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T-160 drilling marks 20 years' safe operation

Board of Management thanks drilling crew

On 26 September 1997, the DEA drilling rig T-160 commenced operation for the first time, successfully drilling the natural gas well Völkersen Z4 to a depth of 5,302 metres. Twenty years have passed since, and the combination of reliable equipment and professional drilling teams has produced an impressive history of success: to date, drilling paths totalling some 145,000 metres have been completed – projected onto the surface of the Earth, this equates to the distance from Hamburg to Hanover.

DEA is especially proud of the drilling rig's record of safe operation. "I am very pleased indeed that no incident-related downtimes have been reported for 3 years now. This represents a great achievement and bears testimony that our crews operate with circumspection and utmost care, for which I would like to express my gratitude to our teams," emphasises Dirk Warzecha, Chief Operating Officer at DEA Deutsche Erdoel AG: "The work performed by the teams on the rig was a key contribution to supplying the Federal Republic of Germany with environmentally friendly domestic natural gas."

Crews of 30 work on the T-160 in shifts, operating the rig around the clock – in a safe and environmentally compatible matter, and under all weather conditions. "DEA has continually optimised its multi-level system for maintaining a high standard of occupational safety," explained the Head of Drilling Operations, Mike Schreiter.

Applying the strictest environmental and safety standards worldwide, DEA will continue to deploy the T-160 drilling rig in the production of the most environmentally friendly fossil source of energy, natural gas, making an important contribution towards a successful energy transition. Thanks to its low CO₂ emissions, natural gas will continue to gain importance as part of the overall energy mix in the implementation of the international climate protection targets and serve as bridge to the renewable sources of energy. DEA will be developing regional natural gas deposits gradually through the systematic planning of additional projects.

Natural gas production in Lower Saxony represents a major contribution to the security of the natural gas supply in Germany. All the natural gas produced from this domestic source is exclusively destined for consumption in Germany.

Background information

With domestic gas production of around 1.7 billion cubic metres annually, DEA is one of the major natural gas producers in Germany. Production from domestic natural gas deposits by enterprises operating in this sector covers around 8 per cent of Germany's total domestic consumption. These companies are thus making a significant contribution towards reducing our country's dependency on imports and providing a secure energy supply.

The T-160 is one of most powerful drilling rigs in Europe. The electrically powered deep drilling rig with a drive output of over 6,300 kilowatts also makes it possible to drill deviated wells and horizontal wells extending over distances of more than 6,000 metres. The derrick of the T-160 stands about 62 metres tall.

Further particulars

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