Press Release

UK's first open-access downhole test facility launched by BHR Group

New facility gives subsea equipment providers fast, onshore access to real-world testing

Cranfield, UK – 3rd December 2015 – BHR Group, the experts in fluid engineering, today launch a commercially available, open-access downhole test facility, based in Cranfield, UK. The onshore facility is the first of its kind in the UK, providing an easily-accessible, secure, flexible, onshore environment that accurately reproduces downhole conditions. The facility can be utilised for a variety of applications across a number of different sectors, and can be booked over 6 months in advance.

With the growing need for deepwater exploration and production (E&P) and future plans for ultra deep wells, the reliability of subsea and downhole equipment is of vital concern to the oil and gas sector. In hostile downhole environments, long service life is crucial for equipment that can be extremely costly to repair and maintain. Assuring reliability is crucial since intervention, where it's possible for subsea equipment, frequently involves the mobilisation of specialised technologies and often has a significant impact on production.

To minimise the risk of a costly well shut-in, greater emphasis is being placed on the reliability of subsea systems, and realistic downhole testing of subsea components is a critical part of product development, testing and approval.

BHR's new facility – the latest addition to a range of different rigs and facilities – is fully fitted with CCTV that can be accessed via VPN, enabling round the clock monitoring. The facility's instrumentation and the data generated can also be viewed over the VPN allowing remote, real-time access to data, by clients anywhere in the world. The downhole test facility is entirely customisable and able to be modified for specific technical requirements. Tests can be conducted to national, international or industry standards or to the client's own test specification.

Dr Carl Wordsworth, senior consultant at BHR Group, commented: "This facility is set to be a game changer for many subsea equipment providers, whose customers are conducting deeper E&P than ever before, putting increasing pressure on the reliability of the products being used. The downhole test facility gives organisations independent data to prove their technologies and demonstrate the capability of their components and systems."

The downhole test facility can be utilised by organisations for product development and qualification testing of downhole equipment, such as:

- Pumping equipment
- Jet pumps
- Separators
- Instrumentation
- Drilling fluids

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With the capacity to achieve 40bar at the base of the well, BHR's facility can simulate a 400m fluid depth with representative well conditions for development, performance and reliability testing of components and systems. It is able to test with a variety of fluids in single or multiphase flow at elevated pressure and temperature for extended durations. The facility incorporates accurate, high speed measurements of downhole pressure, temperature and flow, ensuring that product performance can be mapped under a range of conditions and providing a comprehensive equipment testing capability.

For more information on the range of rigs and facilities BHR provides, please visit the website: Qualification Testing.

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About BHR Group

BHR Group (www.bhrgroup.com) is a leading independent research centre in fluid engineering. BHR Group serves a wide range of industries through technical consultancy, contract research and research consortia and has performed impartial product and process development for international clients since 1947. BHR Group is committed to knowledge transfer through its portfolio of training, conferences, seminars and technical information services.

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