

Case Study

Improving Annulus Top Up Efficiency for Centrica Storage



PRODUCT: ANNULUS LUBRICATION FILLING VALVE

Project:

Centrica Storage was undertaking an annulus top up campaign on the Rough 47/8A platform in the UKCS Southern North Sea. Full annuli are critical for accurate pressure monitoring and ensuring the fluid head remains above kill weight so regular top ups are an essential part of wellhead maintenance.

In order to minimise cost and downtime and improve the efficiency of the campaign, Centrica Storage decided to employ Unity's Annulus Lubrication Filling (ALF) Valve. Centrica personnel were trained by Unity in the correct rig-up and use of the ALF Valve so they could conduct the operation quickly and efficiently.

Solution:

- Unity's ALF Valve allows the annulus to be filled during annulus lubrications, whilst simultaneously providing a conduit for the air trapped in the annulus to be released. This removes the time-consuming aspect of having to pressure up and bleed down the annulus repeatedly. This also minimises damage to the casing shoe by eliminating numerous pressure cycles.

- Because of the ALF Valve's ability to lubricate the annulus whilst simultaneously bleeding off trapped air, Centrica Storage were able to complete the top-up campaign significantly quicker than if each well was topped-up using the traditional 'lubricate and bleed' method.
- The A, B and C annuli on four wells were topped using the ALF Valve, which saved at least twenty-four hours of operational time compared to the standard 'lubricate and bleed' method.
- The Centrica Storage Offshore Well Services Supervisor was impressed with the performance of the valve, saying: "I found that the ALF tool worked very well" with the Onshore Well Operations Engineer adding: "We were very happy with the ALF Valve and it definitely saved us time, making the annulus top-up operations more efficient."



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