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WINTERSHALL NAMED PROJECT DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR FOR MARIA

Wintershall Norge has been named Project Developer of the Year in the Gullkronen Awards - Norway's annual oil and gas Oscars.

The company picked up the award for delivering first oil on Maria a year ahead of schedule and some 20% below budget.

"We are proud of the work we have done to make Maria happen so far ahead of schedule. We focused hard with the support of our partners Petoro and Spirit Energy on project management and delivering the project safely and within the budgeted time frame. This is a well-deserved recognition for the whole project team and our excellent suppliers," said Alv Solheim, Wintershall Norge Deputy Managing Director, who picked up the award.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Rystad Energy's Gullkronen awards, which recognise outstanding achievement on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. Wintershall is a former winner of the prize for Business Developer of the Year but this is the first year it has won the project development category.

Wintershall Norge AS is one of the largest oil and gas producers in Norway with a daily production of over 100,000 barrels of oil equivalents. The company has an ownership in around 50 licenses on the Norwegian continental shelf, whereof over half as operator. In 2017 the production started on the Maria field, which was Wintershall's first own-operated development on shelf. The next planned development project is Nova (previously Skarffjell). The company is also the operator of the producing fields Brage and Vega. Wintershall Norge AS has around 500 employees and is a part of Wintershall Holding GmbH.

Wintershall Holding GmbH, based in Kassel, Germany, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BASF in Ludwigshafen. The company has been active in the extraction of natural resources for 120 years, and in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas for over 85 years. Wintershall focuses on selected core regions where the company has built up a high level of regional and technological expertise. These are Europe, Russia, North Africa, South America, and increasingly the Middle East region. The company wants to expand its business further with exploration and production, selected partnerships, innovation and technological competence. Wintershall employs about 2.000 staff worldwide from 50 nations and is now Germany's largest, internationally active crude oil and natural gas producer.

Wintershall. Shaping the future.

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Simon Sjøtun (Rystad Energy); Alv Solheim, Jens Balmer, Thomas Mellemstrand, Elling Brubak (Wintershall); Arne Erichsen (APC AS) © Jon Skille Amundsen, Jon@fotografjengen.no

Wintershall, whose Maria field began production on December 16, snatched the prize against three Statoil projects – Gina Krog, Polarled and Oseberg Vestflanken 2.

"Statoil is the most experienced developer on the shelf, so it says a lot that we were recognised against such a tough field of excellent projects," said Solheim. Statoil also played a key role in delivering the Maria project, which is a tie-back from two subsea templates to three nearby Statoil-operated facilities.

Attending the awards at Wallmans Oslo on February 1, Solheim also paid tribute to Wintershall Norge's current Head of Maria Project, Jens Balmer, and Balmer's predecessor, Hugo Dijkgraaf for the early project delivery.