

...by Hecrea in Harde...  
 ol, where its York plat-  
 m will then be built.  
 t is also due to make a  
 al investment decision  
 the significant Cygnus  
 d, estimated to have  
 illion cu ft of gas, early  
 2012.

BP and ConocoPhillips  
 ve assets for sale in the  
 ctor but, as yet, no one  
 s come out as a front-  
 nner.

Independent operator  
 renco, which entered the  
 rth Sea by buying BP  
 ets in 2003, was among  
 e first to focus on decom-  
 missioning, with its  
 lland platform success-  
 ly removed from the  
 bed and its topsides  
 used offshore west Africa.  
 erenco is also extending  
 lives of fields beyond  
 ginal prediction.

Shell is decommissioning  
 Indefatigable field.

However, a proposed gas  
 rage project in the  
 pleted Baird field feeding  
 from the terminal has  
 en sidelined by Centrica  
 e to unfavourable eco-  
 mics of the project - par-  
 lly due to a more stable  
 price.

# Seizing offshore wind

FIRMS from East Anglia are eyeing the European offshore wind market after cutting their teeth in the UK.

Having worked on offshore wind farms including Greater Gabbard off Suffolk and currently Walney off Cumbria in the Irish Sea, jack-up operator Seajacks has won its first overseas renewables contract in the fast growing German offshore wind market.

Working for WindMW, the Great Yarmouth-based firm's vessels Kraken and Leviathan will be used from next year to install 80 foundations and turbines for the Meerwind project in a contract worth more than £100million.

It will be ready to take on more work when its third vessel, Zaratan, being built in Dubai, comes on the market next year.

Three-year-old Great Yarmouth-based 3Sun, which bought Oban's Dawson Energy, is also eyeing

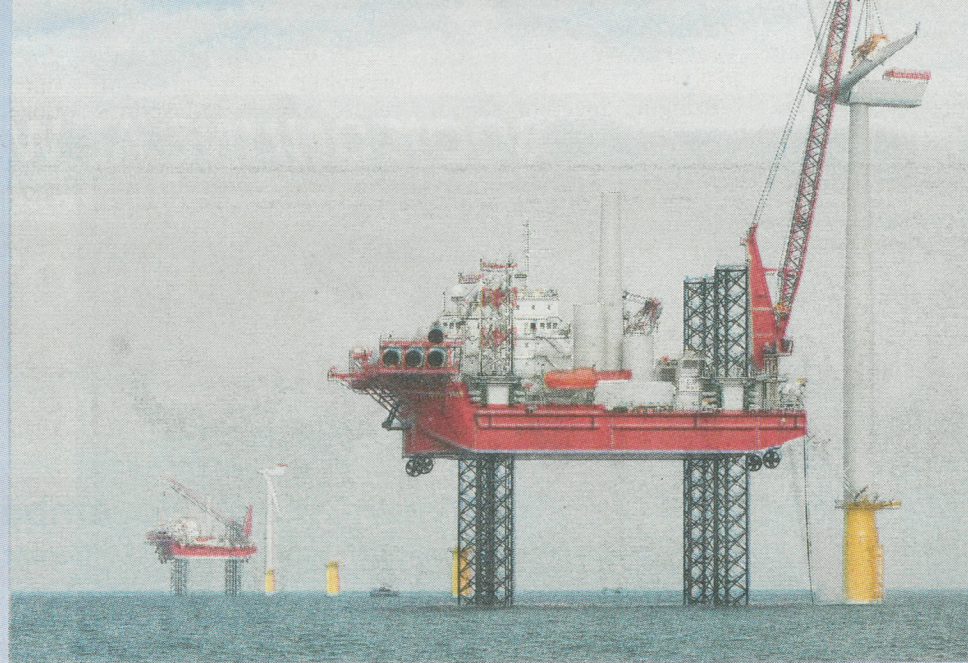
German work having quickly gained a strong reputation, working for the likes of Siemens and Scottish and Southern Energy in wind and BP and CNR in oil and gas.

It is now also setting up a base in Norway for work and has opened an office in Westhill, Aberdeenshire as it continues to work in oil and gas.

Both firms and others have benefited from early work in offshore wind on their doorstep, from the Scroby Sands wind farm, one of the first to operate in 2004, to Greater Gabbard - still in construction.

Great Yarmouth-based CLS Offshore was one of the limited number of UK contractors working on the Thanet Offshore wind project - installing the turbines on the structures offshore.

Notably, all three firms were founded by people with backgrounds in oil and gas. But they are not just picking up work - they are



**OFFSHORE WIND: A growing and huge opportunity**

helping shape the industry. Industry figures from the region formed an offshore wind supply chain round table to address needs of the industry.

Chaired by former BP-boss Lord Browne, in his role as president of the

Royal Academy of Engineering, he said the economic benefit to be had from offshore wind was in the supply chain - but only if it could be sufficiently mobilised.

Firms are also innovating. Scour Prevention Systems is

a new firm which has developed a system to stop erosion around the foundations of turbines on the seabed.

With work opening up offshore Germany as well as more locally, the opportunities appear wide open for the region.



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