



Press Release

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OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY MEETS TO ADDRESS EMISSIONS

Representatives from throughout the offshore oil and gas industry met in Aberdeen to look at how they can most effectively meet recently implemented EU emissions regulations.

The event, which was hosted by measurement technology testing and calibration specialists TUV NEL, addressed how the oil and gas industry can minimise its atmospheric emissions and accurately calculate what it does emit.

With all existing offshore installations coming under the EU's Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive from November 1, 2007 and the full scale implementation of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, it is more important than ever that North Sea operators are able to accurately calculate their emissions from activities such as gas flaring and offshore power generation.

"In the past surplus gas was flared without any stringent requirement to measure the volume being disposed of and offshore emissions were not really high on the agenda," commented TUV NEL's Lynn Hunter. "However, greater environmental awareness, ever tightening emissions legislation and the need to conserve an increasingly scarce resource, has led operators to actively reduce their emissions and ensure that they are not penalised inappropriately."

"There is an old adage 'what gets measured gets managed'," continued Lynn Hunter. "The World Bank recently published figures estimating that globally, the oil and gas industry currently flares or vents up to 170 billion cubic metres of gas per year. To put that figure into perspective, if the UK was responsible for all of that flaring, it would run out of gas in less than three years based on current gas reserves estimates.

In reality the measurement of atmospheric emissions is a new and complex science, which is further complicated in an offshore environment by hostile and unpredictable conditions.


The TUV NEL emissions event examined the sources of emissions, the legislation that impacts on offshore emissions and reviewed the various technologies and methods that can be used to calculate offshore emissions.

"The oil and gas sector needs to share its emissions knowledge and establish acceptable industry-wide, cost effective measurement techniques that are both accurate and appropriate to an offshore environment," added Lynn Hunter.

"Emissions are a new measurement challenge, but it is one the industry can address. The oil and gas emissions club aims to play a pivotal role in this process. During this critical period, the club will focus not only on the short term challenges, but also address the future needs of the industry, including the arrival of carbon capture and storage (CCS). These measures will help industry better control and reduce its emissions and conserve vital energy resources.

TUV NEL manages the Government's Flow Programme and has been working with the oil and gas industry testing flow meter technology for more than forty years.

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