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Russians check Snøhvit line

The pipeline for carrying the unprocessed wellstream from the Snøhvit field was subject to a successful post-laying check by Russia's NGKS during September.



A pig is a device about two metres long used to inspect a pipeline internally. (Photo: NGKS)

"This company submitted the most attractive bid with the best technical solution," says Tore T Strøm from the pipeline operation unit in the Natural Gas business area.

"NGKS has also been approved recently by Statoil in accordance with the Norsok S006 standard."

The condition of the pipeline was inspected with the aid of a pig, or bundle of instruments pumped through the line from land to the field.

"Ultrasound was used to see whether anything untoward had happened to the pipe during laying," Mr Strøm explains. "This initial inspection also gives reference values for later checks."

The pig was carried out to the field by the water flow used to pressure-test the line.

After a journey of about 80 hours, it was removed at a special pig trap in the pipeline end manifold (Plem) and taken back to land by ship for its collected data to be downloaded.

A new pig inspection of the pipeline will probably be carried out in the course of a 10-year period to check for corrosion and possible crack formation.

The wellstream pipeline from Snøhvit is 28 inches in diameter and runs for 141 kilometres.

By Knud Helge Robberstad

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