

01.03.2018

THE MARIA FIELD OFFICIALLY OPENED

Wintershall's first operated development successfully delivered

Stavanger. Director General at the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy Lars Erik Aamot officially opened Wintershall's Maria field on 1 March 2018. The field is the company's first development as operator in Norway.

The Maria field, which is tied into four nearby Statoil facilities in the Haltenbanken area of the Norwegian Sea, began production on December 16 - almost a year ahead of plan and more than 20 percent below budget.

"Maria is a great example of the type of co-operation we want to encourage in Norway. It is impressive how efficiently the field has been developed, and we look forward to seeing returns from this project for many years to come," Aamot told a packed auditorium of suppliers, partners, Wintershall employees and guests gathered at the Clarion Hotel Air in Sola.

Imagination given free rein

Norwegian Petroleum Directorate Director General, Bente Nyland, picked out the creativity that went into designing such a complex tie-back.

"Developing the Maria oil discovery would probably not have got off the ground if the operator Wintershall had thought along traditional lines. Luckily imagination was given free rein", she said.

The audience of 350 guests enjoyed performances from Norwegian popstar Janove Ottesen, and Wintershall's house band, which sang a rendition of Carlos Santana's "Maria Maria".

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 Skarfjell). 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.

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"I want to say tonight how very proud I am to be standing here to celebrate the official opening of our first development project in Norway. I am proud that we have delivered the project so far ahead of time and so much inside budget, and I am grateful to all of you for helping to make it happen," Martin Bachman, Wintershall's Executive Board Member for Exploration and Production in Europe and The Middle East told the audience.

Complex underwater project

The subsea Maria field in the Haltenbanken area of the Norwegian Sea is connected via subsea tiebacks to the Statoil-operated Kristin, Heidrun and Åsgard B production platforms, making it one of the most complex underwater projects in the world. The Maria well-stream goes to the Kristin platform for processing while supply of water for injection into the reservoir is provided from the Heidrun platform. Lift gas is provided from Åsgard B via the Tyrihans D subsea template. Processed oil is shipped to the Åsgard C field for storage and offloading to shuttle tankers. Gas is exported via the Åsgard Transport System to Kårstø.

The Maria field is located approximately 20 kilometers east of the Kristin field and about 45 kilometers south of the Heidrun field. Wintershall Norge is the operator of the license with a 50% share. Petoro has a 30% share and Spirit Energy owns the remaining 20%. Recoverable reserves of the field are estimated around 180 million barrels of oil equivalent (boe), of which the majority is oil.