



Sarens transfers the Valhall topsides.

# Sarens aids Valhall decommissioning

The removal and disposal of ageing oil and gas assets is starting to ramp up – particularly in the North Sea. More than 100 platforms are forecast to be completely or partially removed from the waters of the UK and Norway over the next decade.

Belgium-headquartered specialised transport engineering company Sarens was called on to assist in the removal of platform topsides formerly installed at the North Sea's Valhall oilfield complex, located off the coast of Norway.

## Sarens' role

Sarens mobilised heavy-duty handling equipment to assist with the project.

Working in close cooperation with offshore contractor Allseas, Sarens successfully loaded out

and transported several topside modules that formed part of the no-longer-used quarters platform.

Sarens outfitted its barge Louis with suitable grillages that could support the 3,850-tonne topsides. The barge sailed from Ghent, Belgium, to Stord in Norway, in preparation for loading operations.

With the barge on site, Sarens and Allseas began demolishing the topsides – a process that took approximately one week to complete.

Allseas' construction vessel Pioneering Spirit was used to lift the topside structures from the jacket before transporting them to the disposal yard at Stord.

The topsides were transferred

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to the Sarens barge, which was positioned below Pioneering Spirit. This transfer relied on the construction vessel's topside lifting system, with careful ballasting to correct for the offset centre of gravity.

## Lifting process

The barge then transported the topsides to the disposal yard. After the seafastening brackets were released, the topsides were lifted and Sarens drove 120 axle lines of SPMTs (K24-ST) onto the barge beneath the structures.

The barge was ballasted for stability as the SPMTs transported the topsides onto the quay and set them down on disposal support stands.

**HLPFI**

# Thames field components head to Blyth

The UK's port of Blyth has completed its largest offshore energy decommissioning project.

Maersk Decom and Maersk Supply Service have been managing the removal and recycling of subsea infrastructure from Perenco's Thames field in the UK North Sea. A number of wellheads and wellhead protection structures have been taken to the port of Blyth.

The recovered structures were dismantled at the port's Battleship Wharf terminal.

The port has also played host to several smaller decommissioning projects recently, including the



Maersk Decom at the port of Blyth.

removal of two 2-MW turbines owned by E.on. The units, which formed the UK's first offshore wind farm,

had reached the end of their technical lifespan and were decommissioned.

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