

First subsea trees installed on three Tui production wells

2 February 2007 - The first subsea wellhead trees to be installed in New Zealand offshore oil fields have been put in place in three of the four Tui oil field production wells in offshore Taranaki.

Tui operator AWE reports that the subsea trees and surface casing have been run and cemented on the Pateke-3H, Tui 2H and Tui-3H production wells.

The shallow sections on the three Tui production wells so far drilled, have been drilled on a "batch-drilling" basis, which involved the drilling of the upper sections and installing subsea wellheads and trees, prior to drilling deeper, including the horizontal sections within the oil reservoirs.

The Ocean Patriot semi-submersible rig has also drilled the Tui-2H well to a measured depth of 3427 m by mid-January.

The Tui-2H drilling programme involves the drilling of a pilot hole to approximately 4200 metres measured depth through the F-Sand oil reservoir section, to guide the landing of the well in the reservoir. A horizontal production hole will then be drilled close to the top of the reservoir.

The Tui Area development is located within PMP 38158, approximately 50 km offshore from the west coast of the North Island of New Zealand. First oil is expected from the development by June 30, 2007, and when fully commissioned, a production rate peaking at 50,000 bopd is anticipated.

The Tui project director Randy Stewart told the New Zealand Petroleum Conference last year that Cameron subsea horizontal trees with diverless subsea connections would be installed on all four Tui wells.

Source: AWE.