

# Online Sand Removal from Production Separators



<b>Client</b>	Shell U.K. Limited
<b>Project</b>	Online Sand Removal from Production Separators on the Gannet Platform
<b>Location</b>	Gannet Platform

## THE CUSTOMER

Gannet lies in Central North Sea, 180km east of Aberdeen, in block numbers 21/25, 21/30, 22/21 and 22/26a, at a water depth of 95m. The field is half-owned by Shell, the operator (50%) and partly by Esso (50%). Oil export capacity -88,000 bbls/d.

## THE CHALLENGE

Sand production from the wells had increased over time to a point where sand accumulations in the First Stage, Second Stage, Test Separators and IGFU had compromised production.

The production risk to the platform without mitigation of the sand accumulation was 3000 bbls/d. Further sand build up within the separation vessels would result in a requirement to shutdown production and intrusively clean the vessels.

Online removal of the sand must not negatively impact on the oil content in overboard water

## ALTRAD SERVICES SOLUTION

Altrad's Syphonvac System deployed with a team of five fully trained, competent and multi-skilled technicians.

During campaigns over a seven year period we have removed between 5-10 tonnes per separator. These separators operate at 15, 5 and 15 Barg respectively.

No change to oil content in overboard water measured. Work was completed in 21 days working single shifts, safely, on time and on budget. The small equipment footprint of Syphonvac contributed to ease of access and set up onto nozzles at the base of the separators.

## THE OUTCOME

- Sand removed whilst vessel in full production
- No loss of production
- Reduces deferral costs
- Reduces critical path shutdown cleaning operation
- Reduces sand carry over to process systems
- Reduces confined space entry
- Reduces overall risk to manpower
- Compact equipment footprint – modular system
- Attaches to vessels operating at up to 80 Bar
- Can be used with Gas Condensate producers
- Operates through small bore two inch nozzles

## ABOUT ALTRAD SERVICES

Altrad Services is an international leader in the provision of critical industrial services principally to the energy and natural resources sectors.

Our multi-disciplinary service offering includes access systems, insulation, specialist coatings, passive fire protection, refractory linings, environmental services, oil and gas storage tanks and heat exchanger replacement and refurbishment.