Offshore decommissioning

Helping plan and support late life operation and the journey to asset disposal.

With over 50% of offshore installations in the North Sea operating beyond their design life, planning for their eventual end of service and decommissioning is a matter of urgency.

Many of these structures will have been operating for almost 40 years and over the next couple of decades over 90% of them will need to be completely removed from their sites and brought onshore for re-use, recycling or disposal. Operators will have a responsibility to dispose of these assets safely and with no adverse effects to the environment.

But before this decommissioning phase is reached operators must begin to prepare for Cessation of Production (CoP).

This may involve running assets down until their end of life or continuing to maintain structures once CoP occurs.

**What we offer**

ABB offers a wide range of services to support decommissioning across its lifecycle; from managing redundant systems during normal operations, through late life operations, preparing for decommissioning to final disposal on-shore.

Some of the services we provide include:

- **During normal operations and in planning for CoP**
  - Developing and maintaining live asset life plans - maintaining up to date life plans for assets and optimising maintenance approaches as CoP approaches. While assets will not be producing beyond CoP, they will typically still have a life of five years or more and must remain fit for purpose during this period.
  - Managing redundant equipment / systems – reducing maintenance and inspection costs, reducing weight on platforms, preserving equipment needed for decommissioning or resale.
  - Safety case updates and SECE management.
  - Decommissioning strategy - optioneering and selecting the optimum removal method (e.g. piece small vs single lift), maximising asset value, contract strategy etc.
  - Planning for CoP - identifying the systems needed post CoP, planning to maintain these systems, preservation actions.
  - Preparing for decommissioning - completing risk studies, lifting studies, environmental and safety studies, budgeting and schedules, hazardous inventories, work methods etc.
  - Engineering design - modifications required for decommissioning, such as structural strengthening, isolations, life support systems etc.
Post CoP - during decommissioning and removal
Project management - progressing the decommissioning and removal stage to schedule and budget. Detailed preparation work for disposal, managing the removal process, completing enabling work.

Specialist technical support - safety studies, preservation studies, hazardous inventory management.

On-shore disposal
ABB provides full project management / consultancy support during the on-shore disposal phase. Using our expertise and knowledge we help protect our client’s reputation while offering cost effective solutions. Continuous review and monitoring of all activities helps ensure the safe delivery of projects.

Benefits
- Safe and cost effective decommissioning
- Maximum value from equipment for reuse and recycle
- Minimum unnecessary costs arising from poor planning e.g. replacing / upgrading degraded equipment required for decommissioning
- Optimum project timescales
- Well managed liabilities and reputation

Why ABB?
Our demolition capability is built on a vast base of experience, reliability and respect for the environment.

We have substantial experience in the management of decommissioning, demolition and dismantling projects in the oil & gas and petrochemicals sectors. We have extensive experience of hazardous materials including asbestos and NORM.

Safety and quality control are paramount to us at all times. This has resulted in accident frequency rates on sites managed by ABB being up to twenty times below the national average. We have also been awarded 10 consecutive RoSPA gold awards for the safety performance of our demolition teams. This builds on a quote from Judith Hackitt, the Ex-Chair of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) after visiting a decommissioning project being managed by ABB.

“The approach I saw being taken by ABB to dealing with health and safety issues in demolition and remediation was impressive. Not only was the site a first class example of safe demolition, it was also clear that the work was being done more efficiently because of the way it had been organised.”

Judith Hackitt, Chair of HSE

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