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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hugin B jacket installed	7
Rosebank FPSO update	9
Okea Mistral South sale	16

CONTENTS

Rig market	2
Construction	7
Contracts	9
Field development	9
Production	10
Drilling	11
Africa briefing	15
Licence activity	16
Companies	17
Oil price	18
Safety	19
Renewables	19
People	21
Conferences	21

Government publishes more details of UK Transitional Energy Certificates

The UK Government has published more details of the Transitional Energy Certificates (TECs) that it plans to use as an alternative to traditional exploration licences to allow operators to develop oil and gas resources within tieback range of existing production facilities.

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband, in a speech yesterday (Tuesday), said his ministry aimed to “provide greater certainty and clarity for industry looking to invest in already-explored areas near existing licensed fields, supporting a fair and managed transition”.

The department of energy security and net zero, in a statement, emphasised that it remains committed to banning new oil and gas exploration licences and said that TECs will only be granted for areas where oil and gas has already been found.

The department says it is engaging with industry on the core criteria for TECs, which it intends to allow for acreage that is “either adjacent to or in close proximity to an existing field” and within tieback range of existing infrastructure.

The department said that TECs are intended to support the management of existing fields for their lifespans and will be granted where operators “demonstrate that they support the management of existing fields”.

Miliband, while emphasising the government will “double down, not back down” on its mission for clean energy and continuing to oppose those who urge production of “every last drop” of oil and gas in the North Sea, argued that TECs are part of an effort to harness the UK’s domestic supply “by keeping existing fields open for their lifetime, decades into the future”.

“Production from the North Sea is an important and valuable resource, and its workforce is a vital asset for this country,” he said. *(Continued on page 2)*