

PRESS INFORMATION

ExxonMobil joins Joint Industry Project to develop V-IR

Subsea engineering company Viper Subsea is pleased to announce that ExxonMobil, the world's largest publicly traded international oil and gas company, has joined the Joint Industry Project (JIP) to develop the company's innovative V-IR system.

Based in Portishead and with an office in Aberdeen, Viper Subsea provides products and services for the oil and gas sector worldwide and has recently been recognised with a Queens Award for Enterprise (Innovation category) for its ground-breaking V-LIFE Electrical Insulation Resistance Improvement System.



ExxonMobil has joined the V-IR project, which has been established through the Industry Technology Facilitator (ITF), at a crucial phase of development and is supporting a shallow water trial currently underway in Portishead Quays marina, close to Viper Subsea's headquarters. The trial runs in phases with a total duration of up to 12 months, during which time the V-IR technology suite will undergo communications and performance testing in a sea water environment.

The development of V-IR has attracted the support of a number of other leading operators, including Total, BP, Shell, and Chevron. The system will help to identify the location of electrical faults on subsea oil and gas installations, and will enable field operators to better plan for repair or replacement of failed components, saving the industry many £millions in halted production.

Speaking about this latest development, Neil Douglas, Managing Director of Viper Subsea said, "We are delighted that ExxonMobil is lending its support to this development programme. The need for such a system is obvious and pressing, as is evidenced by the fact that we have now attracted the support of five supermajor oil companies. The support of our JIP partners will be crucial in getting the V-IR system to market as soon as possible.

"V-IR brings together products and services developed by Viper Subsea, and when integrated, these innovative technologies create a system that provides a complete subsea system electrical integrity map."

About Viper Subsea

Established in 2007 by Neil Douglas and Max Nodder, Viper Subsea designs, develops and supplies products and services for subsea control and distribution systems in the offshore oil and gas industry. The company is based in Portishead near Bristol, and has an office in Aberdeen.

Viper Subsea has emerged as one of the subsea oil and gas industry's most innovative companies and an example of British engineering prowess. A culture of continual investment in Research and Development (R&D) has resulted in a series of innovative products, with 16 patents already filed. Approximately 30% of all engineering effort is invested in R&D activities.

Over 80% of the company's product sales are in export, with products installed as far afield as Brazil, Norway, Germany, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, USA, Australia, and Indonesia.

In 2011, Neil was named as Institute of Directors (IoD) South West Director of the Year. Viper Subsea was also selected by the Prime Minister's enterprise adviser Lord Young to join Accelerate 2013 as one of Britain's 250 fastest growing companies with the most potential. In 2014 Viper Subsea was announced as the winner of the Subsea UK award for Innovation and Technology which was followed by further success when Viper Subsea was declared as the winner of the Innovation and Technology Award at the National Private Business Awards.

In April 2016 Viper Subsea won a Queen's Award for Enterprise in Innovation for its ground-breaking V-LIFE Electrical Insulation Resistance Improvement System.