

Smart innovation for offshore drill rig maintenance delivers maximum efficiency

A powerful water-jetting unit, manufactured and supplied by leading UK specialist manufacturer Hughes Pumps that uses a smart innovation, is helping deliver essential corrosion prevention maintenance to a semi submersible offshore drilling rig that works extensively in the harsh North Sea, UK environment.



The Stena Spey is a self-propelled, semi-submersible, offshore drilling rig based in Aberdeen, and as with all offshore assets, requires constant maintenance to prevent corrosion. The Hughes Pumps Ultrabar 10 unit is being used to strip corrosion and failed coatings from the rig structure using plain water.

The Hughes Pumps system comprises; Ultrabar 10 EC UHP water jetting unit with a performance of 8.3lpm at 2500bar (2.2gpm at 36,000psi). 45kW (60hp) electric motor and starter panel for use in a safe area, crash-frame mounted, 1.8m long x 1.0m wide x 1.5m high x 1100kg (71" x 39" x 59" x 2,420 lb) - probably the most compact UHP pump set on the market. Minimal water consumption and no abrasive usage make this unit ideal for offshore maintenance.

The Hughes Pumps water-jetting system was supplied with a clever innovation. A simple dump gun with a new design of self-rotating surface preparation nozzle, especially suitable for the very low flow-rate required, was for the first time, supplied with the smallest Ultrabar 10 pump. This innovation has resulted in a significant simplification of the unit, eliminating the need for on-site compressed air and a reduction in routine UHP accessory maintenance.

The innovation is quite a development because, until recently, complicated, maintenance intensive, compressed air driven rotary guns and UHP dump valves had been the only option in this type of application. As part of the support package, six Stena Spey operators underwent Water Jetting Association (WJA) accredited safety training at Hughes Pumps' UK factory, designed to give them knowledge of the safe way in which to use the Hughes' equipment.

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