

# North Sea Reporter

News & Analysis – keeping you informed

3 December 2025

Issue 860

[www.klenergypublishing.com](http://www.klenergypublishing.com)

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## Adura is formally launched as biggest UKCS independent oil/gas producer

Adura has formally kicked off operations as the newest and biggest independent oil and gas producer in the UK North Sea.

The new operator's 50:50 joint owners, Equinor and Shell, in a joint statement on Monday (1 December), confirmed the launch of Adura, which combines their UK offshore operations and is expected to produce more than 140,000 b/d of oil equivalent next year.

The statement said Adura "combines decades of North Sea expertise into a joint venture that is positioned to deliver a more cost-competitive portfolio and maximise long-term value for UK assets".

The company, which has around 1,200 employees, is led by industry veteran Neil McCulloch, who was most recently CEO of Spirit Energy.

"Adura will be the largest independent oil and gas producer in the basin...I look forward to the significant contribution we will make in the UK's energy future," McCulloch said in a social media post on Monday.

Equinor and Shell said that staff from both companies have transferred across to Aberdeen-headquartered Adura, which they argue will ensure that "industry-leading expertise" will be retained for its operations.

Adura operates the Gannet, Mariner, Nelson, Penguins, Pierce, Shearwater and Victory producing areas and has interests in CNOOC-operated Buzzard, as well as BP-operated Clair and Schiehallion and various exploration licences.

The new company is also operator of the UK's two largest ongoing development projects, formerly Equinor-operated Rosebank in west of Shetland blocks 213/26b, 213/27a, 205/1a and 205/2a and previously Shell-operated Jackdaw in Central North Sea blocks 30/2a, 30/3a and 30/2d.

Both developments are well on the way to being ready for first production, with Jackdaw heading towards a potential start-up next summer and Rosebank in line to follow late next year or in 2027. *(Continued on page 2)*