North Sea Reporter

News & Analysis – keeping you informed

28 October 2026
Issue 905

www.klenergypublishing.com

Inside This Issue

Tight reservoir pact	2
New work for Noble rigs	3
Cronos contract awards	13
EnergyPathways land deal	17

Contents

News	2
Rig market	3
Construction	8
Contracts	8
Production	9
Drilling	10
Med/Africa briefing	13
Companies	14
Technology	14
Safety	15
Oil price	16
Environment	17
Renewables	18
Conferences	18

Equinor awards Aibel topsides FEED study for Wisting production vessel

Equinor has awarded Aibel a crucial frontend engineering and design (FEED) study contract covering the topsides of the production vessel for its proposed Wisting oil development, in blocks 7324/7 and 7324/8 in the Norwegian Barents Sea.

Equinor, in a statement last Thursday (22 October), said the FEED award was made to Aibel by the Wisting partners after a competitive tender that involved Norwegian suppliers.

The workscope to be carried out by Aibel will include further maturation of the FPSO's topsides design which is intended to help provide a basis for the Wisting partnership to take a decision on project execution. Aibel's contract also includes an option for the engineering, procurement and project management workscope.

The contract for fabrication of the topsides modules is expected to be awarded at a later stage, according to Equinor.

Aibel, in its own statement, also released last Thursday, said the Wisting contract will provide work for around 250 employees at its offices in Asker, supported by staff in Haugesund. It said work will start immediately and is expected to be completed in late-2027.

Despite this latest award, Equinor continues to signal that there is plenty more work to be done before a Wisting development is ready to be sanctioned. "We are at an early stage in the development of Wisting and considerable work remains to develop a project that is profitable and feasible," said Equinor senior vice-president for project development Trond Bokn.

"This FEED contract will form part of the overall basis for a potential investment decision. We will work with the suppliers on improvements to enable the project to be realised," he added. *(Continued on page 2)*