



wintershall dea

SOUTHERN NORTH SEA

WINTERSHALL DEA

# OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION "ON YOUR DOORSTEP"

## Wintershall Dea in the North Sea

Almost a quarter of the natural gas consumed in Germany today comes from the countries bordering the North Sea – the Netherlands, Denmark and the UK. For Wintershall Dea, Europe's largest independent producer of natural gas and crude oil, the North Sea forms part of its traditional production area.

## United Kingdom – Natural gas from the British Sea

Wintershall Noordzee currently holds six licences in the British North Sea and acts as the operator in all cases and has a 24.75 per cent interest in the Wingate gas production platform. The company's first operated natural gas production facility in the British North Sea has been producing natural gas since 2011.

The portfolio includes the recently developed operated Sillimanite and Sillimanite South natural gas fields. Sillimanite, which reuses the topside from the retired Dutch E18-A platform, started gas production from the first well in February 2020. In July 2020, an additional development well was drilled and tied in to enhance production. The successful Sillimanite South exploration well, discovered after the drilling of the second Sillimanite well, was brought into production in December 2020.



Wintershall Dea has been active in the Southern North Sea with its Wintershall Noordzee Joint Venture (50% Wintershall Dea, 50% Gazprom International) for over 50 years, and currently holds around 30 licenses in British, Danish and Dutch waters.

## The Netherlands – remote operations and innovative platform design

Wintershall Noordzee is one of the larger offshore natural gas producers on the Dutch Continental Shelf, with 29 offshore production facilities in Dutch, Danish, German and British waters, of which 19 are still producing. The platforms are controlled from its Central Control Room in Den Helder in the Netherlands. This enables the company to increase its operational efficiency and effectiveness, and also to produce economically even from small fields in the Southern North Sea.

In addition to natural gas, it also plans to produce oil in Dutch waters in the future. The Rembrandt field is one of the largest oil discoveries of recent years in the Southern North Sea and it is supplemented by the neighbouring Vermeer oil field. Both fields are located some 120 kilometres North of Den Helder within production licence F17a. Development plans are currently on hold due to delays in the environmental permitting process.

Rijswijk near The Hague is also home to the company-wide competence centre for offshore technology and for exploration and development in shallow waters. Enhancing offshore expertise for oil and gas production is crucial for developing increasingly complex reserves. This wealth of experience is also used in activities in other regions of the world.

Thanks to its expertise in offshore technology Wintershall Noordzee started producing natural gas from the L6-B mini-platform, which is Wintershall Noordzee's smallest independent gas production platform. Since 2015, the platform has been producing natural gas in a restricted military area about 85 kilometres North of Den Helder. This location required the development of a minimal platform design without a helicopter landing pad and accommodation. Thanks to their small and lightweight construction, such mini platforms can be used flexibly in shallow waters.

Over the years, Wintershall Noordzee has also taken the lead in re-use and decommissioning, having re-used eight topsides at new locations and fully decommissioned – additional installations in recent times. In 2020, both the F16-A and A6-A production platforms were shut in after some 20 years of faithful service and placed into lighthouse-mode. As Wintershall Noordzee operates in a mature area in the Dutch North Sea, the continuation of safe decommissioning activities, together with the further streamlining of its operational activities, are at the fore of the company's activity portfolio in this area.

Wintershall Dea envisages its operations in the Netherlands to actively look into opportunities to engage in the energy transition through carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS). The depleted fields held by our subsidiary Wintershall Noordzee have significant CO<sub>2</sub> storage potential and are located in proximity to CO<sub>2</sub> producers onshore. The project realisation is supported by the regulatory regime of the Netherlands, one of the most progressive in Europe.

The L6-B production platform is located in the Dutch sector of the North Sea and is an example of a monopod: a minimum facilities production platform.



## Denmark – oil across borders

Due to the merger of Wintershall and DEA into Wintershall Dea, the oil fields Cecilie, Nini and Nine East are owned by Wintershall Dea (as former assets of DEA).

Wintershall Dea draws on the potential of CO<sub>2</sub> storage technologies for a cleaner energy future. With Project Greensand Wintershall Dea has entered a newly established CO<sub>2</sub> storage consortium together with industry and research partners. The consortium aims to use depleted offshore oil reservoirs in the Danish North Sea to permanently store CO<sub>2</sub> captured at onshore industrial facilities. The project has cleared a first major hurdle in fall 2020 with the certification of the Nini West subsea reservoir as a feasible gas storage. This certification confirms that the reservoir is conceptually suitable for injecting 0.45 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year per well for a 10-year period, and that the subsea reservoir can safely contain the CO<sub>2</sub> in compressed form.

Nini East, in the North Sea at the border of the Norwegian Sea, has come on stream in 2010.



### Wintershall Dea in Southern North Sea: at a glance

- **Country entry:**  
1965 (The Netherlands),  
2003 (UK),  
1980s (Denmark)
- **Small platform L6-B:**  
1,100 tons of weight,  
no helideck,  
no living quarters.
- **The Netherlands:**  
8 reused topsides and  
8 decommissioned  
and removed installations  
since 1988.

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