

## Press release

22 June 2020

# Pioneering Spirit removes third platform from Brent field

- **The single-lift removal of 17,000-t topsides took less than 4 hours**
- **First offshore lift to utilise specially developed “horseshoes”**

Allseas' heavy lift vessel Pioneering Spirit has completed its first decommissioning job of this summer, the single-lift removal of Shell U.K. Limited's Brent Alpha platform from the North Sea.

Several years of planning and 15 months of offshore preparation, including strengthening and cutting the steel jacket's six legs, culminated in the 9-second “fast lift” of the 17,000-t topsides in the evening of 21 June 2020.

Pioneering Spirit will now deliver the 44-year old structure to Able UK Limited's Teesside decommissioning yard in North East England for dismantling and recycling.



*Ready for lift off – fast-lift of the Brent Alpha topsides*

Brent Alpha is the third of four platforms, after Delta (2017) and Bravo (2019), to be decommissioned and removed from the Brent oil and gas field. For all four jobs, Shell UK Limited selected Pioneering Spirit. Production from the field continues through Brent Charlie, with Pioneering Spirit booked to remove the 34,000-t topsides when the platform finally ceases production.

Located 186 km off the northeast coast of the Shetland Islands, Brent Alpha comprised a topsides structure supported by a steel six-legged jacket standing in 140 m of water. Like Delta and Bravo, the Alpha topsides features multiple decks with living quarters, power generation, process systems, drilling derrick, flare stack and other platform facilities.

The removal of Brent Alpha is the first offshore lift to utilise specially developed “horseshoes”: connection tools that clamp around pre-installed lift points called bearing brackets mounted on the upper sections of the steel jacket's legs.



The Brent Alpha topsides removal project involves engineering, preparation, removal and disposal of the 94 m tall, 52 m wide structure. As with the two previous Brent jobs, Pioneering Spirit will transport the Alpha topsides to a nearshore location off the Hartlepool coastline, where it will be transferred to Allseas' cargo barge Iron Lady for the final leg of its journey by towage up the Seaton Channel and load-in to the quay at Able UK.

This summer, Pioneering Spirit will remove and transport more than 55,000 t of decommissioned platform infrastructure from UK and Danish fields to disposal/recycling yards around the North Sea.

Download photos of the Brent Alpha lift via this link:

[https://allseas-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/p/jha/Ehqiv0XY2\\_IBhuHKSI6n134B1RCKm2HmRjNEJ2sZbYopDQ?e=1pYnfw](https://allseas-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/p/jha/Ehqiv0XY2_IBhuHKSI6n134B1RCKm2HmRjNEJ2sZbYopDQ?e=1pYnfw)

#### **About Allseas**

Allseas Group S.A. is a world-leading contractor in offshore pipeline installation, heavy lift and subsea construction. The company operates a versatile fleet of specialised heavy-lift, pipelay and support vessels, designed and developed in-house. More information about Allseas is available at [www.allseas.com](http://www.allseas.com)

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