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**The tri-annual survey
of UK sector fields -
active and prospective**

*The essential guide from
the publishers of Noroil Contacts*

BRITBOSS

Section 1: The Babbage Field

FIELD NAME:	Babbage		
LOCATION:	48/2a (P.456)		
FIELD OPERATOR:	E.ON Ruhrgas		
LICENSEES(%):	Centrica	13.0	
	Dana	40.0	
	E.ON Ruhrgas	47.0	
RECOVERABLE RESERVES:	Gas	182	bcf
WATER DEPTH (m):	40		
DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL:	2009	January	
START-UP DATE:	2010	Q1	
INVESTMENTS:	£254m		
DESCRIPTION:	<p>E.ON Ruhrgas was granted approval to develop the Babbage gas field in the southern basin in January 2009, and aims to bring it on stream in early 2010. Babbage is expected to remain in production for 25 years - assuming that the West Sole facilities to which it will be tied back continue operating past the currently expected shutdown date of 2020. Development entails a mini platform housing five wells - three will be drilled prior to start-up and up to two afterwards. The topsides will weigh 1,265t and the jacket 2,000t. Platform fabrication has been contracted to SLP. The platform is due to be installed in late Q3 by Heerema crane-barge Thialf. Development drilling by Transocean jackup Labrador, which was previously scheduled for late 2008, got under way in April. The rig was detained on E.ON Ruhrgas's Rita development (see separate entry). Gas will be exported to BP's West Sole B platform by a 28-km, 12-inch pipeline, Pipelay, which is scheduled for mid year, has been contracted to Technip. Its scope includes trenching and backfilling of the lines and provision of a 40t manifold. The platform will be manned while drilling continues, as all wells have to be hydraulically fractured. Halliburton has been contracted for this operation. Once this is completed, after about two years, the temporary living quarters, which will have about 30 beds, will be removed or reused for another purpose. E.ON Ruhrgas had originally hoped to achieve first gas in late 2008, but decided to relax the schedule not least due to high rig prices and low gas prices. The development concept was agreed within the licence in autumn 2007 and partners committed to the project in April 2008, according to partner Dana. The decision to develop Babbage followed a successful appraisal in 2006 with well 48/2a-4, which tested 10.7 MMcf/d and was suspended for future use as a producer. The field was discovered in 1989 by exploration well 48/2a-2.</p>		
CONTRACTS:	Platform fabrication	SLP Engineering	
	Platform installation	Heerema Marine Contractors	
	Development drilling	Transocean Offshore	
	Fracturing operations	Halliburton	

Section 2: The Cheviot Field

FIELD NAME:	Cheviot		
LOCATION:	2/10, 2/15a, 3/11b (P.1070)		
FIELD OPERATOR:	ATP		
LICENSEES(%):	ATP	100.0	
RECOVERABLE RESERVES:	Oil	22.7	m bbl
	Gas	113	bcf
WATER DEPTH (m):	170		
DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL:	2009	H2	
START-UP DATE:	2012		
INVESTMENTS:			
DESCRIPTION:	<p>ATP submitted a draft field development plan for Cheviot in 2008 but has since run into delays. In April it said it was working towards start-up in 2012. By mid year it hopes to be able to release the environment statement, but this depends on having an agreement for the gas export. Failure to have this in the box by then would affect the schedule to start-up. Corporate headquarters also has to prioritise the project for funding. The financial burden will be eased if ATP, the sole licensee, takes a partner on board, but although it invited approaches last year, no deals have yet been struck. The project involves redevelopment of the field, which was previously known as Emerald. Reserves are estimated at 22.7m bbl of oil and 113 bcf of gas. This includes 3.2m bbl of oil reserves in the small nearby Peter discovery which will be included in the development. ATP has selected a floater solution offered by Moss Maritime Octobuoy concept, an eight-sided semi-submersible platform which incorporates drilling, storage and offloading capability. The concept has yet to be delivered to any project. Provisional contracts have been awarded to the Cosco yard in China for hull fabrication and to Dockwise for transportation of the hull to Europe. Storage and export by shuttle tanker are required as the Cheviot crude is too acidic to be transported by pipeline. The oil is also fairly heavy, around 22 deg API, and some 12 to 15 horizontal and high-angle wells will be required, so a platform drilling rig is obviously beneficial. According to Moss, Octobuoy can accommodate dry wells. Due to the heavy nature of the oil, peak production is expected to be no more than 25,000 b/d and gas 50 MMcf/d. Storage capacity will be some 200,000 bbl. Multiple routes for gas export have been evaluated, according to ATP. The nearest pipelines are Shell's Flags, which passes by about 15 km to the south-east, and Total's Alwyn North export line, which could be accessed at the Alwyn North field centre about 45 km to the north-east. ATP also evaluated a platform with a steel jacket and a concrete gravity-base platform; the latter concept foundered on decommissioning concerns on the part of the DTI, now DECC. The area licensed to ATP includes several undeveloped oil and gas discoveries and additional prospects which the company has said it intends to investigate. A 3D seismic survey was run over the field and adjacent areas by Western Geco in 2004. Emerald was originally developed by Midland & Scottish Energy using a semi-submersible production platform, Emerald Producer, and a floating storage unit. Reservoir definition, based largely on 2D seismic, was poor and production was disappointing. Between 1992 and 1996 some 17m bbl were recovered and the original recoverable reserves estimate was reduced. The platform and FSU were subsequently sold.</p>		
CONTRACTS:	Hull fabrication		Cosco
	Hull transportation		Dockwise

Section 4: The Dumbarton II Field

FIELD NAME:	Dumbarton II		
LOCATION:	15/20a (P.1041), 15/20b (P.735)		
FIELD OPERATOR:	Maersk		
LICENSEES(%):	Maersk	70.0	
	Noble	30.0	
RECOVERABLE RESERVES:	Oil	72	m bbl
	Gas	25	bcf
WATER DEPTH (m):	140		
DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL:	2008	August	
START-UP DATE:	2009	October	
INVESTMENTS:			
DESCRIPTION:	<p>Maersk received approval for a second phase of development of Dumbarton, an oil and gas field in the central North Sea, in August 2008. Start-up is scheduled for October 2009, but could well be delayed following a late start to drilling. The project is being implemented in parallel with the development of Lochranza (see entry in Section 2). Dumbarton II is virtually a repeat of phase one - up to four subsea producers will be drilled and tied in to an eight-slot manifold known as DCII. One of these wells, well E, will be an outlier located some four km from the manifold, while the others will be clustered around it. DCII will be installed close to the first-phase manifold and tied back to the Global Producer III FPSO by a 2-km, 14-inch rigid production pipeline. An order for the 70t manifold has been placed with Framo. A new water disposal well will also be drilled, close to the two water wells which form part of phase one. Drilling was due to start in H2/08 with semisub Noble Ton van Langeveld drilling the topoles of the phase two wells and semi Borgsten Dolphin taking over to finish the drilling and install the completions. In the event Borgsten Dolphin drilled one well in February-March 2009 and then moved to Lochranza. In March the pipelay/subsea construction contract was awarded to Acergy. The work will be carried out between July and October. The scope also includes a pipeline to tie the two Lochranza wells back to DCII. The first phase of the Dumbarton development came on stream in early 2007, but it was only in 2008 that Maersk completed it. This involved drilling the last two subsea producers and the second water disposal well, and installing the water line from the FPSO. As far as the DECC is concerned Dumbarton's official name remains Donan. The field has proved a great acquisition for Maersk, which took it over from Kerr-McGee. The company reckons to recover 72m bbl of oil in phase two, on top of 75m in the first phase. Donan was originally developed by BP in the 1990s, when 15m bbl were produced.</p>		
CONTRACTS:	Subsea manifold EPC	Framo Engineering	
	Pipelay	Acergy Offshore	
	Development drilling	Noble Drilling, Dolphin Drilling	

Section 5: The Miller Field

FIELD NAME:	Miller		
LOCATION:	16/7b (P.340), 16/8b (P.341)		
FIELD OPERATOR:	BP		
LICENSEES(%):	BP	52.0	
	ConocoPhillips	30.0	
	Shell	18.0	
RECOVERABLE RESERVES:	Oil	350	m bbl
	Gas	526	bcf
WATER DEPTH (m):	102		
ABANDONMENT APPROVAL:	2009		
FACILITIES REMOVAL:			
INVESTMENTS:			
DESCRIPTION:	<p>BP's Miller field is heading for decommissioning following the company's decision to scrap the proposed scheme for improving oil recovery by carbon dioxide injection. BP had intended to bid for a demonstration carbon capture and storage project to be tendered by the DBERR. However in May 2007 it announced that it was pulling out of the project as it could not keep the field operational long enough to fit in with the government's timetable, which had been changed several times. At the earliest, CO2 injection would have started in 2011. Production was shut down in July 2007 and formal cessation of production was granted in mid September. A decommissioning programme is likely to be submitted in H1/09, BP says. Well abandonment began in mid 2008 and in April plugging was close to being completed, after which the conductors remained to be pulled. The work is being carried out by the drilling contractor, KCA Deutag, with Schlumberger providing cement services and Expro plugs and perforating services. The gas export pipeline will be left in place with a view to possible reuse. There have been calls, from Scottish politicians among others, for the possibility of CO2 storage in the Miller field to be kept alive. Once the existing wells have been abandoned, a new well or wells would have to be drilled if this were to happen. The Miller platform consists of a 28,100t topsides supported by a 17,500t jacket. The jacket, which has eight legs and is held in place by 20 piles, is eligible for exemption from the requirement for full removal. It is docked over a 12-slot, 200t pre-drilling template. The topsides provided drilling and wellhead facilities, with 40 slots, processing facilities for 115,000 b/d oil and 225 MMcf/d gas, plus 330,000 b/d water injection capacity, and accommodation for 192 personnel. Twenty two wells were drilled, 10 producers and 12 water injectors. The platform was installed in 1992. The jacket was launched from a barge and the topsides installed in eight major lifts, the heaviest being the 6,500t cellar deck. Oil was exported through an 8-km, 14-inch pipeline to Brae A and gas via a 242-km, 30-inch pipeline to St Fergus. Gas was imported from Brae B via a 9-km, 16-inch line.</p>		
CONTRACTS:	Well abandonment		KCA Deutag
	- cement services		Schlumberger
	- plugs and perforating services		Expro