Late life operations and decommissioning

Maximising economic recovery, reducing cost and sustaining safety
Late life operations and decommissioning

The offshore industry needs to increase value and reduce OPEX cost during late life operations and decommissioning, to maximise economic recovery from offshore installations.

With the growing number of offshore installations globally operating beyond their design life, optimising late life operations and planning for decommissioning is a matter of urgency. As offshore assets approach their Cessation of Production (CoP) there is an opportunity to reduce operating and maintenance costs. However safety and integrity must be maintained and a lack of maintenance can lead to increased decommissioning costs and Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) risks.

This challenge can be overcome by blending late life operations into the decommissioning process, so as helping to optimise production efficiency, reduce operating and life cycle costs and developing an integrated plan for decommissioning.

Our approach
Late life
- Challenges the maintenance and inspection regimes for the equipment to minimize spend during the later years of operation
- Identifies the equipment that could be retired early
- Identifies the equipment required to remain operational after CoP either to facilitate decommissioning or maintain the asset as a Normally Unmanned Installation (NUI)
- Provides estimates of the costs for sustaining this equipment in an operational condition beyond CoP
- Provides the starting point for the decommissioning strategy

Decommissioning
- Work with duty holders to develop the decommissioning strategy. Optioneering and selecting the optimum removal method (e.g. piece small vs single lift), maximising asset value and decreasing cost
- Planning for CoP, identifying the safety, environmental and production systems needed post CoP, preservation actions, blending late life into decommissioning
- Preparing for decommissioning by completing risk studies, lifting studies, environmental and safety case studies, liability estimates and schedules

On-shore disposal / consultancy support
- Providing project management during the on-shore disposal phase. Using our expertise and knowledge that we have built up over 35 years, we protect our client’s reputation while offering cost effective solutions
- Acting as principal designer under the CDM regulations
- Continuous review and monitoring of all activities helps ensure the safe delivery of projects
Benefits
ABB’s extensive decommissioning experience, combines late life optimisation, decommissioning mindset and technology capability, delivering:

- Maximised economic recovery during late life
- Reduced and predictable decommissioning costs saving time and expense
- Integrated late life and decommissioning phases to maximise operator value and reduced cost
- Stakeholder confidence in safe and reliable operations and decommissioning
- Regulatory compliance and support
- Remote monitoring and operations, to reduce ‘pob’ (person on board) and supporting the deferral of dismantling costs
- Collaborative thinking across ABB and third party systems

Why ABB?
ABB is unique in being able to deliver expert consulting, service, technology and engineering services to the duty holder that will enable safe and cost effective late life operations and decommissioning.

“ABB using their tools and skills have improved substantially our operational processes in this sector of our business.”

Project Manager, ExxonMobil

Late life operations and decommissioning services
ABB provide extensive service, consulting, technology and software to support operators maximise economic recovery from assets in late life and decommissioning. This includes:

- Asset integrity
- Condition monitoring
- Critical spares management
- Decommissioning liability estimates
- Functional safety
- Hazardous area reduction
- Inspection
- Life cycle management
- Maintenance and reliability optimisation
- Management of redundant equipment
- Obsolescence management
- Plug and play HVDC power, ICCS, fire and gas and wireless instruments
- Process safety support
- Remote monitoring and telecoms
- Introduction of LERs to provide critical services (fire and gas / safety)
- Provision of temporary power and utilities
- Safety and environmental critical elements optimisation and retirement
- Decommissioning technical / consultancy support
- Onshore disposal stewardship and development
- Development of scope of work and commercial documents