SOUTHERN NORTH SEA

WINTERSHALL DEA

OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION "ON YOUR DOORSTEP"

Wintershall Dea in the North Sea

For Wintershall Dea, Europe's largest independent producer of natural gas and crude oil, the North Sea forms part of its traditional production area. The Netherlands, Denmark and the UK remain important gas suppliers to Germany. At the same time, those three countries have strong ambitions to lead the global energy transition and strongly focus on CCS and hydrogen technologies – just like Wintershall Dea. The company is ambitious to actively develop and shape these new sectors in the future.

Wintershall Dea has been active in the Southern North Sea with its Wintershall Noordzee Joint Venture (50% Wintershall Dea, 50% Gazprom E&P International) for over 50 years.

The Netherlands – remote operations and innovative platform design

Wintershall Noordzee is one of the larger offshore natural gas producers on the Dutch Continental Shelf and operates 27 production facilities in Dutch, Danish, German, and British waters, of which 13 are still producing. All platforms are controlled remotely from the Central Control Room in Den Helder, The Netherlands. This enables the company to increase its operational efficiency and effectiveness, and to produce economically even from the smaller fields in the Southern North Sea.

The portfolio includes the recently developed and operated Sillimanite and Sillimanite South natural gas fields that straddle the maritime border of the Netherlands and the UK. Sillimanite, which reuses the topside from the retired Dutch E18-A platform, started gas production from the first well in February 2020. In July 2020, an additional development well was drilled and tied in to enhance production. The successful Sillimanite South exploration well, resulting in a discovery after the drilling of the second Sillimanite well, was brought on stream in January 2021.

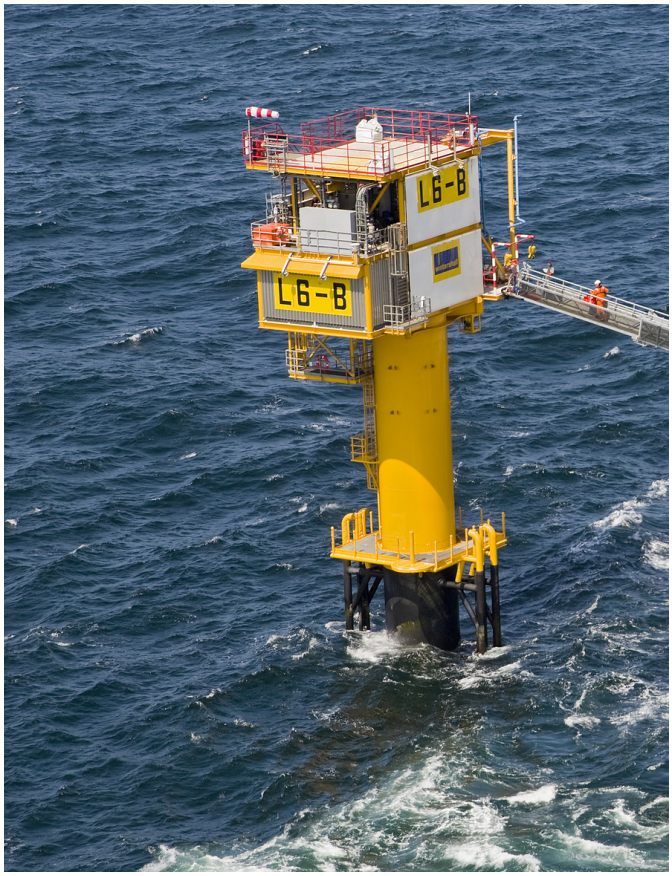
In addition to natural gas, Wintershall Noordzee has the intention to start producing oil from one of the largest oil discoveries in the Southern North Sea of recent years. The Rembrandt oil field was discovered in 2012 and is supplemented by the neighbouring Vermeer oil field. Both fields are located some 120 kilometres north of Den Helder within production licence F17a. Development plans were put on hold amongst others due to delays in the environmental permitting process but have recently been resumed.

Aerial view of the Dutch North Sea.

Rijswijk is home to Wintershall Noordzee's headquarters and the companywide competence centre for offshore technology and for exploration and development in shallow waters. Enhancing offshore expertise for oil and gas production is crucial for developing increasingly complex reservoirs. Activities in other regions of the world benefit from this wealth of experience.

Thanks to its expertise in offshore technology, Wintershall Noordzee started producing natural gas from the L6-B mini-platform, which is Wintershall Noordzee's smallest independent gas production platform. Since 2015, the platform has been producing natural gas in a restricted military area about 85 kilometres North of Den Helder. This location required the development of a minimal platform design without a helicopter landing pad and accommodation. Thanks to their small and lightweight construction, such mini platforms can be used flexibly in shallow waters.

The L6-B production platform is located in the Dutch sector of the North Sea and is an example of a monopod: a minimum facilities production platform.



Over the years, Wintershall Noordzee has also taken the lead in re-use and decommissioning, having re-used 8 topsides at new locations and fully decommissioned and removed 8 additional installations in recent times. In 2021, the company started an extensive decommissioning campaign involving the plug and abandonment of 24 wells in Dutch and German waters, as well as the removal of two platforms and two subsea completions. As Wintershall Noordzee operates in a mature area in the Dutch North Sea, the continuation of safe decommissioning activities, together with the further streamlining of its operational activities, are at the fore of the company's activity portfolio in this area.

Wintershall Dea envisages its operations in the Netherlands to become a prototype for implementing CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) projects and managing the energy transition in the future. The depleted fields held by our subsidiary Wintershall Noordzee have significant CO_2 storage potential and are located in proximity to CO_2 producers onshore. The project realisation is supported by the regulatory regime of the Netherlands, one of the most progressive in Europe.

United Kingdom – Natural gas from the British Continental Shelf

Wintershall Noordzee currently operates three licences in the British North Sea. The company has a 24.75 per cent interest in the Wingate gas production platform. The normally unmanned natural gas production facility in the British North Sea has been on stream since 2011 and produced approximately 264,000 cubic metres of natural gas per day in 2020.

Denmark – starting signal for successful CCS

In November 2020, the Nini West reservoir has been independently certified for CO_2 injection and storage.

Wintershall Dea has equity in the two oil fields Cecilie and Nini which are located in the Danish Central Graben and expected to remain in production until 2024. In Denmark, Wintershall Dea draws on the potential of CO_2 storage technologies for a cleaner energy future. The company is one of the core members in the Project Greensand Consortium. The consortium aims to use depleted offshore oil reservoirs in the Danish North Sea to permanently store CO_2 captured at onshore industrial facilities. The project has cleared a first major hurdle in fall 2020 with the certification of the Nini West subsea reservoir as a feasible gas storage.

This certification confirms that the reservoir is conceptually suitable for injecting 0.45 million tonnes CO_2 per year per well for a 10-year period, and that the subsea reservoir can safely contain the CO_2 in compressed form. In August 2021, the consortium moved ahead to the pilot phase. The pilot targets first offshore injection by late 2022. If successful, the pilot would lead to full-scale CO_2 storage in the Nini West field by 2025. In December 2021, the project was granted a €26 million funding award from the Danish Energy Agency.

Wintershall Dea in Southern North Sea: at a glance

- **Country entry:**
  1965 (The Netherlands)
  2003 (UK)
  1980s (Denmark)
- **Greensand:**
  storage potential of 0.5-1 million tonnes of CO_2 per year by 2025, increasing to a potential 4-8 million tonnes of CO_2 per year by 2030.
- **The Netherlands:**
  8 reused topsides and 8 decommissioned and removed installations since 1988.

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