurrent, similar project is periodically tying up large quantities of scaffold materials and thus virtually exhausting the country's extremely limited capacity. Consequently, Akker Verdal was compelled to find a scaffold erector capable of supplying the required volume of scaffold materials of several thousand tonnes (2,600 tonnes currently on site) from its own resources.

## MASTERLY LOGISTICS

This was no problem for Xervon Norway, with the first 1,000 tonnes of scaffolds being supplied by ship from Duisburg in time for project launch in June 2005. In November 2005, work was started on moving another 500 tonnes (about 30 truck loads) of scaffold materials from the earlier Rafnes project (see 2005 special issue of up2date) to Nyhamna. The next delivery was then due in February of this year. Minor complications that then arose were swiftly overcome. The original

plan was to deliver the demanded 1,000 tonnes again by ship from Duisburg. However, because of the low water level in the Rhine at the time, which made ship transportation impossible, the staff of the industrial service provider in Gelsenkirchen reloaded the most urgently needed materials onto trucks at short notice, and these were immediately sent on their way to Norway. The remaining

The purpose of the Ormen-Lange project is to develop Norway's second-largest natural gas field with a volume of about 400 billion cubic meters. It is situated 120 kilometers northwest of the Møre coast, which is in the west of the country. With the aid of four subsea installations, the gas is to be pumped ashore from the seabed. At the new processing plant, it will then be separated from water and anti-freeze, liquefied and then fed via a 1,200 kilometer pipeline to Easington on the British coast. From the receiving facility there, about 20 percent of the British gas market will be served.

bulk of the materials then made the trip by sea in March when the water level had risen again.

2,600 tonnes of scaffolds – a huge quantity, the handling of which demands special logistical abilities. It is not only a question of keeping tabs on where what material is stored on site, but also of checking each part for safety at least every two weeks and eliminating defects on the spot – so that the materials can then be erected in the right place at the right time precisely in accordance with the client's scaffold requirements.

To this end, 625 skilled and experienced scaffold erectors are in action for ThyssenKrupp Xervon – and are also necessary. 250 employees are working 12-hour shifts under high pressure so that all plant erectors and fitters can finish building the gas processing plant – 14 days in succession. They then have three weeks off and another 250-strong team gets down to work. After all, they have to scaffold everything from the tiniest con-



Huge piles of scaffolding stored everywhere on the site.



crete platform to large pipe bridge components so that work can be simultaneously carried out in safety at many locations on site. This demands, first, a large pool of skilled hands and, second, the flexibility to provide the required staff, even at short notice. The scaffold erection work on site on the island of Aukra is not over by a long way. Not until the end of 2007 is production at the subsea installations due to get underway, and only then will the scaffold erectors break camp. By this time however, no one will be able to imagine the huge quantities of mate-

rials from ThyssenKrupp Xervon that were necessary to make this project possible. But that's the way things are. Michael Steins, Regional Manager for Norway at ThyssenKrupp Xervon, explains the function of scaffold erection in the following words: "The scaffold erector doesn't build plant installations himself, but lends a helping hand. Yet without him, nothing would be achieved at all."  
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