



Press note

Saipem presents significant innovations at SPE Offshore Europe in Aberdeen, September 8-11, 2015

San Donato Milanese (Milan), September 11, 2015 – Saipem this week took part in the SPE Offshore Europe exhibition and conference in Aberdeen, Scotland, where it showcased its impressive offshore engineering and construction capabilities, as well as a range of pioneering technological innovations.

At the event, the company, a world leader in the oil & gas contracting services sector, profiled a selection of its most significant projects and technologies, including the new state-of-the-art offshore construction vessel, Normand Maximus, pipe laying vessel Castorone, which combines cutting-edge design specifications with both S-lay and J-lay capabilities, and the company's considerable expertise and experience on decommissioning projects, which allow it to provide clients with safe, cost effective removal and disposal solutions.

The exhibition also saw the company profile a number of pioneering subsea development and processing technologies and capabilities, including new subsea robotics product line Innovator 2.0, innovative subsea gravity liquid/liquid separator *SpoolSep*, and *Springs*[®], a subsea seawater sulfate removal and injection system developed in partnership with Total and Veolia.

Saipem operates in the Engineering & Construction and Drilling businesses, with a strong bias towards oil & gas-related activities in remote areas and deep waters. Saipem is a leader in the provision of engineering, procurement, project management and construction services with distinctive capabilities in the design and execution of large-scale offshore and onshore projects, and technological competences such as gas monetization and heavy oil exploitation.

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FACT SHEET

Castorone

An ice-class pipe laying vessel and one of the largest offshore vessels in the world, Castorone has an overall length of 330 m, a moulded breadth of 39 m and an operating draught of 7 to 10 m. Its cutting-edge design specifications means it is more than ready to take up the challenge of laying pipelines in S and J lay modes in the remotest of deepwater environments.



With a handling capacity of over 500m/hr, the vessel's pipe deck receivers, handling and storage systems help minimise the transfer time between the pipe transport vessels and PLV holds. The Castorone has a transit speed of 14kt and can handle pipe sizes of up to 48in, excluding coating, with a laying capacity of 12m for triple joints and 18m for double joints. The vessel also has a helicopter deck.

Normand Maximus



The result of an innovative design philosophy aiming to combine the installation of subsea umbilicals, risers and flowlines (SURF) with field development activities in ultra-deepwater, this new state-of-the-art offshore construction vessel, due for delivery in mid-2016, will feature a 550-tonne top tension vertical lay-system enabling the installation of large diameter flexible pipes in ultra-deepwater environments, a 900 tonne active heave

compensated offshore crane and a 4,000 tonne under-deck carousel for storage of flexible pipes, cables and umbilicals. The Normand Maximus is set to give Saipem a cutting-edge advantage in the execution of projects in the most challenging environments worldwide and will represent a fantastic addition to the company's already impressive fleet.

Pioneering range of subsea development and processing technologies and capabilities

A major player in the subsea oil & gas sector, Saipem boasts a wealth of experience on a large number of significant deepwater SURF projects. The innovative technologies presented at the company's stand in Aberdeen included:

- New product line *Innovator 2.0*. Representing a step change in Saipem's subsea robotics offering, Innovator 2.0 aims to help the company build world-class and more efficient ROVs in-house.

Innovator 2.0 will lead to the creation of a state-of-the-art fleet of WROVs optimized for heavy lifting, with a powerful auxiliary circuit and configurable valve packs which will complement the unique range of assets for underwater intervention - dedicated to a range of subsea construction and intervention tasks, including inspection, maintenance and repair (IMR) operations - already at the company's disposal





- SpoolSep – an innovative subsea gravity liquid/liquid separator, SpoolSep features long residence time for better separation efficiency. Composed of several pipes working in parallel with reduced wall thickness, the system’s modular design allows for easy maintenance and intervention
- Springs® subsea seawater sulfate removal and injection. A recognized and mature technology developed in partnership with Total and Veolia, Springs® treats seawater using nano-filtration membranes to remove sulfates prior to injection of the treated water. Representing a subsea alternative to conventional topsides seawater sulfate removal units, the system’s principal advantages are a greater flexibility in the water injection pattern for a better reservoir sweep, removal of the subsea water injection network, and savings on topsides weight and deck space
- Damage mitigation with pipeline burial – Saipem has developed a range of advanced deepwater pipeline ploughs capable of lowering small and large diameter pipelines into a trench up to 2 metres deep in a single pass. Includes dedicated launch/recovery system
- Offset installation system – an industry first, this subsea crane-less handling system is designed to support subsea well intervention operations in scenarios where conditions prohibit direct vertical access to a well head. In the event of a subsea well incident, vessels will stay up to 1 km off the vertical of the well allowing responding personnel to remove or install capping, containment or related equipment from a safe offset distance from an incident site.

Decommissioning

Saipem leverages its assets and develops innovative processes to perform complex decommissioning projects safely and on time, providing continual support to clients in the early phases of the decommissioning process to enable them to optimise the removal strategy and ensure the safest and most cost effective removal and disposal solutions.

For over 20 years, Saipem has been delivering innovative solutions for the removal of large templates and subsea structures as well as for full field, multi-platform removal projects in the North Sea and other regions. Since 1996, in the North Sea alone, the company has removed in excess of 130,000 Te of assets (including Esso Norge, Odin Platform, and Kerr McGee UK), while other stand-out operations have included the complex BP Mad Dog TLP Drilling rig removal and replacement project in the Gulf of Mexico.