

# NOV Process Partner

## Conversion of Production Separator to Induced Gas Flotation Unit

November 11, 2025



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Topsides UK – 11th November 2025 – NOV Process Systems

#NOVGlobalFamily #NOVExpertiseInAction

# **NOV Process Partner**

## **Conversion of Production Separator to Induced Gas Flotation Unit**

| Understand-Define-Validate-Deliver-Support |

David King (Business Development & Sales Manager) – NOV (Presenting)

James Vanjo-Carnell (PW Product Line Manager) – NOV

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Energy  
Equipment

Energy  
Products &  
Services





Energy  
Equipment

Process  
Systems

Greenfield

Brownfield

Environmental

Low Carbon



# Process Systems

Your value creation energy partner





# NOV Process Partner

#NOVProcessPartner

We Ensure Production Security, Stability and Optimization

## OPUS

- Process Optimization
- Upgrade, Debottleneck, Extend Life
- Dedicated Operational Expertise
- Swift & Reliable Site-Support
- Full Digitalization



Optimized  
Production



Production  
Security

Delivery  
Security

## RIGHT

- Right Execution Models
- Excellence In Risk Management
- Partnerships With Critical Technology & Equipment Suppliers

## AVAILABLE

- Process Guarantee Partner
- Digital & Remote Support & Advice
- Low-manned Approach
- Quality Products & Systems
- Worldwide Service Crew
- Fluid/Chemistry Knowledge



# Process Systems

## The OPUS Approach



### Phase 4 – Sustain

- Operations and maintenance support
- Spare parts management
- Digitalization/remote support services
- Process studies for increased production

### Phase 3 – Deliver and Optimize

In order of priority:

- Optimize the existing process
- Upgrade existing process equipment
- Design and install new package
  - Install, start-up and optimize
  - Guaranteed on-spec performance

### Customer Pain Points

Capacity | Performance |  
Reliability

### Understand

Data collection | Site Assessment |  
Fluids Characterization

### Phase 1 – Understand

- Identify root cause of challenges
- Detailed analysis of the existing process
- Site assessment if needed to gather data
- Careful assessment of fluids chemistry

### Phase 2 – Define and Verify

- Specialist process and detailed engineering
- Performance models built on 30 years of process verification & optimization
- Physical modelling
- Computational fluid dynamics (CFD)
- Finite element analysis

**Deliver / Optimize**  
Optimization | Retrofit |  
Package Supply | Lifecycle Services

**Define / Verify**  
Study | Modelling | Design

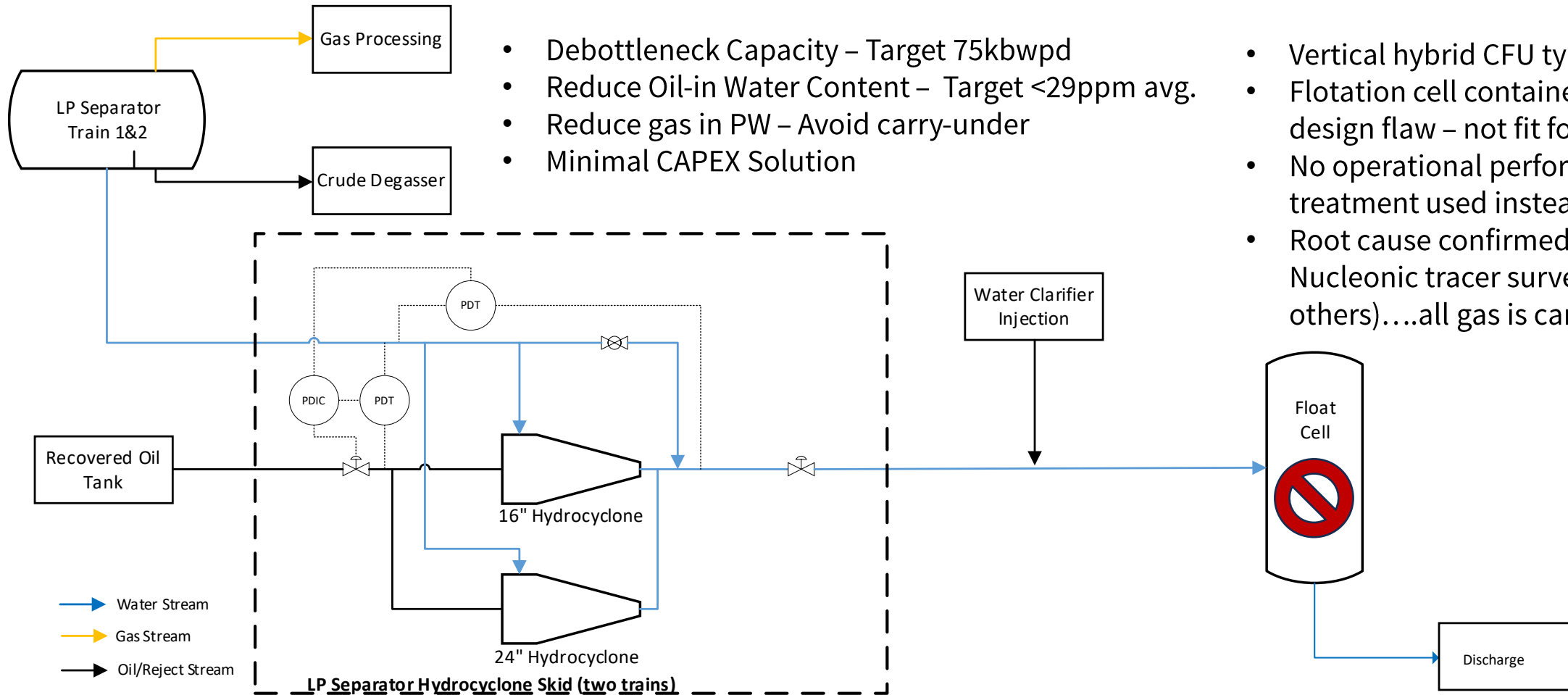


# The Motivation

Where does it all begin...

## Objectives:

- Debottleneck Capacity – Target 75kbwpd
- Reduce Oil-in Water Content – Target <29ppm avg.
- Reduce gas in PW – Avoid carry-under
- Minimal CAPEX Solution



## Original PWT System:

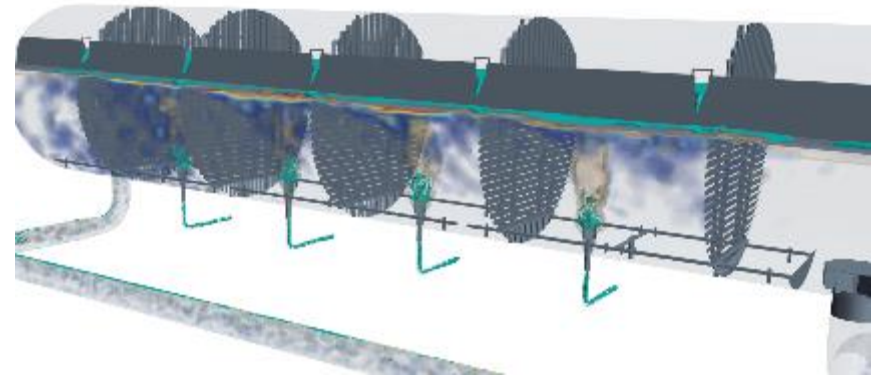
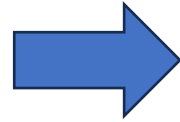
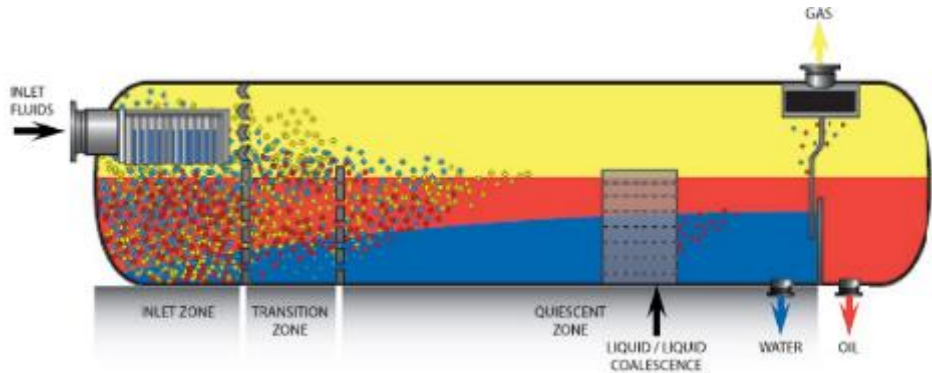
- Vertical hybrid CFU type flotation unit.
- Flotation cell contained a severe design flaw – not fit for purpose.
- No operational performance - rental treatment used instead (high OPEX).
- Root cause confirmed via CFD and Nucleonic tracer survey (by others)...all gas is carried under!



# The Challenge

What did we do...

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## Donor Vessel Requirements:

- Horizontal or vertical vessels considered.
- Suitable number of nozzles needed; advantageous placement helpful but not essential.
- Suitable number of internal clips needed – no welding no bonding allowed.
- Adequately sized to get meaningful performance, but did not have to be limited to 'Standard Norms'.

## Selected Candidate:

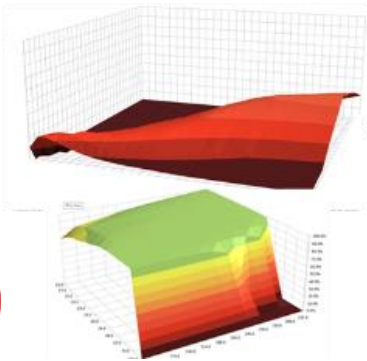
- Horizontal IP Separator.
- Several drain nozzles intended for sand handling system present → flotation gas bubble inlets.
- Feed/outlets & instrumentation nozzles also well placed.
- Several baffles already in the vessel → clips!
- Well (but aggressively) sized.
- Moderately helpful location on the facility.



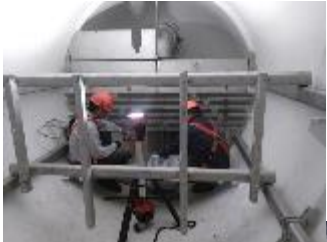
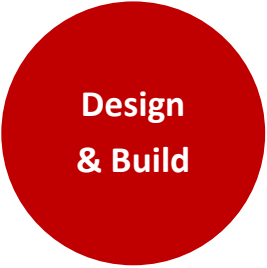
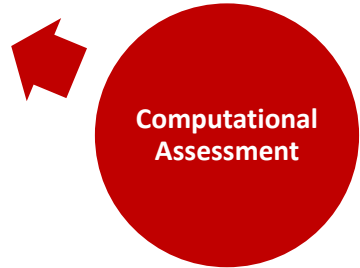
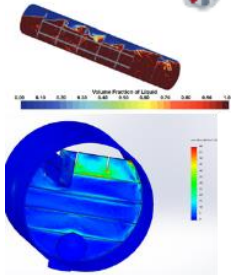
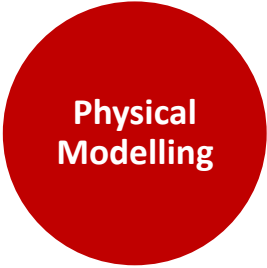
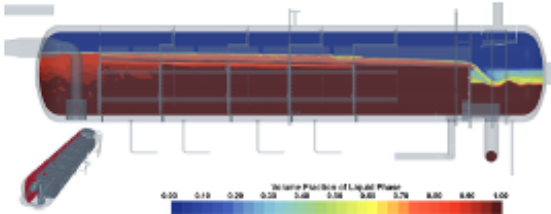
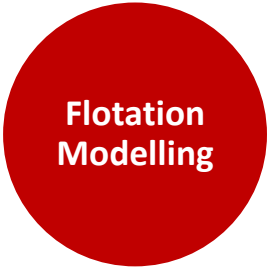
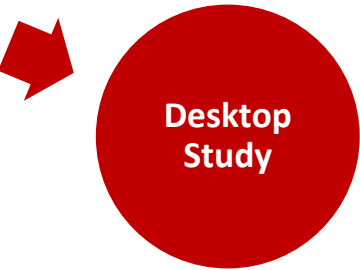
# The Approach – OPUS

Risk Management & Optimised Expenditure

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Note: some details deliberately obscured to protect NOV IP.





# The Site Survey

## Building Understanding

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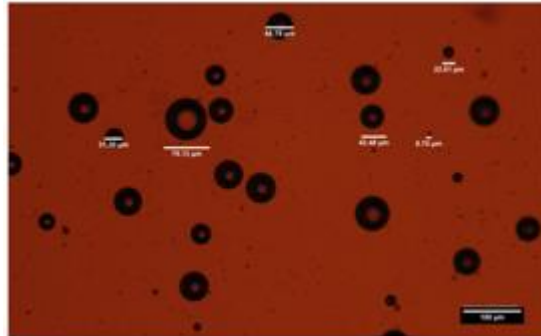
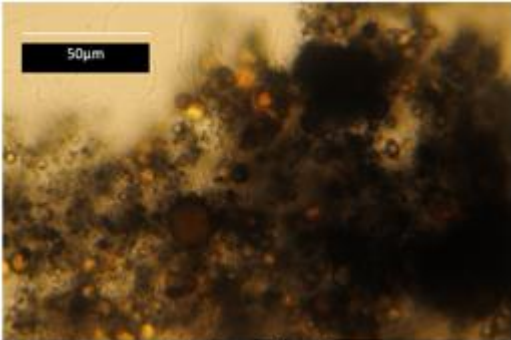


## At NOV Orkney Water Test Centre:

- Client water and oil.
- Fluid microscopy.
- Technology compatibility (Mare's Tail pre-coalescer).

## At Site:

- Droplet sizing.
- Performance Analysis (site test of DOHC and Mare's Tail pre-coalescer).

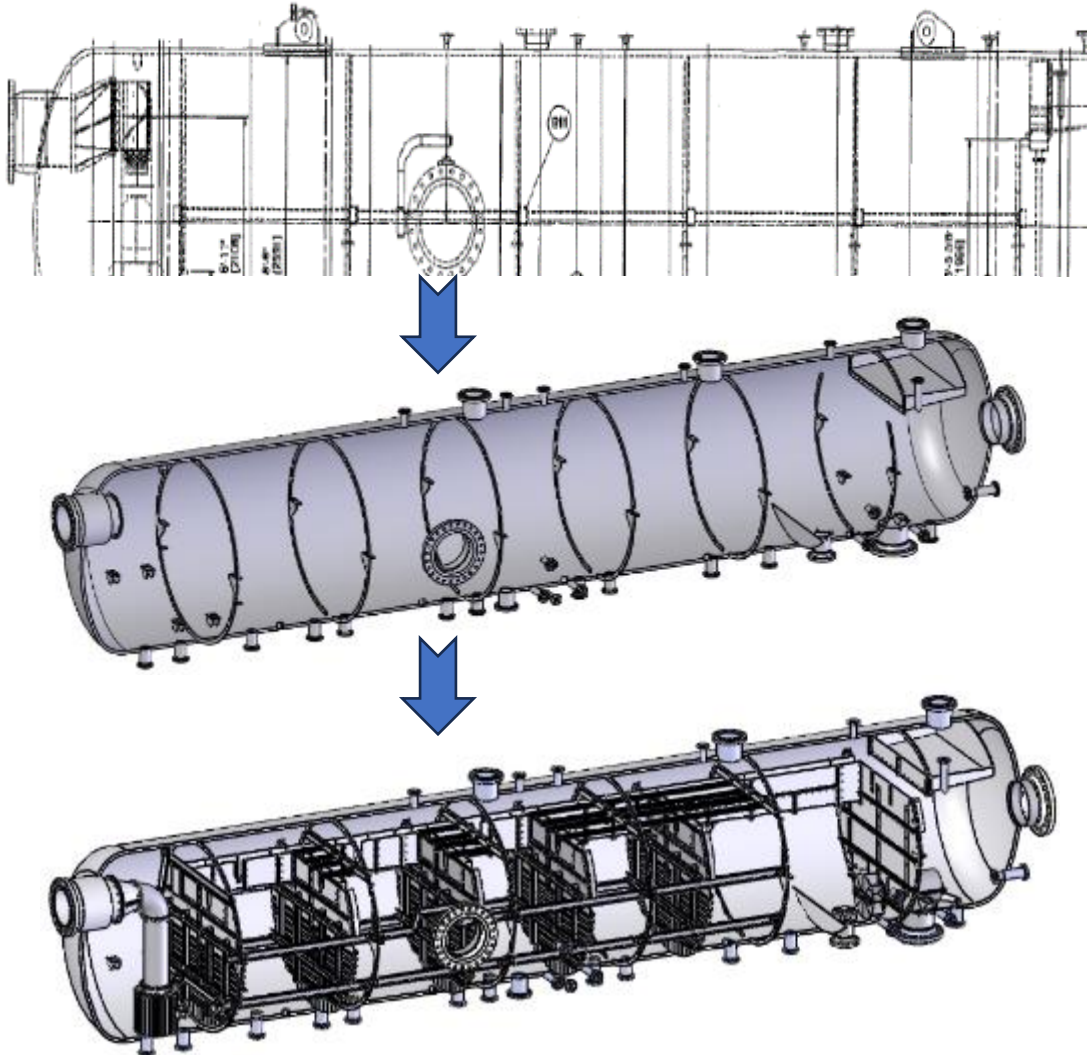




# The Desktop Study



## Understanding Options & Defining Solutions



## Repurposing of equipment:

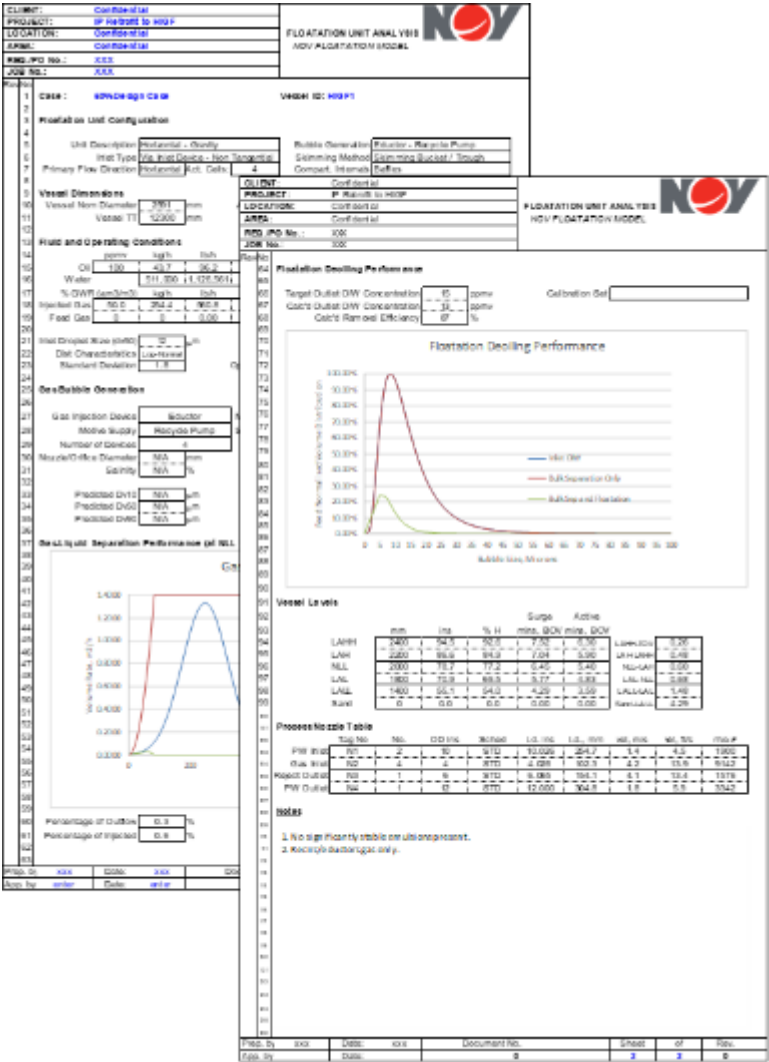
- Multiple vessels considered as donor vessel – unused production separator selected (2.5m ID x 12m TT).
- Repurposing existing float unit microbubble pumps also considered – not viable, ejector technology preferred.

## Uncertainty:

- Best available vessel did not have as much residence time as typical for HIGFs – flotation model used to quantify short fall.
- Scaled physical testing (580mm ID) of final solution considered as a risk mitigation step.

# The Flotation Modelling Tool

## Validating the Solution



## The Model:

- Semi-empirical universal model based on various separation and flotation correlations, benchmarked against Flotta and Field data.
- Jointly created by NOV and a SuperMajor to offer technology independent hydraulic and performance analysis of flotation units

## The Output:

- Determine impact of smaller-than-typical vessel size.
- Confirm gas bubble and oil removal performance.
- Estimate performance with and without deoiler chemistry.
- Confirm impact of droplet size, flow rate, gas rate.



# The Physical Modelling Set-up

## Validating the Solution in the Test Hall

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5ppm Deoiler Chemical



10ppm Deoiler Chemical

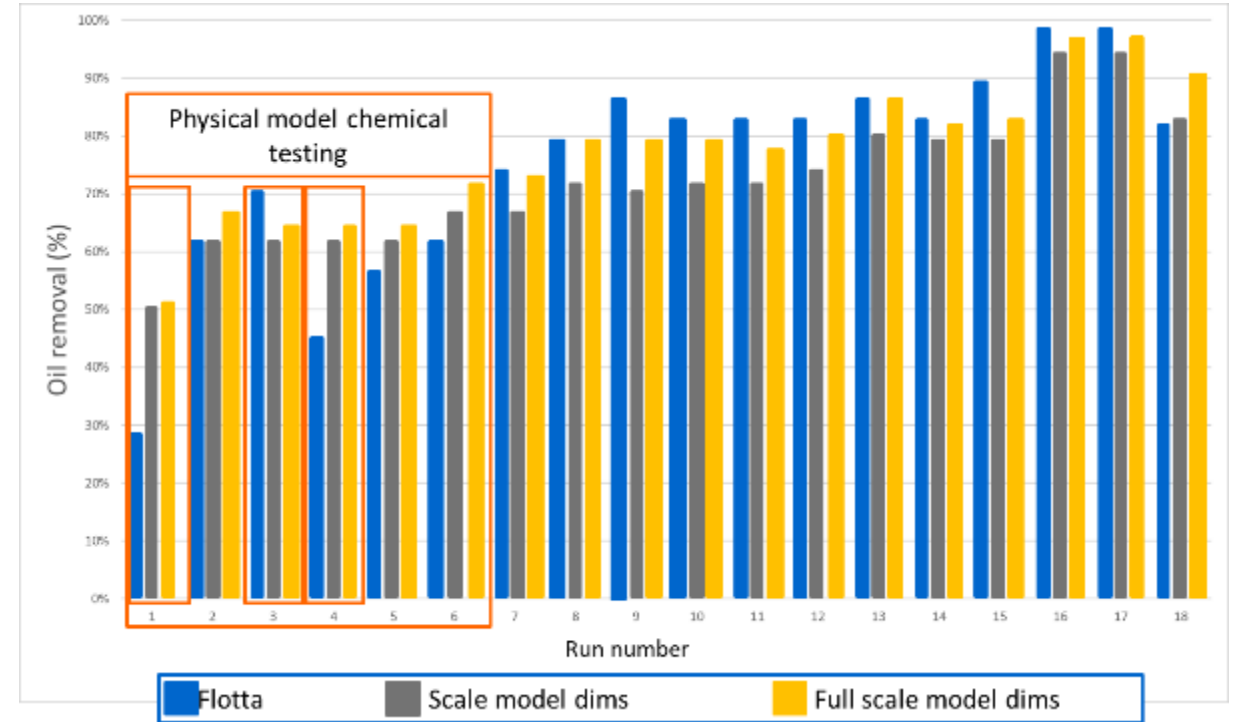


20ppm Deoiler Chemical



100ppm Deoiler Chemical

Visual testing demonstrating deoiler overdosing



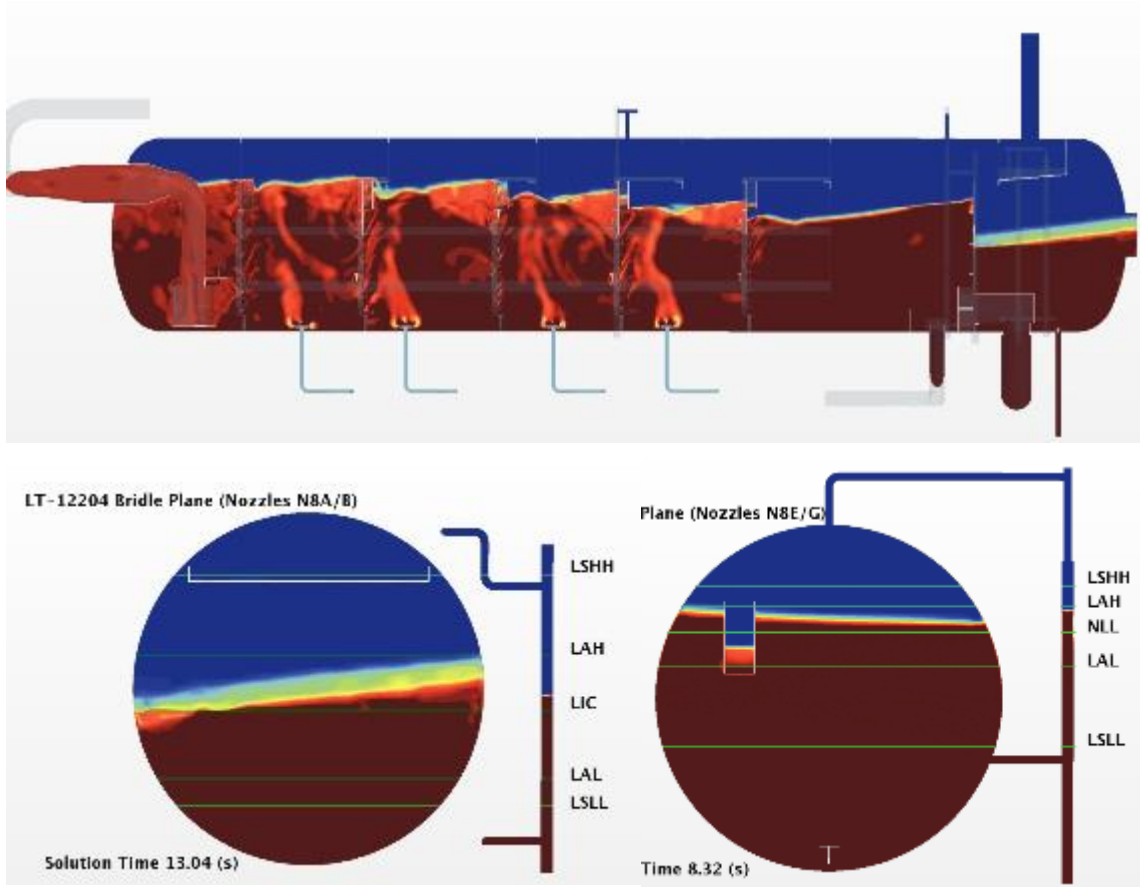
### Test Conditions:

Client crude + seawater. W/wo chemicals.  
100-300mg/l inlet OiW. Low/med/high gas rates.  
7-24µm dv50 droplet size Low/med/high flow rates.

# The Computational Modelling Set-up



## Validating the Solution with CFD



## CFD

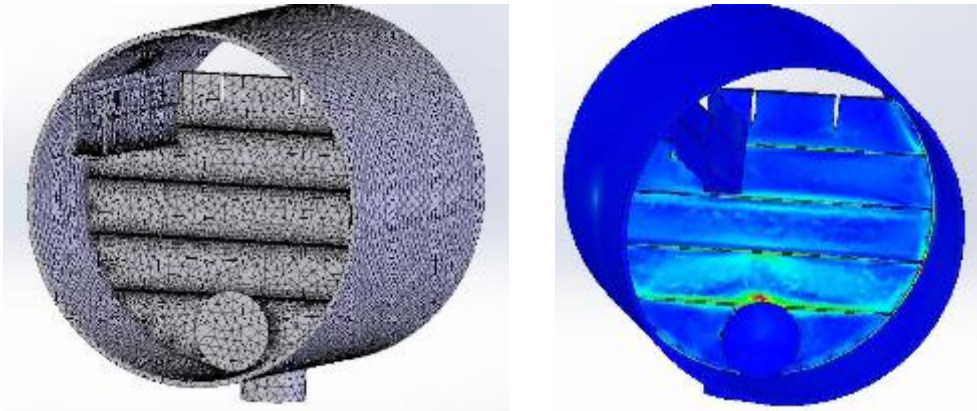
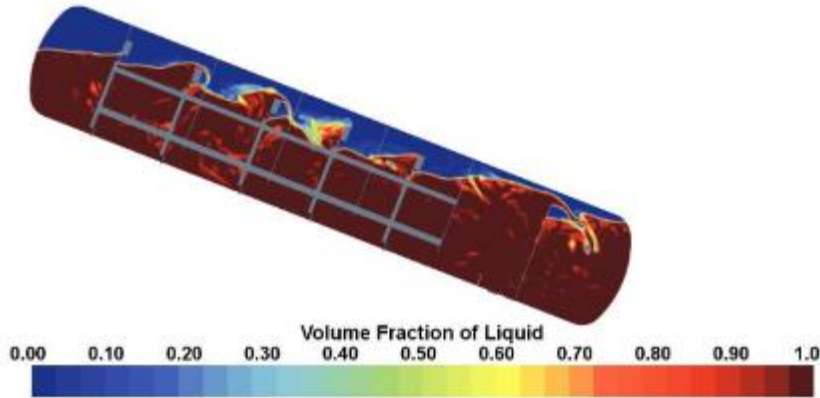
- Verify liquid behaviour during rough sea states (facility motion, operating and survival cases).
- Verify level instrument response vs actual liquid behaviour (bridles used).
- Check skimming behaviour and oily water compartment sizing.
- Generate force loading data for FEA (survival condition).



# The Computational Modelling Set-up



## Validating the Solution with FEA



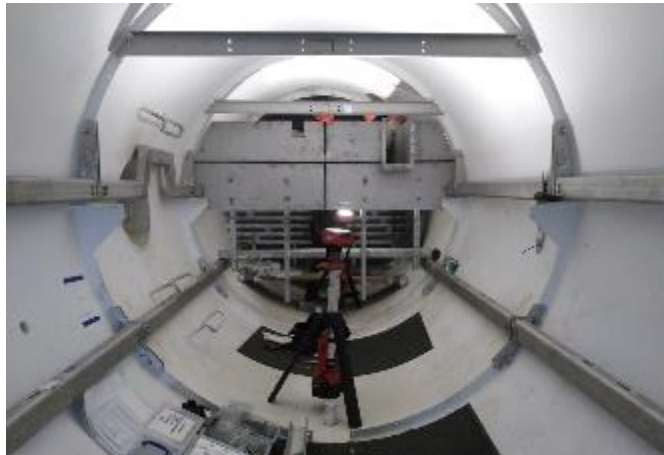
## FEA

- Confirm existing vessel clips can withstand loading during survival conditions.
- Maximum corrosion allowance applied to clips.
- Force loads from CFD (extreme survival case) applied into the FEA model. A 'force monitor' was applied in the CFD model to record the expected force loading at important points over the course of multiple motion cycles.
- Attention paid to verify no resonance behaviour is occurring.

# The Solution Delivered

Designed – Built - Installed

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Vessel retrofit timeframe: 2 weeks

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# Performance Assured

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## Start-up & Performance Benchmarking

Data Redacted

Very fine margins.... to prevent erroneous / overly optimistic outputs the float Model is normally 'capped' at <5mg/l or <15mg/l depending on the application .....very difficult to predict reliably below this value!

# Performance Assured

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## Start-up & Performance Benchmarking

Data Redacted

Data with 5mg/l cap applied suggests that it is a good 'bottom end' for the model (in this case), overall efficiencies line up well..





# Conclusions

## Collaborative Approach – Proprietary Technology – Assured Performance

- **Collaborative Approach:**

- Several years of diligent validation design work has led to a robust retrofit design.
- Cross-party planning of the retrofit and subsequent startup scope minimised interfacing issues
- Versatile & experienced team efficiently dealt with execution challenges.

- **Proprietary Technology:**

- NOV's Flotation Model provided clarity on the initial direction taken, no possible solution using standard design rules.
- Test Hall modelling and CFD to validate flow dynamics in extreme cases.
- Complete supply of retrofittable NOV IGF hardware.

- **Assured Performance**

- Validation of Process & Mechanical design throughout in recognition of complexity of the work.
- Site-based install, commissioning and early operational support.
- Benchmarking and backchecking performance against model and physical test data offered confidence and a good basis for operation going forward.

## NOV as Integrated Process Partner for Life of Operation

# NOV Process Partner

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| Understand-Define-Validate-Deliver-Support |

## Questions?

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