

# NOIA NEWS



Industry 101  
Exploration Drilling

2020  
Industry Wrap-Up

Noia's Tribute to  
John Crosbie



It takes a community  
to build one.

From universities and hospitals to offshore modules, we're committed to building strong, sustainable communities, and the industries that fuel them. Our dedicated workforce of project managers, engineers, and skilled tradespeople make it happen every day. Together, we're building beyond.





## Noia Board of Directors 2020

Chair	Karen Winsor Atlantic XL
Vice-Chair	James Parmiter Cahill Group
Treasurer	Christian Somerton Pennecon
Past-Chair	Mark Collett Crosbie Group
Directors	Heather Beresford, TechnipFMC Paul Broders, Wood Beverley Evans, KBRS Knightsbridge Robertson Surette Jennifer Haley, Aker Solutions Canada Sheldon Lace, Atlantic Towing Denis Mahoney, McInnes Cooper Gerry Mayo, PF Collins International Trade Solutions Gregory Stacey, KCA Deutag Drilling Canada

## Noia News

Editor-in-Chief: Ken Morrissey

Editor: Marilyn Buckingham

Layout & Design: Steffanie Martin | NudgeDesigns.ca

Contributing Writers: Kristann Templeton, Geoff Meeker,  
Marilyn Buckingham, Ken Morrissey

Advertising: Daniel Osmond

Published by Noia

The contents of this publication do not constitute professional advice. The publishers, editors and authors, as well as the authors' firms or professional corporations, disclaim any liability which may arise as a result of a reader relying upon contents of this publication. Opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect the views of Noia.

Material from this publication may not be reproduced without written permission from Noia.

Letters and guest articles are welcomed. Submissions must be signed and include your address and telephone number. Noia reserves the right to reject or edit submissions.

## Contact Noia:

[www.noia.ca](http://www.noia.ca) | [noia@noia.ca](mailto:noia@noia.ca)

Box 44, Suite 606, Atlantic Place, 215 Water Street  
St. John's, NL, Canada A1C 6C9



# Contents

## 4 CEO CORNER

## INDUSTRY NEWS

- 6 Industry 101 – Exploration Drilling: Breaking new ground in the search for oil
- 12 2020 Industry Wrap-up
- 25 Working to be part of a sustainable energy future
- 28 John Crosbie played pivotal role in launching oil & gas industry
- 32 Environmental Stewardship – good for the environment and business

## INDUSTRY PROFILES

- 35 Atlantic Offshore Medical Services: Noia member for 30 years
- 36 PanGeo Subsea celebrates 30 years with Noia
- 37 Maritimes Energy Association marks 30 years of Noia membership
- 38 Delta St. John's Hotel and Conference Centre: a prime convention destination
- 40 Crosbie: Rooted In Experience, Helping You Reach Further
- 41 Cougar Helicopter's world class SAR capability

## INSIDE NOIA

- 43 Extensive advocacy campaign resulted in support of the offshore
- 48 Meet Noia's newest Board members
- 50 Noia's 2020 Board of Directors
- 52 Noia membership benefits include events for entire family

## IN BRIEF

- 55 Operators aim to enhance environment, health and safety collaboration in the offshore

## ON THE COVER:

The Transocean Barents leaves Newfoundland and Labrador waters for Norway, after making a final hydrocarbon discovery in the Flemish Pass for Equinor.



Noia CEO Charlene Johnson

## CEO Corner

So much has changed since the last edition of Noia News that I hardly know where to begin. Our industry is facing a crisis, with our members suffering the effects of COVID-19, the collapse of oil prices and a generally repressed economy.

While there is so much to say about this, first I would like to offer a thank you to Noia's members for supporting the organization and each other. I recognize the last eight months have been extremely difficult as most of you have seen colleagues leave your organization and you have wondered how you will make payroll, pay rent or simply survive. Not a week goes by that I do not hear heartbreaking stories and I know this situation is taking a terrible toll.

Despite this, our members have stood with us as we strived to have our elected officials recognize the desperate need of our industry and provide support. After months of advocacy we did receive help, and while it may not have been everything we needed, the financial assistance provided by the federal government is a step in the right direction. It recognizes there is a problem and hopefully provides us with resources to begin recovery. The exploration initiative announced by the provincial government should help us attract offshore exploration, activity key to our future success.

Yet, much work remains. Layoffs continue and the future of the global industry is in question. Exploration and development expenditures are scarcer than ever.

Predictions for consumer consumption and the price of oil are as varied as the global response to the pandemic. At Noia we also face significant challenges. Not being able to host our annual June conference is one tangible example. Like you, we have been forced to do things differently while continuing to provide value. For the first time, Fall Seminar is virtual and you are reading a digital-only Noia News. We are examining ways to offer the services you have come to expect from Noia, just a little differently.

While I admit it was hard to remain optimistic, the resilience of the people who work in our industry helped reaffirm my belief that we will succeed. It is going to take a lot of hard work, but that is not something we have ever shied away from.

As always, feel free to contact me about how Noia can best help your organization and our industry. Working together and supporting one another, we will persevere.

Stay well,

Charlene





# LOCAL VALUES, GLOBAL SOLUTIONS.



Stena Drilling's drillship, *Stena Forth*, will arrive in Newfoundland and Labrador waters next year to conduct CNOOC's drilling program. Photo credit: [www.stena-drilling.com](http://www.stena-drilling.com)

# Industry 101 – Exploration Drilling: Breaking new ground in the search for oil

Prospectivity plays a critical role in the search for new hydrocarbon discoveries offshore. Industry operators use the best available tools – including detailed 3D seismic surveys – to inform that search, but no one truly knows what is down there until they lower a drill bit into the earth.

This is the role of exploration drilling – to bore into the ocean floor and reveal whether oil or gas is actually contained in the targeted geological formation. Even with the best research, the typical success rate globally is one well in 10. In the Newfoundland offshore, that rate is closer to one in six, due largely to the excellent quality of the province's prospectivity work, which has resulted in a flourish of exploration activity in recent years.

Oil companies review seismic survey information and other data to identify the areas of a prospect that are most likely to contain hydrocarbons and confirm their well thought out theories about the geological structure itself. They then hire drill rigs on a competitive basis to carry out that exploration program, working with the drilling contractor to execute a drilling plan that will hit their target zones in the prospect accurately.

Drilling a typical exploration well can cost anywhere from \$80 to \$120 million – sometimes more – depending on what factors are at play and what complications may arise during drilling.



“Some oil companies like to share the risk around,” said Captain Kristopher Drodge, offshore installation manager with Transocean. “For this reason, they will typically bid jointly on parcels of land, with the majority shareholder usually taking the role of lead operator. They will then put the exploration drilling program out to tender. It could be anything from a single well to an extended contract for multiple wells, and several operators could take turns using the same rig for various programs over a number of years. These decisions are usually driven by market conditions and the short- to long-term outlook for that particular jurisdiction.”

Operators must receive environmental assessment approval on exploration wells before proceeding and rigs must complete an extensive regulatory review process before being certified to operate offshore. These procedures, processes and approvals can spend many months of research before a rig can proceed to its drilling location.

Semi-submersible drill rigs, which float on submerged pontoons, have been the most commonly used floating installations on the shallow waters of the Grand Banks.

“The rigs are held in position by a mooring system composed of mooring chain and anchors, which can be deployed out from the rig to lengths of 1800 metres or more, depending on the rig and system used. Maintaining position with a mooring system is suited to shallow water,” said Drodge. “Dynamic positioning (DP) or thruster-assist can assist to hold them precisely in position, but the moorings are important in shallow water in order to maintain tight “watch circles,” or restrictions on how much the rig can move above the well location. This helps prevent damage to rig or subsea equipment when connected to the well, especially in harsh weather environments like ours. DP alone – whether with semi-submersible rigs or drill ships – is more ideally suited for the deep waters beyond the Grand Banks.”

The installations are either towed or sail under their own power to the drilling location, where they are positioned in place to very precise coordinates.

“The well location and moorings – if required – will have been predetermined, the ocean floor will have been surveyed and sometimes you will need to plan around





# Fuelling forward.

We continue to be a safe and reliable source of fuel to the offshore industry.

For a quote, call us at  
1.866.865.8800 or email  
[IOCCustomerSupport@irvingoil.com](mailto:IOCCustomerSupport@irvingoil.com).

existing subsea assets, such as wellheads, pipelines and so on. There will be a meticulous understanding of whatever is already out there and this is taken into account.”

In this process, environmental mitigation efforts to protect sensitive marine life and their habitats, such as the use of remotely-operated vehicles (ROVs), may also be used as a non-destructive means of identifying biological and environmental characteristics of the seabed.

Finally, it is time to “spud” the well; that is, to begin drilling into the earth. Most drilling activity happens under the water and inside the earth, so the most obvious feature of any drilling rig is the drilling derrick, a metal-framed structure that towers high over the rig.

The derrick contains powerful hoisting equipment that lifts heavy sections of steel tubing, sorts it onto vertical racks, and moves it into position for well construction. High up on the derrick is the “topdrive,” a powerful motor that turns the drill string and circulates drilling mud. Far below is the “moon pool,” an area below the drill floor that is open to the ocean below. It is through this opening that the business end of the rig – the drill bit – is lowered.

There are floorhands assigned to the drill floor to assist the driller, who manages the team from the control station, commonly known as the “doghouse.” Using high-tech touch screens and joysticks, they move the sections of drill pipe into place and lower them toward the ocean floor, adding more lengths of pipe as it descends toward the bottom. These sections of pipe, along with the drill bit and related sensor equipment, are known as the “drill string.”

As the drill string nears the earth the top drive is activated, causing the drill bit to begin turning in a clockwise direction. The top drive also circulates drilling mud down through the centre of the drill pipe to the drill bit, where it exits through openings in the bit itself. This washes the drill cuttings away from the bit and circulates them to the surface, for cleaning and disposal, after the blow-out preventer (BOP) and riser have been installed. The drilling mud also provides pressure stability in the well.

As the well progresses, the BOP, riser string and telescopic slip joint are installed. The riser string is the large bore pipe that connects the BOP on the ocean floor to the rig, allowing the drill string easy guidance into the well and enabling circulation of the drilling mud. The slip joint works like a shock absorber to counter the vertical movement of the installation due to wave action.

## Quick Reference - Rig Components

### Drilling derrick

Metal-framed structure that towers high over the rig

### Topdrive

Powerful motor that turns the drillstring and circulates drilling mud

### Moon pool

Area below the drill floor that is open to the ocean below

### Drill bit

Tool used to crush or cut rock, located at the bottom of the drillstring

### Doghouse

Control station from where the driller manages the drill team

### Drillstring

Sections of drill pipe, along with the drill bit and sensor equipment, that is lowered to the seabed

### Blow out preventer (BOP)

A heavy-duty piece of equipment that can seal around the outside of the drillstring and cut the drillstring, if needed

### Riser string

The large bore pipe that connects the BOP on the ocean floor to the rig

### Telescopic slip joint

A “shock absorber” that counters the vertical movement of the installation due to wave action

### Surface casing

Heavy steel pipe that is inserted into the first section of a well

### Bottomhole assembly

Lower portion of the drillstring



The moment when the drill bit first contacts the ocean floor is a critical stage, says Stuart Addison, rig manager with the *Stena IceMax*, a drill ship that had been scheduled to drill offshore Newfoundland and Labrador this year for CNOOC Canada. The drilling program, which has been delayed until 2021, will now use the *Stena Forth* instead.

"At this point, you don't have a riser in place to guide the drill – that will be installed a bit later – so you need to lower the drill string very slowly. Without the riser there, any excessive weight applied to the drill bit will cause the string to bend and steer the drill bit off course. It is crucial that the first sections of the well are drilled vertically to avoid complications later in the well construction."

When visualizing this process, people sometimes imagine the drill bit being driven into the ocean floor the way a woodworker might push a power drill into wood. "You don't need to apply force at all," Addison said. "You are lowering a drill string that could weigh 500,000 pounds or more. Just lowering the weight of the string creates enough pressure for the drill bit to bore into the earth."

The first section of well will typically be 36 inches wide – though this can vary – and around three hundred feet deep. Into this hole is inserted equal lengths of heavy steel pipe. This is known as "surface casing." It will be somewhat narrower than the hole itself – usually 30 inches – with cement circulated into the exterior of the pipe to secure it in place and bond it to the formation. Subsequent sections of the well will be narrower and narrower. For example, the casing inserted into a typical offshore well would have an initial diameter of 30 inches, then progressively smaller diameters, down to 5-1/2 inches.

"Imagine a telescope viewed from the side, with the lens side toward the top of the well and the eyepiece at the bottom," Addison explained. "That will give you a rough idea of the contours of well construction."

There are potential hazards associated with exploration drilling. There is the possibility of a loss of well control, resulting in a spill of hydrocarbons into the environment.

"These events are very rare and this is where the drilling mud plays a primary role," Addison said. "We





Semi-submersible drill rigs like the Transocean Barents are used almost exclusively in the shallow waters of the Grand Banks. Photo courtesy of Transocean.

fill the hole with mud of a certain weight, to match the opposing pressure from the formation itself. Drilling mud is actually the primary safety feature in place to prevent the loss of well control. Secondary protection is provided by the BOP, a heavy-duty piece of equipment that can seal around the outside of the drill string, as well as cut the drill string if need be. Numerous parameters are constantly monitored on the surface by the driller and others. Key indicators are closely tracked and if a well control issue is identified the BOP can be triggered remotely.”

There is also the possibility, however small, that the drill bit could intersect a pocket of H<sub>2</sub>S, which contains small amounts of hydrogen sulfide, a highly toxic chemical.

“The drilling rig is equipped with multiple gas detectors in key areas that provide early warning of sour gas. As well, a service company is employed to complete multiple tasks, one of which is constant monitoring of drilling mud returning from the well to detect the presence of any gas, including H<sub>2</sub>S, and alert personnel to any hazards,” Addison said. “In such an instance, workers would quickly put on protective breathing apparatus. But encounters with sour gas are extremely rare.”

With all that drilling mud extending thousands of feet above the drill bit, any hydrocarbon discoveries clearly won’t come gushing up onto the drill floor. How, then, do the drillers know when they’ve made a discovery?

“The drillstring is so much more than lengths of pipe with a drill bit on the end,” Addison said. “There are a number of sophisticated instruments integrated within the “bottomhole assembly” (BHA) of the drillstring, very

near the drill bit. There are companies that specialize in “measurement while drilling” (MWD) technology, which uses a multitude of technologies to determine everything we need to know about the formation that is being penetrated. These sensors tell us immediately when we have intersected hydrocarbons, along with other information that is useful in assessing the discovery.”

Both Addison’s drill ship, the *Stena IceMax*, and the *Stena Forth*, are designed for drilling in the deep waters and harsh environment beyond the Grand Banks. According to Stena Drilling’s web site, both are dynamically positioned, class 3 drillships, capable of drilling in water depths up to 10,000 feet and into the earth up to 35,000 feet (40,000 with upgrades).

“Yes, it is quite mind-boggling when you stop to think about it,” Addison said. “That’s almost two miles of water before we start drilling and almost seven miles into the earth. But it’s obviously based on accepted science, is proven safe and is in use right now at oil producing regions all over the world.”

The drilling program may discover hydrocarbons, potentially converting a good prospect into a significant discovery. When this happens, the operator will often take core samples of the rock to better understand the reservoir potential. According to regulations that govern offshore activity in eastern Canada, operators must make the results of exploration drilling public not later than two years after well completion.

A future issue of Noia News will cover other aspects of offshore drilling. ■



It's been a tough year.  
Focus on your business.  
Leave the **logistics** to us.



Customs Brokerage  
Freight Forwarding  
Warehousing & Distribution  
Immigration Consulting  
Marine Agency

[pfcollins.com](http://pfcollins.com)



**PFCollins**  
International Trade Solutions





The West White Rose project was close to 60 per cent complete when the project was shut down. Photo courtesy of Husky Energy.

## 2020 Industry Wrap-Up

### Hibernia

Newfoundland and Labrador's first offshore installation ceased drilling operations late last spring and Parker Drilling began laying off contractual personnel in June. The company holds the seven-year drilling contract, which was awarded in 2016. According to Unifor, the union representing the workers, the cessation may impact the jobs of up to 200 workers. Although oil production will continue, it will rely on already-identified reserves.

### Terra Nova

On December 19, 2019, the Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) ordered a suspension of production-related operations on the *Terra Nova* FPSO over concerns about redundant fire water pump systems on board the installation. Ten days later, the offshore regulator opened another investigation after a worker on the FPSO was injured by a fall from a ladder while gas testing.

Following the two incidents, on January 20, the Board issued a second order to Suncor Energy and commenced an enquiry into safety issues on the vessel.



"Following a review of the December 29, 2019 incident by C-NLOPB safety personnel on-board the *Terra Nova* FPSO, the chief safety officer has ordered Suncor to immediately cease all confined space work and that all confined space work policies and procedures be reviewed by Suncor and updated for compliance with regulatory requirements and to ensure worker safety," the C-NLOPB said in a media release.

While dealing with these issues, Suncor Energy continued to advance plans for *Terra Nova*'s asset life extension. Designed to position the vessel for reliable operations for the next 10-plus years and add about 80 million barrels of oil production, the FPSO had been scheduled to depart in May for a shipyard in Spain. However, impacts of COVID-19 on the shipyard resulted in postponement of Suncor's plans.

On May 30, Suncor reported a fire coming from the low-pressure separator on the FPSO and that it had been extinguished without injuries.

*Terra Nova* was taken off-field over the summer and moored in Conception Bay, between Bell Island and St.

Philip's, where its turret cover plate was installed. It was announced in October that preservation work on the vessel was underway and, once complete at the end of the month, approximately 100 contractors would be laid off and the FPSO moved to the Bull Arm fabrication facility to be docked quayside for at least six months while Suncor decides its next steps.

*Terra Nova* has not produced oil since December 2019.

### White Rose

Drill rig Henry Goodrich finished its latest contract with Husky Energy and arrived at Bull Arm on January 29, where it is being cold stacked. The rig has been part of the local offshore since 2000. Its final campaign with Husky included infill development drilling, exploration drilling and the first well work-overs at the White Rose field.

The C-NLOPB posted two incident disclosures for the *SeaRose* FPSO in 2020. On June 18, 1098 litres of a diluted anti-microbial agent was released and on August 27, a near miss was reported in which a 0.7-kilogram



If you want to see the bigger picture, you'll need a wider lens.

Realtime maintenance integrity tools for exploration and production operations. Our suite of products empower you to take control over your operations' information - that's complete focus on the safety, risk and integrity of your largest assets.

Oh and did we mention? Our lens comes with unrivaled scope and scalability.

radiant<sup>360</sup>

radiant360.com

metal cone appeared to have fallen to a laydown area from the top of the vessel's turret. No personnel were injured in either incident. In October, Husky was issued a notice of non-compliance by the C-NLOPB's chief conservation officer in relation to the June 18th spill.

Husky Energy confirmed October 7 that an unspecified number of its Newfoundland and Labrador personnel had been laid off from their jobs, effective that day.

### West White Rose

Husky Energy announced March 22 a "systematic and orderly suspension of major construction activities" related to the West White Rose project. CEO Rob Peabody said the decision was out of concern for COVID-19 transmission among its employees, contractors and the community.

A month later, the company confirmed that the project would not resume in 2020, telling CBC News "Due to the time required to safely secure sites, and to ramp them back up again, combined with uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 timelines, construction is

suspended for the remainder of the year and the timing for restarting construction activities is undetermined at this time."

Husky also informed CBC that first oil would be delayed by a year, to 2023.

Then, in early September, the company announced a review of the project, which at shutdown was 60 per cent complete.

"A full review of scope, schedule and cost of this project is critical, given the minimum one-year delay to first oil caused by COVID-19, and our priority of maintaining the strength of our balance sheet with ample liquidity," said Peabody. "Unfortunately, the delay caused by COVID-19 and continued market uncertainty leaves us no choice but to undertake a full review of the project and, by extension, our future operations in Atlantic Canada."

Although some work has continued in Marystown on the living quarters, helideck, lifeboat stations and flare boom and in Ingleside, Texas on the main topsides,



## Local Team, Proven **Success.**

We know Newfoundland and Labrador. And we know the harshness that projects here must endure. Since 2001, Atlantic XL has met and exceeded the challenge, with our talented, local team. Delivering the best every day.

**18 years on Canada's east coast**

- ⬡ Designed, installed and commissioned offshore telecommunications and navigation systems.
- ⬡ Atlantic XL is an XL Group company. XL Group is a multi-discipline technology organization with 28 years of successful projects in UK oil and gas and beyond.

[atlanticxl.com](http://atlanticxl.com)





the scopes of work are associated with the controlled rampdown of major construction and include safety and quality maintenance scopes, as well as the receipt and maintenance of pre-ordered equipment.

Immediately following the review announcement, Husky spokespersons confirmed the company is seeking financial assistance to complete the West White Rose project from the provincial and federal governments.

"We are asking the government to consider a direct investment in the project, similar to Hibernia," Husky spokeswoman Kim Guttormson told The Canadian Press. "This isn't a handout or a loan, it's an investment that would provide a return to taxpayers."

Over the following days, the provincial government said its financial circumstances would not allow such an investment in the project and federal natural resources minister, Seamus O'Regan, stated he was in discussions with the province about how to support the industry, at large. However, on October 16, O'Regan told CBC News that the federal government would not take an equity stake in the project.

"We'll continue to talk about where we can be helpful, but a large equity position I don't think is in the cards," he said.

### Husky Energy – Cenovus Merger

Husky Energy and Cenovus Energy announced the creation of a new integrated oil and natural gas company on October 25. The transaction, valued at \$23.6 billion, was unanimously approved by the boards of both companies and is expected to close in the first quarter of 2021. The new company will operate as Cenovus Energy and remain headquartered in Calgary.

A few days later, on October 27, a company spokesperson told CBC News that the merger would result in human resources reductions of up to 25 per cent of the combined 8,600 employees and contractors. Most of the reductions were expected to take place in Calgary. Also that day, a Husky Energy official confirmed to local media outlets that the 2021 construction season for the West White Rose project was cancelled.



## TRAIN ANYWHERE. BE READY.

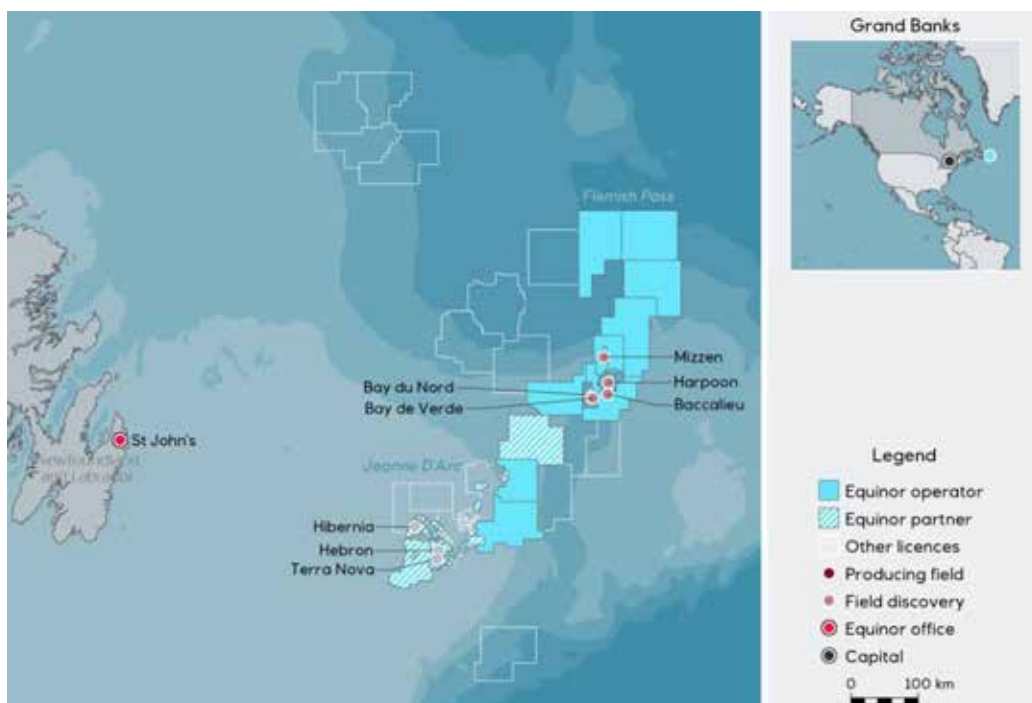
Our line of workplace simulators allow lifeboat and fast rescue boat training in offices, onboard vessels and rigs, and at remote locations.

Competence, confidence and certification at your fingertips.



[virtualmarine.ca](http://virtualmarine.ca)





The Bay du Nord discovery is located in the Flemish Pass. Photo credit: Equinor website

## Hebron

The Hebron platform reached a production milestone of 150,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) in November 2019. This was ahead of its original schedule and driven by accelerated well delivery and well performance. In fact, the platform surpassed 150,000 bpd on several days last November.

An even larger milestone was reached September 5, 2020 when ExxonMobil announced that the platform had produced its 100 millionth barrel of oil that day.

A "near miss" incident bulletin filed by the C-NLOPB disclosed that a piece of a temporary handrail, weighing approximately nine kilograms, had fallen to a lower deck June 24 after being bumped by a container. No personnel were in the area at the time.

## Bay du Nord

In mid-March, Equinor announced the Bay du Nord project, consisting of three light oil discoveries in the Flemish Pass, would be deferred due to low oil prices. The project area, located about 500 kilometres east of St. John's in approximately 1200 metres of water depth, is estimated to hold 300 million barrels of oil and would provide 11,000 person-years of in-province

employment, as well as \$3.5 billion in revenues to the provincial government. The announcement also stated that an investment decision could be made in 2021, with first oil to be produced in 2025.

Over the spring and summer, Equinor proceeded with its drilling program, on exploration licence (EL) 1156, with the Transocean Barents drilling exploration wells Cappahayden K-67 and K-67Z and Cabriole G-92.

Equinor announced October 29 that hydrocarbons had been found during the drilling program, but that it was too early to provide specific information on volumes.

## Other Flemish Pass news

CNOOC announced March 31 that it was delaying its 2020 Flemish Pass exploration drilling campaign in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Stena IceMAX* drillship had been contracted for the campaign, which had included one well with an option for a second.

In better news, Stena Drilling announced via social media October 19 that it had signed a contract with CNOOC to use mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) *Stena Forth* for a one-well Flemish Pass drilling program to commence between April and June 2021 and last





Stena Forth is contracted to complete a one-well drilling program in the Flemish Pass for CNOOC during the spring of 2021. Photo credit: [www.stena-drilling.com](http://www.stena-drilling.com)

approximately 90 days. This will be the first visit to Newfoundland and Labrador waters for the MODU, which is a harsh environment, dynamically-positioned class 3 drillship capable of operating in water depths up to 10,000 feet.

### North Atlantic Refining

North Atlantic Refining in Come By Chance announced plans in October 2019 to build an overland pipeline connecting the refinery to the Newfoundland Transshipment Terminal, 2.5 kilometres away in Arnold's Cove. The proposal was registered with the province on October 9, 2019 for environmental assessment, public comment was invited and received and the minister released the project on February 4, 2020.

The pipeline would be used to move oil from the transshipment terminal to the refinery, expanding the global market for Newfoundland and Labrador oil as Come By Chance is able to accommodate some larger crude carriers that are beyond the capability of the Arnold's Cove dock. As proposed, the pipeline would have a pumping station at each end, allowing oil to flow in both directions and creating a back-up route for when either facility is offline.

In late March, North Atlantic Refining announced it would stop refining oil due to COVID-19 concerns and

began to transition to standby mode. It was expected at the time that the shutdown could last for two to five months. Although the employment impact at the time was uncertain, hundreds of workers were laid off.

On May 28, a news release from Irving Oil revealed that the Atlantic Canadian company had reached an agreement to purchase the refinery from its current owner, Silverpeak, subject to regulatory review and other sale conditions. Over the following months, concerns that Irving Oil would shut the facility were eased by assurances that the intention was to re-start operations.

Another expression of interest in purchasing the refinery – should the Irving Oil deal not work out – was received by the provincial government in mid-July from Origin International, which describes itself as an international hydrocarbon recycling company. CBC News reported July 20 that a letter to natural resources minister, Siobhan Coady, stated the company would "transform" the refinery "into a more environmentally sustainable operation of the future" and the intention "would be to start the refinery back up with no public investment required. Our investors are not interested in adding any unnecessary burden to Canadian taxpayers."

It was confirmed October 6 that the Irving Oil purchase deal had collapsed and concerns again began to

circulate that the refinery may be facing permanent closure and the loss of hundreds of jobs. Both the premier and energy minister, Andrew Parsons, commented on the news, stating that the provincial government was talking regularly with Silverpeak and that the company was continuing to look at options.

By October 27, concerns were being expressed that the refinery could be maintained on “warm idle” and become nothing more than a tank farm for the storage and distribution of fuels. On October 6, a reservation of the company name “NARL Terminal” was made through the province’s Registry of Companies.

### Funding for the offshore

An Emission Reduction Fund of \$750 million was announced by the federal government April 17. Designed to reduce emissions in Canada’s oil & gas sector, with a focus on methane, the fund provides primarily repayable contributions to conventional and offshore oil & gas firms to support their investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Of this amount, \$75 million was allocated to Newfoundland and Labrador’s offshore sector.

After months of repeated calls from the oil & gas sector for help from the federal and provincial governments to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and the world-wide industry downturn, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced a new offshore exploration initiative on September 24 which would provide offshore lease holders with financial incentives to drill more wells.

Noia and many industry players have insisted for months that the best way to get the industry moving again, and to return laid off personnel to work, was to provide incentives to get offshore drilling moving.

This new initiative will allow all future bid deposit forfeitures from the C-NLOPB’s land sale process to be reinvested into funding a percentage of well costs beyond the first well drilled on a licence.

Under the land sale process, successful bidders are required to post a security deposit for 25 per cent of the work expenditure bid. If the bidder does not meet its work commitment, the security deposit is forfeit and the investment opportunity is lost.

The following day, the Government of Canada announced \$320 million dollars for Newfoundland and Labrador to “support jobs and ensure the sustainable, long-term, lower-emitting future for our offshore.”

The provincial government has established a volunteer task force to determine how the federal money will be spent. Chaired by 2020 Noia Board Chair Karen Winsor and former Board member Bill Fanning, the group also includes 19 others. The task force is structured under four streams of expertise: policy and regulation; exploration and development; energy transition; and supply chain. Announced on October 15, the task force has a 90-day window to make its recommendations.

### NL land tenure activity and 2020 resource assessment

In November 2019, the C-NLOPB released the results of Call for Bids NL19-CFB01 (Exploration Licences, South Eastern Newfoundland Region) and Call for Bids NL19-CFB02 (Exploration Licences, Jeanne d’Arc Region). There were three successful bids for land having a cumulative value of more than \$28 million.

To assist the Board in choosing a sector for introduction into the scheduled land tenure system, the C-NLOPB issued Call for Nominations (Areas of Interest) NL20 – CFN01 on January 9 for the Eastern Newfoundland Region. Nomination submissions or comments were due March 11, 2020 with a resulting Call for Nominations (Parcels) to open in August 2021. On June 11, the formation of the new offshore sector, called NL05-EN, was announced. Exact sector boundaries were released September 9.

The 2020 Call for Bids NL20-CFB01 – the province’s fifth scheduled licence round – was also announced June 11 with a submission deadline of November 4, 2020. Seventeen parcels of land totalling more than four-million hectares were released within the Eastern Newfoundland Region. Six of these parcels are newly-posted acreage within the Orphan Basin and were the focus of the 2020 Independent Oil and Gas Resource Assessment. Released September 29, the assessment showed 11.1 billion barrels of oil and 24.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas potential.

“For the first time in our offshore, 90 percent of the license round is covered with 3D seismic data and the remaining 10 percent is covered by 5×5 2D which has

provided us with an enhanced level of certainty in these resource numbers,” said Jim Keating, executive vice president, offshore development for Nalcor Energy – Oil & Gas. “The significant amount of data covering the area and the evolution of information gathering has presented greater imaging and a deeper understanding of the resource density, enabling us to identify over 40 prospects in an area.”

The C-NLOPB issued Call for Nominations (Parcels) NL20-CFN01 in the South Eastern Newfoundland Region and Call for Nominations (Parcels) NL20-CFN03 for the Jeanne d’Arc Region on September 9. The results of these nomination calls will assist the Board in selecting parcels of land to be included in the 2021 bid calls, which will close in November next year.

### Regional assessment

In June, the provincial and federal governments announced that a regulation for a regional assessment related to offshore exploration had been approved after a thorough consultation process by an external committee appointed by both governments. The

intention of the regional assessment is for offshore exploration programs to be exempted from the designated project list of the *Impact Assessment Act*. Due to the frequency of exploration and the acquired knowledge of their impacts from decades of activity offshore Newfoundland and Labrador, many in the industry stated that a separate environmental review for each exploration program was not necessary.

The regional assessment allows for the C-NLOPB to be the authority responsible to ensure a company undertaking offshore exploration complies with the conditions of the exploration activity. Noia had been advocating for a regional assessment for some time as the impacts of exploration programs are well understood and the previous approval process was arduous and placed the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore industry at a competitive disadvantage.

### Environmental reviews of offshore activities

Several operators have proposed exploration programs for offshore Newfoundland and Labrador in recent months. During various stages of environmental review

# Making the middle the most important part.

Wood delivers comprehensive services to support its customers, from concept to decommissioning. Across a range of energy, process and utility markets we look to extend the lifespan of your assets, making the middle the most important part of your assets story.

wood.



Noia has provided comment on the programs and supported their approval. Those operators and basins were:

- BHP (Orphan)
- BP Canada (Orphan)
- Chevron Canada (West Flemish Pass)
- CNOOC (Flemish Pass)
- Equinor Canada (Flemish Pass)
- Husky Energy (Jeanne d'Arc)

As well, in September Noia provided comments to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada supporting the Environmental Impact Statement of the Core Bay du Nord Development and Project Area Tiebacks (Bay du Nord) in the Flemish Pass Basin as submitted by the proponent, Equinor Canada. In the submission Noia highlighted the important fact the project will help the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore supply the world demand for oil with a product that is lower in greenhouse gas emissions as it will "produce approximately half of the greenhouse gas emissions of the current lowest emitting production facility offshore Newfoundland and Labrador."

### Permanent directors appointed to Oil & Gas Corporation

Former natural resources minister, Siobhan Coady, welcomed a new permanent board of directors to the Oil and Gas Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador July 17. The appointments were made through the Independent Appointments Commission process and were effective immediately. Members include Heather Jacobs (chair), Bernard (Tanny) Collins, Charles Randell, Wayne Chipman and Pierre (Perry) Tobin, who contributed to the interim board. New members are Leslie Grattan, Richard Daw, Shelly Leighton and Jennifer Warren. The individuals represent a broad range of experience and skills, including finance, engineering, geoscience, business and legal.

### Three seismic surveys completed

Three new offshore surveys were completed this past summer by Norwegian firm PGS. Using the *Ramform Atlas* and *Ramform Titan*, the 3D surveys – Blomidon, Torngat Extension and South Bank – covered more than 8,000 square kilometres of offshore acreage in areas to be released for land sale in 2021 and 2022.

"Canada remains a good investment for explorers and we experience significant interest for our MultiClient

GeoStreamer data in the Newfoundland and Labrador area as GeoStreamer data continues to enhance understanding and unlock new potential," said Neil Paddy, new ventures manager for Canada at PGS in a news release posted to the company's website in May.

### Province and industry commit to net zero by 2050

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced its commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 in a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on May 26. The letter, from former Premier Dwight Ball, stated that it shares the federal government's goals of environmental protection and reducing carbon emissions, including those from the oil & gas sector.

On June 10, 2020, the House of Assembly unanimously passed a Private Members Motion supporting the commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in Newfoundland and Labrador. The motion highlighted the low-carbon intensity of the province's oil at extraction and that soon, 98 per cent of electricity used in the province will be generated from renewable energy. It also committed to a five-year plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The clean energy space is one Noia has been working in as part of a collaborative effort with the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industries Association (NEIA), the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Nalcor Energy – Oil and Gas and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP). Since 2019, a committee consisting of members from these organizations has been examining clean tech in the offshore oil & gas industry and recently secured funding from the federal and provincial governments to examine ways to lower the carbon footprint of the offshore. More specifically, a number of RFPs have been issued to look at tangible actions that could be taken in this sphere, such as electrification of offshore facilities through the vast hydroelectric resources of the province or powering production facilities with offshore wind. This collaborative approach will undoubtedly have a positive affect upon the industry as it moves forward with lower carbon outputs through clean tech.

### Accelerated bid deposit write-down program

In August, the Government of Canada announced an accelerated bid deposit write-down program which



New acquisition in 2020 expands the already comprehensive PGS GeoStreamer 2D and 3D data library for Newfoundland and Labrador

Photo credit: PGS website

provides a faster refund on bid deposits that operators are required to provide to the C-NLOPB as part of the offshore land tenure process.

Operators successful in the land tenure process must provide a security deposit that is 25 per cent of their total bid. The accelerated bid deposit write-down program will incent operators to commence exploration wells quicker as it provides refunds for programs started early in the licence period they hold. The earlier a program begins and/or the more exploration wells undertaken, the larger the refund.

### Governments update R&D targets

Late in December 2019, the governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador, along with the C-NLOPB, adjusted the formula used to calculate research and development (R&D) expenditures by producing operators in the province's offshore. A ceiling of 0.5 per cent of project revenues will be used in calculating R&D expenditures for oil producers. It replaces a calculation using a Statistics Canada benchmark that had increased substantially since 2014, due mainly to the global decline in oil & gas prices. The measure will be implemented retroactively to 2017.

### Two new facilities proposed for Southern Shore

There are two new industrial infrastructure proposals in the works, both for the Southern Shore of the Avalon Peninsula.

On January 2, Baker Hughes Canada registered a new project proposal for environmental assessment with the provincial Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. The Cape Broyle Jet Perforating Gun Assembly Facility project description says the company plans to construct a facility "to assemble pre-fabricated components into jet perforating guns and store them locally for use by operators in the Newfoundland offshore oil & gas industry. The project will include the construction of a 300-metre access road from Route 210 to a storage yard where a gun-loading facility and Type 4 magazines for the storage of explosives will be built... No explosive devices will be detonated at the site location and the combustion of explosive material is not a part of the activities carried out at jet perforating gun assembly facilities."

The project was released from review May 6 with a number of conditions.

On March 2, the province released another proposal from environmental assessment, this one a spool base on the north shore of Fermeuse harbour. The proponent is Fermeuse Enterprises Ltd.

According to the environmental assessment registration documents, the spool base "is a specialized onshore construction facility which uses advanced welding and piping technologies to cost-effectively support offshore oil & gas production. It provides advanced welding and other technologies to methodically assemble rigid pipes of various diameters into predetermined lengths for spooling onto a reel lay vessel for offshore deployment." Although "shovel-ready," the project is now on pause, given current industry conditions.

### Nova Scotia LNG

Bear Head LNG Corp and Bear Head Pipeline Corp applied in October 2019 to the Nova Scotia government to extend their construction permit to build an LNG conversion plant at Bear Head and a 62-kilometre gas pipeline to feed it. Government approved the three-year extension, which would have expired December 31, 2019. However, on July 22, Nova Scotia's Chronicle Herald newspaper reported that its parent company, Australia's LNG Ltd, had the company up for sale.

In October 2019, Pieridae Energy closed its \$190-million purchase of Royal Dutch Shell's midstream and upstream assets in the southern Alberta foothills, including the Jumping Pound, Caroline and Waterton assets. The combined production of 29,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day would add to the gas supply that would be essential for Pieridae's Goldboro LNG Project in Nova Scotia to proceed. However, in May, the Alberta Energy Regulator refused to transfer the licences over concerns about how liability for site cleanup would be divided between the two companies.

Although the final investment decision on proceeding with the project had been slated for the third quarter of 2020, the company announced in April that, due to COVID-19, the deadline had been extended to June 2021.

### New sources of crude for the Saint John Refinery

Irving Oil applied to the federal government under the *Coasting Trade Act* in April for permission to use foreign oil tankers for a period of one year to carry crude from

ports in British Columbia, Gulf Coast terminals in the United States and offshore Newfoundland and Labrador to its refinery in Saint John. West coast Canada and American crude would be transported via the Panama Canal to its east coast destination.

The rationale for the application was the significant uncertainty in energy markets and marine supply chains caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, dramatic changes in global crude oil markets and the closure of the North Atlantic oil refinery. Appropriately-scaled Canadian vessels are all currently in long-term use for other purposes, the application stated, so unavailable to Irving Oil for their transportation requirements.

Federal approval came through in May and on July 1 Cenovus Energy shared through social media that its first shipment had departed Burnaby for Saint John on board tanker *Cabo de Hornos*. The tanker arrived in Saint John July 20 and unloaded an estimated 450,000 barrels of crude.

Additional shipments are expected at the east coast refinery until April 20, 2021 when the exemption expires.

### Sable and Deep Panuke

Late in December 2019, the Noble Regina Allen jack-up drilling rig made a reappearance in Halifax harbour, where it tied up in Woodside. The rig first arrived in Halifax late in 2017, after which it was towed to the Sable field to begin plugging and capping Sable's 21 gas wells. The rig was to proceed next to the Deep Panuke project to continue decommissioning work there.

In its offshore half year 2020 earnings report, SBM Offshore stated the Deep Panuke platform had been safely de-installed from the offshore field in July and the next phase of the project would be to prepare the platform for transport to a recycling yard, with yard selection slated for the second half of 2020. SBM had chartered and installed the jack-up for Encana (now Ovintiv) in 2011.

The *Thialf*, a semi-submersible crane vessel operated by Heerema Marine Contractors, arrived in Nova Scotia waters in June to work on the final phase of Sable de-commissioning. The ship is a heavy lift vessel that is one of only a handful in the world capable of lifting the topside and jacket components in a single lift. Once removed, Sable platform components will be brought into sheltered water where they will be secured onto



barges for an ocean voyage and brought to an international demolition yard.

C-NSOPB offshore activity reports show that work on only the Venture platform of the Sable complex remains to be completed, with work by *Thialf* on all other components completed.

### Corridor Resources

Corridor Resources did not extend its license for the Old Harry exploration prospect off Newfoundland's west coast in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The company failed to file a drilling deposit by January 15 to extend the license, so the land reverted to the Crown on that date.

Later that month, Corridor Resources announced that it had entered into an investment agreement that would result in a new management team, reconstitution of the board of directors and a name change to Headwater Exploration Inc., subject to shareholder approval.

The new management team, it was announced, would take a unique approach to oil & gas development, which would include giving full-cycle consideration to profitably reducing emissions and water use while appropriately stewarding all abandonment obligations.

### Other Maritimes news

On January 15, BP Canada notified the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NSOPB) that it would forfeit its \$1-million drilling deposit paid in 2019 and pay a further drilling deposit of \$2 million to extend Period 1 for an additional year. This additional extension period will expire on January 14, 2021.

Nova Scotia's 2020 call for bids on offshore land was postponed in May following the joint agreement of the province's energy minister and federal natural resources minister.

"COVID-19 continues to have a dramatic impact on government priorities and activities as well as the activities of the global petroleum sector. As Nova Scotia and Canada begin to recover and take steps to reduce restrictions, I would be pleased to reconsider the Fundamental Decisions the Call for Bids NS20-1 areas at some point in the future," wrote Nova Scotia minister of energy and mines, Derek Mombourquette, in a letter to the C-NSOPB Chair. ■

"COVID-19 continues to have a dramatic impact on government priorities and activities as well as the activities of the global petroleum sector. As Nova Scotia and Canada begin to recover and take steps to reduce restrictions, I would be pleased to reconsider the Fundamental Decisions the Call for Bids NS20-1 areas at some point in the future."

-- Minister Derek Mombourquette  
Nova Scotia Minister of Energy and Mines



## ATLANTIC TOWING

***Atlantic Towing*** brings world-class support to offshore oil & gas development in Canada and abroad, and is a proud member of J.D. Irving, Limited's Transportation and Logistics Division.

**CAPABLE, RELIABLE, FLEXIBLE -**  
That's the Atlantic Towing Advantage.

Halifax, NS | St. John's, NL | Saint John, NB | Victoria, BC | Point Fortin, Trinidad



Follow us on LinkedIn!



JDI Integrated  
Logistics,  
Connecting  
Customers  
to the World®





## Working to be part of a sustainable energy future

The oil & gas industry needs to be part of the solution as the world works towards a sustainable energy future. This was a key message when Noia partnered with the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association (NEIA) and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) to explore how the industry is responding to climate change and other environmental challenges.

Peter Tertzakian, executive director of ARC Energy Research Institute, addressed many of the critical issues facing industry, and Canada's role in meeting evolving energy demand. Gareth Wynn, Oil & Gas UK's stakeholder & communications director, presented on the industry's roadmap to support the United Kingdom's transition to net zero emissions.

They explained that the energy transition will take time and the best way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is by all sides working together, with Canada playing a key role.

"One system has to help the other if we are to achieve the goal that we all want, which is the reduction of emissions," Tertzakian stated. "If we think of it as a binary choice – renewables vs. fossil fuels - I don't think we're going to get very far."

Key to this transition is a recognition that oil & gas will have an important role to play for many years.

Although renewable energy has grown exponentially in recent years, it still represents a small portion of the energy sector. For example, combustion vehicles still account for 98 per cent of vehicles globally and the purchase of large, fuel-inefficient vehicles by consumers continues to rise. With consumption rates still increasing rapidly around the world, it will take progressive thinking and action on the part of individuals, as well as industry, to execute a successful energy transition.

"At this rate, it would take 400 years to displace oil & gas and we're aiming for net zero in 30 years," Tertzakian stated. "I think we have a big problem, but we can be part of the solution."

He noted that this energy transition is different than past transitions because of the sense of urgency and desire to force change in a very short period of time.

"We need to stick to a plan and stop shifting goal posts and making it more and more unrealistic, given the world's situation and impediments to change."

### The role of technology

Technology is helping drive sustainability. Wynn outlined some advancements being used in the United Kingdom

to help achieve its legislated target of net zero CO2 emissions by 2050. Virtual reality and 3D technology connect platform technicians with design engineers in real time, around the world, enabling more prompt maintenance work, decreased operational downtime and enhanced safety. Operators are also looking at the use of alternative energy sources for power generation, with some moving from diesel to gas and others electrifying platforms. The supply chain can play a role by using alternative fuel for supply ships and optimizing the number of platform workers and offshore supply trips, for example.

Wynn said residual emissions can be dealt with, in part, through carbon capture and storage. This process could precipitate the use of hydrogen, a clean burning fuel that can be separated from natural gas. The industrial process involved in carbon capture and storage results in large volumes of gas that need to be transported and stored, offering opportunities for offshore supply and service companies.

### Other agents of change

Tertzakian noted that technology is one of many factors necessary to achieve net zero. He said that focusing too much on technology is problematic because it sends a message to consumers that they don't have to change their consumption habits. Companies also need to rethink how they do business.

"The limiting factor is very much social and cultural," he said. "We have to move to a completely new mode of creating value and addressing big issues like sustainability."

Wynn said the workforce of the future will need to be adaptable.

"In our industry alone, we need 40,000 people between now and 2035, and about 10,000 of those will be coming into jobs that don't currently exist."

### Measuring and communicating change

The Canadian Standards Association is defining environmental, social and governance metrics – such as emissions per barrel and water usage – to enable industry certification. Tertzakian said those who can quantify sustainable change will be able to secure funding and financing and will become the preferred barrel in supply chains of the future.

Communicating about the industry's sustainability efforts is also critical.

"Our societal license to operate is becoming increasingly challenged," Wynn explained. "We need to tell our story and we need to be seen as part of the solution."

Tertzakian said the polarizing nature of social media makes face-to-face communication the preferred method for finding common ground. Both Tertzakian and Wynn say government and outside institutions need to be vocal industry supporters.

"We need to get back to the goal of reducing emissions and being sustainable," Tertzakian said. "And let's encourage Canadian industries to be the leaders in the world and not be villainized when we are actually trying to make a difference." ■





# "The Gateway to the North" - Our Port Shaped Our Past ~ Our Port Can Shape Your Future



## Lewisporte is a deep seaport along the north east coast of Central Newfoundland

Safe, connected, and affordable, Lewisporte has a broad range of cultural and recreation activities. Our town lies along one of the finest sailing bays on the island and has the largest Marina in Atlantic Canada

Lewisporte is strategically located for domestic and global business opportunities and is an important hub for the region. This thriving town is situated 11kms north of the Trans Canada Highways, just 30 minutes east to Gander International Airport and 30 minutes west to Grand Falls-Windsor.



## Port Facilities:

- Public wharf: North side 150m, South side 152m with roll-on-roll-off ramp, wharf width 38.7m
- Water depth: 7m (minimum)
- Tidal range: 1m
- Wharf elevation: 2.1m
- Enclosed warehousing: 2600 m<sup>2</sup>, direct access to 11,148 m<sup>2</sup> warehouse (largest available in NL)
- Laydown area: 4.5 hectares

## Services:

Fresh water, supplies, minor repairs, stevedoring, shore power supply, side and stern loading with roll-on-roll off, warehousing, laydown area, paved wharfage, customs service, Wi-Fi internet access, truck service, bunkering for marine fuel and harbour pilotage

[info@lewisportecanada.com](mailto:info@lewisportecanada.com) | (709) 535- 2737



John Crosbie

## John Crosbie played pivotal role in launching oil & gas industry

John C. Crosbie, a prodigious champion for his province and country, died January 10 at age 88.

Of Crosbie's many achievements, his greatest is arguably the role he played in kick-starting the oil & gas industry in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Crosbie advocated for the industry as far back as 1975, insisting on provincial ownership of offshore resources as a minister in the Frank Moores government. Soon after, he moved to federal politics, becoming finance minister in the short-lived Progressive Conservative government of Prime Minister Joe Clark. When the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in 1984 that rights on the continental shelf belonged to Ottawa, Pierre Trudeau was prime minister and the Progressive Conservatives were in opposition, with Brian Mulroney as leader. This is when Crosbie made his stand.

Just prior to the 1984 election, Mulroney promised that, if elected, ownership of the offshore would be transferred to coastal provinces. Mulroney's Tories won that election and the Atlantic Accord was signed in 1985.

Soon after, an agreement was reached to develop Hibernia but it took years to execute the details.

## INDUSTRY NEWS | John Crosbie played pivotal role in launching oil & gas industry

In his eulogy at Crosbie's funeral, Mulroney said that Crosbie made an impassioned pitch to save Hibernia with a \$2.7-billion guarantee, despite resistance from the Quebec caucus and criticism of the project from mainland media.

"John said: Prime Minister, I know the Quebec caucus and many others oppose this. But you have often said that what you wanted was to give Newfoundland and Labrador a hand up, not a hand out. Well, he continued, this is the hand up we need and I think it will deeply transform the economy of the province and give all Newfoundlanders the hope – finally – for a better day... And as I looked at him that day, in the fading sunlight of a lovely Ottawa summer afternoon, I knew he was right and that I had to do it."

The Hibernia legislation passed and construction on the project moved ahead. However, another crisis unfolded in 1992 when project partner Gulf Canada announced it was pulling out.

It was a particularly stressful time for Fraser Edison of Nodeco, the consortium that won the contract to

construct the gravity base structure at Bull Arm. His company, Concrete Products, had already invested millions in the project.

"The Gulf pull-out put everyone in shock," Edison said. "Our contract alone was worth \$1.5 billion. There was a lot of stress for so many of us. I spoke with John several times while this was going on and expressed my concerns to him. He said, 'No way. Not on my watch. I am going to do my darnedest to get this back on track. Tell your partners to not give up on this yet.' And you know what? I believed him. You could see he meant it."

During this time Crosbie kept in contact with business people back home, such as Miller Ayre.

"I was talking with John one day and he said, 'What the hell is wrong with you people? I'm doing all this up here in Ottawa but I'm hearing nothing out of Newfoundland. Get off your behinds and make some noise.' So, we got a group together called Friends of Hibernia. I called business associations and lobby groups in Quebec, because they also had



*think:*  
Return On  
Intelligence

Think smarter solutions. Think trailblazers in the practice of law. That's what you'll find at Stewart McKelvey. From the expertise of our people to leading-edge tools and methodologies, innovation is ingrained in our Firm. For our clients it means efficiency, cost certainty and results. ROI you can count on. That's thinking forward. [stewartmckelvey.com](http://stewartmckelvey.com)





thousands of jobs at stake, and Nancy Riche, who got the unions mobilized. I called Gerry Bishop at Noia and they became allies. We purchased a full-page ad in the Globe and Mail. We flew to Ottawa and did a news conference at the Chateau Laurier with national media. I think it had an impact, but it wouldn't have happened without that duff in the rear from John!"

In late 1992, the other project partners – Mobil, Chevron and Petro-Canada – agreed to increase their ownership stake, and Murphy Oil of Texas was in for 6.5 per cent. After a tense series of meetings and much arm-twisting in the corridors of power, the federal government was in for the remaining 8.5 per cent and Hibernia was back in business.

Crosbie's tireless efforts to save Hibernia made the difference, said Rex Gibbons, who was provincial energy minister at the time.

"I am convinced that John played a critical role in convincing his prime minister and cabinet colleagues that Hibernia was a viable project," Gibbons said. "If Hibernia had not happened when it did, I doubt very much that Terra Nova, White Rose or Hebron would have proceeded, because those are smaller projects. Hibernia was our biggest and best prospect; our best shot at starting an industry. And, as it turns out, Crosbie and his supporters were right and the critics were wrong: Hibernia was a fantastic investment for all involved. We owe that to John Crosbie."

Fraser Edison agrees.

"I don't know what we would have done without Crosbie's tenacity to push this through. He was

relentless. I have had a couple of conversations with Mulroney since then and he said the same thing: if it wasn't for John, Hibernia would have been dead in the water. It took a John Crosbie to pull this one off, that's for sure."

"I'm prepared to say flatly that the work done by John Crosbie in Ottawa was the activity of a giant,"

said Miller Ayre. "A giant who was at the peak of his political skills and acumen. There were so many hurdles aligned against us back then. I think there were occasions when John, himself, thought the case was pretty hopeless, but he didn't slack off for a minute. Failure was not an option for him."

Lee Shinkle was an active participant in the Friends of Hibernia group with Miller Ayre. Crosbie was also his uncle and guardian because Shinkle's parents separated when he was very young.

"John had to convince not just the prime minister, but the entire caucus, that Hibernia had to go ahead," Shinkle said. "And he did it. Without his personal engagement and backroom pushing, the government would not in any way have supported that deal."

"There was our business relationship, and all those things we did to advance Hibernia when things looked so desperate," said Shinkle. "But there was also the family relationship. When you spend that much time with someone – going moose hunting, sharing stories, playing cards, having drinks – you tend to regard him as Uncle John. But when they pass away and you look at what people are saying about him, and reflect on what he achieved, you realize that you were playing cribbage with one of the greatest Newfoundlanders of all time." ■

"I am convinced that John played a critical role in convincing his prime minister and cabinet colleagues that Hibernia was a viable project. If Hibernia had not happened when it did, I doubt very much that Terra Nova, White Rose or Hebron would have proceeded, because those are smaller projects. Hibernia was our biggest and best prospect; our best shot at starting an industry. And, as it turns out, Crosbie and his supporters were right and the critics were wrong: Hibernia was a fantastic investment for all involved. We owe that to John Crosbie."

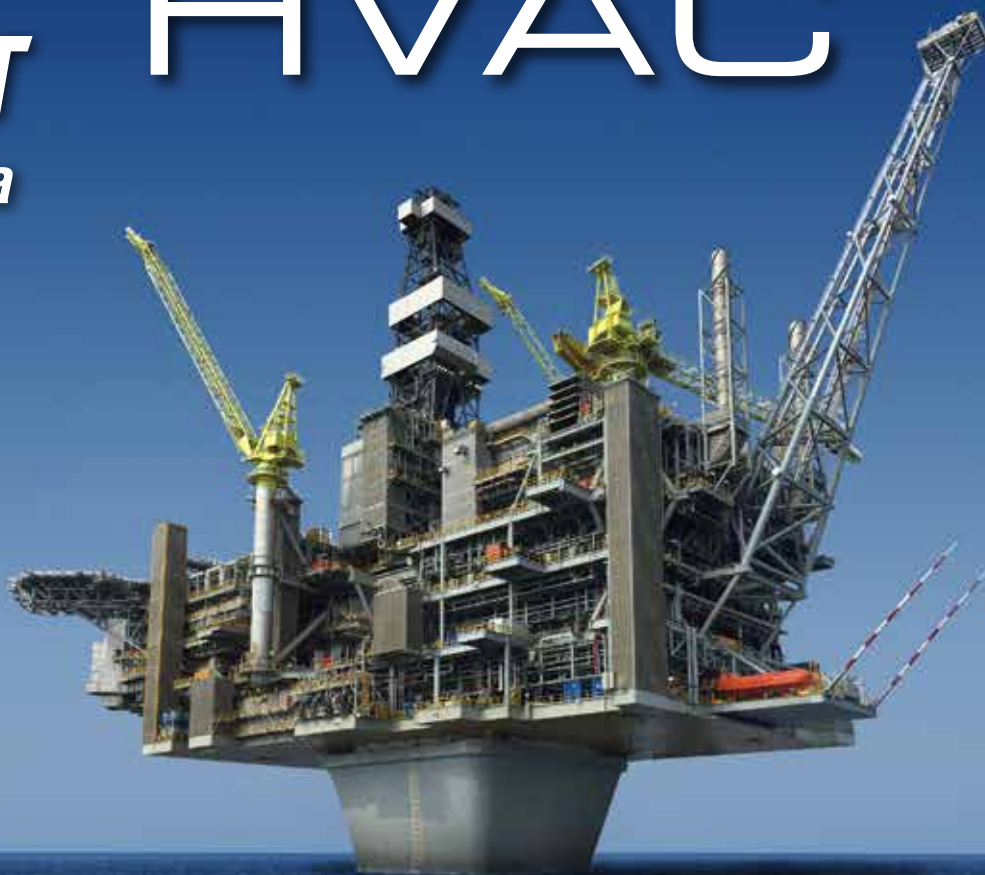
-- Rex Gibbons



**ALSCOTT**

*[www.alscott.ca](http://www.alscott.ca)*

# E.P.I.C. HVAC



## **TURNKEY SOLUTIONS FOR OFFSHORE**

Hazardous Area HVAC | Automation & Controls | Refrigeration

Atlantic Canadian Manufacturer with PM, Field Services,  
Support and Spare Parts

*Specializing in UVC System Retrofits*

Dartmouth NS and St. John's NL, Canada | Tel: +1-709-351-2192 | Email: [sales@alscott.ca](mailto:sales@alscott.ca)



eDNAtec uses the world's most advanced genomics techniques and instruments, including Illumina's MiSeq and NovaSeq sequencing platforms. Photo courtesy of eDNAtec.

## Environmental Stewardship – good for the environment and business

Environmental stewardship is not just the right thing to do, it's good for business. The Harvard Business Review concluded that companies that make it core to their business drive innovation and loyalty from their customers, employees, investors, suppliers and communities.

eDNAtec is a St. John's-based company that offers DNA-based environmental analysis to assess, monitor and characterize marine biodiversity. Their approach interprets environmental DNA (eDNA) data to produce rich environmental insights for ocean industries, including offshore energy, fisheries and aquaculture. This new generation of environmental assessment and monitoring tools is proving to be more reliable, faster, safer and less expensive than traditional methodologies.

"By way of comparison, our new eDNA, or 'genomics' methodologies equate to looking into space through the Hubble telescope when previously all you had was a pair of binoculars," said eDNAtec's CEO Steve Barrett.

### How does eDNA work?

All organisms shed DNA into their environment. By analyzing environmental samples, such as sediment or sea water, a comprehensive range of organisms – from bacteria and viruses to marine mammals – can

be identified, which yields a complete picture of the ecosystem.

eDNAtec is offering the oil & gas industry a faster biological tracking system that can be used in any ocean environment and potentially applied throughout the life cycle of offshore operations, from exploration, construction and production to decommissioning. The company is currently providing biodiversity monitoring solutions to offshore operations in various locations, collecting, sequencing and analyzing water samples, assessing total biodiversity and monitoring for invasive and endangered species.

### Building capacity in Newfoundland and Labrador

In 2017, eDNAtec and its partners established the Centre for Environmental Genomics Applications (CEGA) to advance environmental genomics R&D for real-world applications.

"CEGA is a one-of-a-kind centre of excellence that is positioning Newfoundland and Labrador as a global leader in environmental genomics," explained eDNAtec's founder and chief scientific officer, Dr. Mehrdad Hajibabaei. "We are using some of the



world's most advanced sequencing platforms and specialized data analysis tools that are dedicated to marine environmental genomics applications."

Baseline environmental assessment and long-term biodiversity monitoring help build a full understanding of the drilling and production environment and track how trends in biodiversity change over time. The traditional environmental assessment approach of "catch and look" sampling, sorting and individually identifying organisms is lengthy and labour-intensive.

"Our customers can be more efficient, have safer operations and more accurate environmental data while lowering costs," explained Barrett. "This new ocean intelligence is advancing our customers' environmental stewardship, sustainability and increased profitability.

### **New OceanDNA System™ relevant to all ocean industries**

In September, Canada's Ocean Supercluster announced its newest project, the OceanDNA System. Led by eDNAtec, together with partners Petroleum

Research Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut Fisheries Association and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the OceanDNA System will revolutionize how to assess, monitor and characterize the ocean.

The project will develop and commercialize genomics solutions to modernize the way we monitor, measure and assess fish stocks. Environmental DNA data can be combined with complementary data derived from acoustics, remote sensing, counts from fishing activities and historical knowledge to generate predictive models about the presence, location and abundance of high value target species.

Tracking ocean biodiversity is relevant to all industries that operate in the ocean, even if their end goals are different. Fisheries want to track fish populations for efficient and sustainable harvesting while the oil & gas industry wants to ensure that its offshore operations are not having a negative impact on the surrounding ecosystems.

*This article was submitted by eDNAtec in response to Noia's call for member-written articles of interest to its membership. ■*

Pitch us an article!

# NOIA NEWS

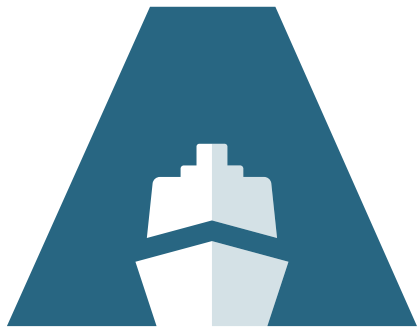
Noia News provides members with educational and informative articles about the local, national and international oil & gas industry, as well as Noia's activities on behalf of its membership.

## **The Noia News editorial team is currently accepting proposals for member-written articles for upcoming issues of Noia News!**

Are you a Noia member? Do you have an idea for an article that would be interesting to your oil & gas industry colleagues or good news business story to share? If so, consider sending us a short proposal.

Articles must appeal to Noia News readers. Our Noia News audience includes people working in all sub-sectors and organizational levels, and many regions, of the industry.

Email [communications@noia.ca](mailto:communications@noia.ca) for further information about article requirements, idea submission and timelines



**PORT OF ARGENTIA**

## Where Potential Launches Opportunity



Premier heavy  
industrial seaport

Construction site of  
Husky CGS for West  
White Rose Project

3 km ice-free,  
deep-water port

625 metres docking  
facilities



Heavy lift  
capabilities

Special projects  
laydown area

3000 acres of  
developed  
industrial lands



709 227 5502

[portofargentia.ca](http://portofargentia.ca)



## Atlantic Offshore Medical Services Noia member for 30 years

Atlantic Offshore Medical Services (AOMS) has been providing quality industrial medical services in harsh, remote industrial environments since 1978, and is this year being recognized for 30 years as a Noia member.

AOMS is the longest-standing organization providing integrated occupational and primary and emergency medical services in the region. With its head office in St. John's and a second location in Dartmouth, AOMS provides a wide range of services from dynamic on-site emergency personnel and MEDEVAC teams, to routine occupational health and disability management programs. The company provides primary emergency care and medical evacuation to all operators in eastern Canada.

CEO Liam O'Shea said AOMS has grown with the industry. Initially consisting of a handful of general physicians providing on-call support to a couple of drill rigs, AOMS now provides comprehensive industrial medical services to the industry, including provision of internal training for remote medical professionals to be deployed on installations, along with training and exercising of ER-specialized physicians who can be deployed via helicopter in the event of an offshore

medical emergency to bring a patient safely back to shore.

AOMS has evolved its best practices to align with the best practices of healthcare in Canada. O'Shea said the operators actively partner with AOMS to ensure that the best equipment and treatment are available to their personnel at all times.

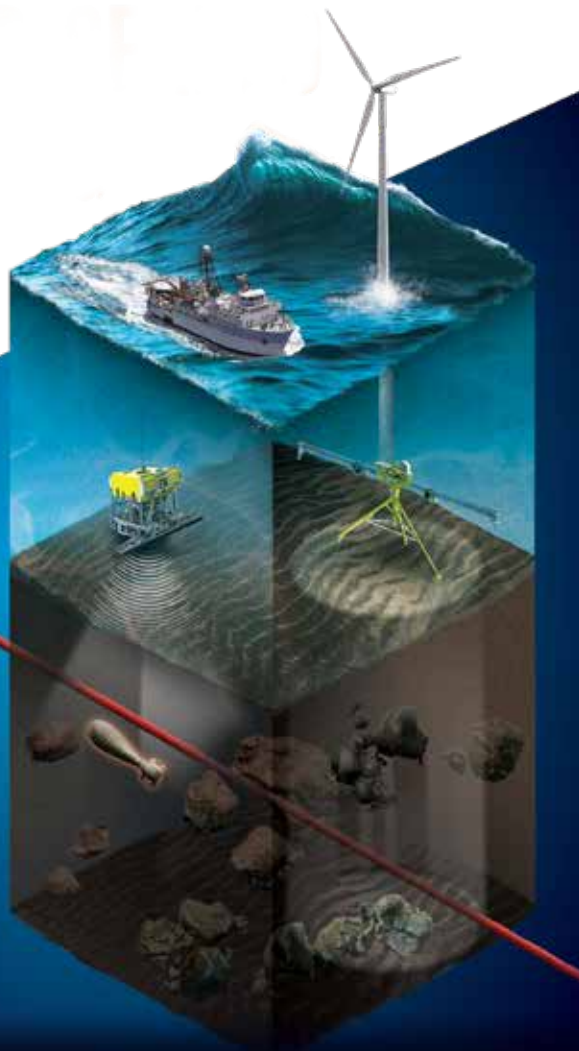
AOMS also provides services such as pre-access medical screening, return to work medical screening, disability case management and rehabilitation services to a wide range of industries. The company currently employs 39 people in Newfoundland and Labrador.

O'Shea said AOMS began with his father's decision to leave his practice in the public health arena to pursue private occupational healthcare. Joining Noia helped grow the organization in the region.

"Being a member of Noia helped facilitate that move in terms of building relationships with other clients that have since become pillars of our business plan and our ongoing revenue streams." ■



# PanGeo Subsea celebrates 30 years with Noia



PanGeo Subsea Inc. is a marine geophysical-geotechnical service delivery company specializing in high resolution true 3D volumetric acoustic imaging solutions to mitigate risk in offshore installations. The company and its predecessors are being recognized for 30 years of Noia membership.

PanGeo is a privately held, Newfoundland and Labrador company. Corporate headquarters and technology development are located in St. John's, with business development and operations offices in Aberdeen, Dartmouth, and Alexandria, VA.

PanGeo's core technology was designed to operate primarily for the oil & gas industry to meet the need for 3D, higher resolution imaging of the sub-seabed. The company has evolved to meet global demand for advanced sub-seabed imaging solutions across many industries, including oil & gas, offshore renewables, defence and marine archaeology.

PanGeo offers a technology solution to clients that supports accurate positioning and continuous visualization of cables and pipelines during depth of burial surveys; helps identify buried anomalies threatening integrity of pipe/cable in parallel with depth of burial surveys; and provides true 3D volumetric imaging and accurate positioning of buried infrastructure for efficient site decommissioning. The patented technology interrogates the sub-seabed to provide a 3D image of the position of buried anomalies, like boulders and unexploded ordnances (including ferrous and non-ferrous), that support de-risking and micro-siting of offshore installations.

PanGeo has grown substantially since its inception. It earned a spot in the Globe & Mail's inaugural Report on Business ranking of Canada's Top Growing Companies in 2019, with three-year growth of 59 per cent. CEO Moya Cahill said the company is pleased to be recognized for its growth, which has allowed for the expansion of the St. John's and Aberdeen offices, as well as the addition of the Dartmouth and Maryland locations. The company has grown from 11 full-time staff positions in 2017 to over 70 in Q3 2020.

"Over the past three years, PanGeo has seen exponential growth resulting from the industries' adoption of our leading-edge technology for sub-seabed 3D imaging. The world's demand for renewable energy, particularly in offshore windfarms, is the primary driver of PanGeo's success. Our 3D imaging sensor platforms are clearing the way for cables and wind turbine installations in areas where there is concern for geohazards such as boulders and unexploded ammunitions."

PanGeo was also recently recognized by Subsea UK's Innovation and Technology awards committee, receiving honourable mention for its Sub Bottom Imager™ innovation and a certificate for its achievements and excellence in subsea sectors. ■

**PANGEO**  
SUBSEA  
sounding out risk



# Maritimes Energy Association marks 30 years of Noia membership

The Maritimes Energy Association (MEA) is an independent, not-for-profit industry association representing suppliers of goods and services to the energy sector. With over 200 member companies in the Maritime provinces, this year it is marking 30 years of Noia membership.

The organization began in August 1982 as the Offshore Technical Society of Nova Scotia (OTANS), when 30 Nova Scotia businessmen on a trade mission to Aberdeen, Scotland, formed an association to pool information and talent, and advance the interests of Nova Scotia companies. As the industry increasingly began to serve the growing renewable energy sector in the region, the association adopted a broader mandate to embrace the full spectrum of the energy sector and expanded to include all three Maritime provinces – Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. In late 2011 it became known as The Maritimes Energy Association.

CEO Jennifer Tuck said the association has evolved as the relationship with energy has changed, continuing to work together with members and partners to support a sustainable energy future and economic growth for the region.

“We’ve evolved with the industry and what’s happening in Atlantic Canada in the energy space. We represent all aspects of the energy sector – renewables, oil & gas and the clean tech world.”

Tuck said advocacy is a key component of promoting the region’s energy industry through its membership base by collaborating with governments, policy makers and other key stakeholders. Member services include daily energy bulletins with curated information about business opportunities and industry news, as well as breakfasts, luncheons, networking events, trade missions and an annual conference.

As many organizations have had to do this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the association has pivoted and held its annual Cleantech, Oil & Gas, Renewables and Electricity (C.O.R.E.) Conference virtually in September. It also led an Atlantic Canada delegation for the virtual trade mission to the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum in late October. Tuck said the MEA is looking forward to continuing to evolve its membership and activities as the energy industry transitions away from fossil fuels in order to meet Canada’s target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Tuck added that the association works collaboratively with Noia on issues of mutual interest.

“We work together to promote the offshore oil & gas industry in the region,” Tuck explained. “Our membership with Noia has been very beneficial for us and we look forward to continuing to work closely with Noia to the extent that we can to help them promote the offshore energy industry in Atlantic Canada.” ■





## Delta St. John's Hotel and Conference Centre: a prime convention destination

The Delta St. John's Hotel and Conference Centre is Atlantic Canada's largest convention hotel, located in the heart of historic St. John's since 1987. Growing with the hospitality and convention market in the province, this year it marks 30 years of Noia membership.

The hotel opened with 276 rooms but expanded to 403 rooms in 2005, including 28 suites. Facilities include over 20,000 square feet of event space and 22 meeting rooms to accommodate gatherings from small meetings to 600-delegate events. The hotel is also connected via pedway to the St. John's Convention Centre, with an additional 47,000 square feet of divisible meeting space.

Hotel amenities include a health club with pool, whirlpool, sauna, fitness facilities and squash courts, as well as a recently renovated lobby restaurant. Guest rooms are furnished with pillowtop mattresses, mini-refrigerators, flat-panel TVs and free Wi-Fi. Club level rooms offer a premium experience that includes access to a private lounge with complimentary breakfast and hors d'oeuvres.

General Manager Heather McKinnon said the hotel and conference centre has expanded to meet growing demand, much of it relating to the oil & gas industry. In addition to the 2005 expansion, the hotel was renovated from top to bottom in 2018-19. A Starbucks Grab and Go will soon open in the hotel's main lobby to serve guests who don't have time for a sit-down breakfast.

Conferences are a core part of the Delta's business for four to five months of the year, as the province has become a prime conference destination. McKinnon said that conference organizers recognize that Newfoundland and Labrador is a bucket list destination for many delegates, resulting in spin-off benefits for tourist areas outside of the city as well.

With the COVID-19 pandemic drastically impacting the global convention and hospitality business, McKinnon said they are adapting to current realities while looking forward to a full recovery. New meeting floor plans have been crafted to allow for socially distanced meetings and the food and beverage department has adopted new practices, including redesigned menus with items that can be safely packaged.

The host of many Noia annual general meetings, conferences, socials and fall seminars over the years, McKinnon said the company has benefitted in numerous ways from its relationship with operators, suppliers and associated businesses.

"Our Noia membership has given us a pipeline into the industry. It's allowed us to stay in touch with the industry to understand where it's going, where it's been and how we can make our own business decisions based on the knowledge that we get from being a Noia member." ■



# CREATE YOUR FUTURE HERE.

## **We love go-getters and self-starters.**

Makers and doers. Lifelong learners and problem solvers. The folks who get up early and stay up late. Who want to dig deeper, go further and live better.

**If that's you, then we want you.** We're at the centre of an Atlantic Canadian ocean industry revolution, with room for your business, your research and your life. An innovation focused municipality with world class facilities, shovel-ready development opportunities, and all the amenities you need to live your best life.

**We know the only way to predict the future is to create it, and here in Holyrood, we're creating something special.**



Ocean Cluster R&D Infrastructure



Shovel-ready Industrial, Retail and Institutional Development Zones



Tax Incentives & Favourable Cost Structure



Innovation & Co-working Space



## Holyrood

WHERE OCEAN INNOVATION  
COMES ASHORE

[oceansholyrood.ca](http://oceansholyrood.ca)



## Crosbie: Rooted in experience, helping you reach further

Experience is the most valuable asset a company can have. It can't be created – it can only be earned. When you're in business for as long as Crosbie, you accumulate a lot of valuable experience. Crosbie has leveraged that experience to become an international provider, not just in the offshore oil & gas market, but in marine construction and commercial and residential real estate markets as well.

The last few years have been marked by major growth at Crosbie, having expanded its services and capabilities and extended operations outside of its home province. The corporate image and brand have also been updated to reflect the larger, evolved Crosbie – while staying true to the family business values that have brought the company continued success over the years.

### New solutions

Crosbie continues to build on its long history through enhancing its service offerings and providing efficiencies to its clients. One such advancement was the introduction of aluminum scaffolding to the Canadian offshore oil & gas industry. Aluminum scaffolding weighs 50 per cent less than its traditional, steel counterpart – making it safer for workers to handle. Aluminum scaffolding also adds value with its non-corroding composition and longer lifespan.

### International expansion

Panthera Solutions, a joint venture between Crosbie and Guyana-based Farfan & Mendes Group, is focused on being the leading provider of industrial solutions to the

Guyanese offshore oil & gas industry. Specializing in a range of maintenance and technical services, Panthera Solutions also provides the only IRATA-certified rope access and training services in Guyana.

Crosbie is focused on replicating the success it has attained in its over 20 years of servicing the Canadian oil & gas industry. By recruiting and training a Guyanese workforce, Crosbie is transitioning Panthera Solutions into a truly local, made-in-Guyana solution. Currently, the company has twelve Guyanese offshore maintenance technicians working on the FPSO *Liza Destiny*, supplemented and supervised by an experienced expatriate crew from Newfoundland and Labrador. The company continues to build on its capabilities, having completed its first IRATA-compliant scope in Guyana and constructed several scaffold erections using locally trained crews. Panthera Solutions has also obtained ISO certification and won several competitive bids.

### Poised for strong growth

Crosbie continues to look forward, executing a strategy of identifying unique expansion opportunities in new markets, while staying focused on the company's core areas of expertise. While reaching into new markets, Crosbie stays firmly rooted in deeply held, family business values, always looking for ways to give back within the markets where it operates.

This company profile is provided to Crosbie in recognition of their 2020 Noia platinum sponsorship. ■



## Cougar Helicopter's world class SAR capability

Through more than 20 years of harsh environment service, Cougar Helicopters has continually evolved to meet the growing demands of the east coast oil & gas industry, including development of a world-class search and rescue (SAR) program that is essential to the oil & gas sector.

Cougar's team of professionals provide 24/7 SAR capabilities, 365 days a year, with a wheels-up time of 20 minutes or less. Duties include vessel, water and land rescue hoisting (day and night), aircraft emergencies, crashes and ditchings, searching for lost or injured persons, coastal response, multi-casualty evacuation, medevacs and night vision operations. The Cougar Operational Control Centre, located in a 27,500 square foot hangar at St. John's International Airport, exercises full command and control over the operation. To support this activity, crews train on a state-of-the-art S-92 simulator in St. John's.

The program uses a S-92 SAR helicopter with professionally certified rescue specialists. The S-92 is purpose-equipped with the latest suite of avionics, such as satellite tracking, satellite communications, colour weather radar, traffic collision avoidance systems (TCAS), ground proximity warning systems (GPWS) and a new SAR automatic flight control system (AFCS) approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. Electronic flight bags are standard for the front crew and the Ultra 8500

forward looking infrared camera is standard for the rear crew (a first in Canada). All crew are trained to operate on the Pinnacle tube-equipped ANVIS 9 night vision goggles.

Cougar rescue specialists have extensive experience in diverse backgrounds, including military SAR and civilian emergency response capabilities. All rescue personnel are Cougar paramedic level II operators who are trained under the scrutiny and authority of a qualified emergency physician, allowing them to deliver advanced level medical protocols and care to effectively stabilize and transport survivors, saving time and lives. This capability has served offshore operators (medevacs and casevacs), the federal Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (marine medevacs) and the regional provincial authority.

In 2019, Cougar flew more than 350 SAR training sorties, totalling nearly 570 flight hours. It was presented with the 2013 Award of Excellence for SAR Innovation by Canada's National SAR Program, Department of National Defence; the 2019 Master's Trophy for the North America Region by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots; as well as many Sikorsky Winged-S Rescue Awards since 2008.

[This company profile is provided to Cougar Helicopters in recognition of their 2020 Noia platinum sponsorship. ■](#)





[www.cougar.ca](http://www.cougar.ca)





The Unifor-organized rally in support of oil & gas workers September 16.

## Extensive advocacy campaign resulted in support of the offshore

COVID-19 and the drastic decline in oil prices has had a devastating impact on the offshore oil & gas industry. For most of 2020, Noia's Board of Directors and staff worked diligently, advocating to the federal and provincial governments for support for the offshore industry. These efforts employed a wide range of tactics to both inform and engage decision makers, as well as the general public, and to encourage Noia members and others in the industry to share both their concerns and support.

Although a full edition of Noia News could be dedicated to Noia's advocacy work since March, below is a snapshot of our efforts.

### Social media campaign

Social media was an extremely useful tool for Noia's advocacy efforts. Noia launched a campaign that highlighted the economic importance of the offshore oil & gas industry, using hashtag #MyOffshoreMyFuture. Blitzing Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, the campaign's tone was positive and focused on the expertise and accomplishments of the local industry. This campaign was enhanced by a substantial uptake from industry employees and supporters who highlighted why the offshore is important to them.

Noia also developed a video for social media that emphasized the importance of the offshore. In response, many industry supporters also shared their own videos and stories of what the offshore means to them.

## INSIDE NOIA | Extensive advocacy campaign resulted in support of the offshore

The #MyOffshoreMyFuture social media campaign created a buzz and caught the attention of federal and provincial government representatives, as well as traditional media.

### Media

Traditional media was an important avenue to communicate Noia's advocacy efforts. CEO Charlene Johnson and Board of Directors chair, Karen Winsor actively pursued and participated in local, national and international media opportunities. This included local call-in and discussion programs, such as VOCM's *On Target* and *Open Line*, CBC Radio's *CrossTalk* and newspapers and magazines such as *The Globe and Mail*, *Financial Post*, *World Oil* and *Upstream*. Johnson also delivered presentations to virtual events, was featured as a guest on a number of podcasts and authored a nationally published op-ed.

### Town halls

#### Virtual Town Hall 1 - Monday, April 27, 2020

Noia hosted two virtual town halls to discuss concerns about the future of the Newfoundland and Labrador's

offshore oil & gas industry, with the first occurring on Monday, April 27.

The format included a panel discussion moderated by Kim Keating, chief operating officer of Cahill Group, and a question and answer opportunity for members. Panel members were Bill Fanning, president and country manager for Kvaerner Canada; Geoff Eaton, founder and executive director with Young Adult Cancer Canada; Crystal Eagan, realtor with Hanlon Realty; Steve Denty, chair of Hospitality NL; and Ray Greene, acting CEO for the Port of Argentina. This diverse panel discussed the broad impacts of offshore oil & gas and what an industry downturn means to them and the province.

Seamus O'Regan, minister of Natural Resources Canada, and Siobhan Coady, minister of natural resources for Newfoundland and Labrador, also attended the town hall and offered supportive remarks about the industry.

#### Virtual Town Hall 2 – May 14, 2020

Noia hosted their second virtual town hall May 14. With more than 800 in attendance, Bill Fanning moderated a



**PRODUCTIVE**

QUALITY

SAFE

**WORKFORCE**

Trades NL is an umbrella labour organization which promotes and coordinates the interests of 16 building and construction trades unions, representing nearly 18,000 craft women & men working to build prosperity in their province. For 70 years, our craft continues to construct, fabricate & maintain some of the world's most complex facilities.

**#1 RESOURCE FOR SKILLED TRADES WORKFORCE**





The September 16 rally drew approximately 500 participants.

panel discussion featuring four speakers – former premier and vice-chair of BMO Financial Group, Brian Tobin; president of Killick Capital, Mark Dobbin; president of Cahill Group, Fred Cahill; and Noia CEO Charlene Johnson.

This second town hall demonstrated ongoing support for the offshore industry and garnered significant media attention.

### Joint news conference

The Honourable Dwight Ball, then premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, Siobhan Coady, then natural resources minister, and industry leaders held a virtual news conference in support of Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore oil & gas industry May 26.

Memorial University President Vianne Timmons; Terry Abel, executive vice president of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP); Darin King, executive director of Trades NL; Kieran Hanley, executive director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industries Association (NEIA); Alison Rumbolt, a pilot with Cougar Helicopters; and Charlene Johnson, all spoke at the news conference. This event demonstrated unity and the importance of the offshore oil & gas industry to all sectors of the Newfoundland and Labrador economy, while also highlighting the commitment of the provincial government to see a resolution that included participation by the Government of Canada.

### News releases

Noia and CAPP issued a news release July 7 that called on the federal government to invest in Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore. The release included statements of support from over 80 prominent business and political figures, including the province's natural resources minister, Siobhan Coady. It received significant media attention as it once again showcased the broad support prevalent for the industry and included many individuals and companies who typically refrain from public commentary.

Over the summer Noia launched a campaign that showcased members' involvement in the offshore oil & gas industry. The campaign consisted of a series of news releases from members which focused on how they benefitted from the offshore industry, as well as the impacts and challenges they were facing from the global crisis.

Over a dozen Noia members participated in the initiative and the news releases were often reported by media outlets, including VOCM, CBC and World Oil, and also generated a number of follow-up interviews which helped to keep the conversation active.

### Noia/CAPP letter writing campaign

Noia and CAPP – through the Canada's Energy Citizens initiative – launched an online letter-writing campaign directed to the Members of Parliament for Atlantic



Laura Fudge, who works with local response centre, Telelink Emergency & Safety, posted a video to social media under the hashtag #MyOffshoreMyFuture to explain the very pivotal role that the offshore industry played in growing the company into the organization it is today.

Canada, as well as then Minister of Finance Bill Morneau, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson and Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna. More than 2,000 letters of support were sent to the federal government requesting an investment in Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore oil & gas industry. Noia and CAPP were pleased that numerous industry associations, such as the St. John's Board of Trade, NEIA, Trades NL and the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce, supported this initiative.

### Noia website

To assist members with information on support programs being disseminated by federal and provincial agencies regarding COVID-19, Noia developed a resource section on its website which summarized information and provided quick links. A webpage highlighting Noia's ongoing advocacy efforts was also created.

Additionally, a webpage was added to promote the products and services offered by members, to members, during the pandemic. This provided access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies, hand sanitizer, cleaning services and virtual technology, as well as other specialized offerings.

### Surveys

To determine the impacts of the crisis on members, Noia periodically emailed surveys to its members. Responses were confidential and were intended to provide insight into revenue and job losses occurring within the supply and service sector. It was also helpful for the Board of

Directors and staff when determining the association's future advocacy initiatives and for informing governments.

### Correspondence

Aside from the numerous public advocacy efforts of Noia, the CEO and Board of Directors chair wrote numerous letters to federal and provincial officials about the circumstances affecting the offshore. This correspondence laid out facts of the crisis, provided possible solutions and requested meetings to discuss ways to help the industry survive. While responses often had little detail, Noia felt it was important to put its concerns and the responses on paper and on record.

### September 16 rally

Noia was happy to join Unifor Local 2121 and hundreds of supporters of the offshore oil & gas industry for a rally September 16. While adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols and advice from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, supporters gathered at the steps of Confederation Building in St. John's to demand action from the provincial and federal governments for the struggling offshore industry.

Highlights of the rally included multiple transport trucks on site, banners of support and a special fly-over by Cougar Helicopters. Speakers at the rally included Dave Mercer, president of Unifor Local 2121; Mary Shortall, president of the Federation of Labour; John Leonard, president of Trades NL; Charlene Johnson; Amanda Young, a chef on the *Terra Nova* FPSO; and Carmilita Synard, who worked on the Hibernia GBS. Other impromptu speakers included Premier Andrew Furey and Opposition Leader Ches Crosbie.

The rally helped to put a fine point on the advocacy efforts of Noia and, shortly thereafter, both the provincial and federal governments announced initiatives to support the offshore oil & gas industry—a provincial exploration initiative and \$320 million in federal funding. When combined with a previously announced regional assessment for offshore exploration and an accelerated write-down program, the industry is better positioned to overcome its challenges. Yet, as subsequent events such as project shutdowns and hundreds of job losses indicate, much work remains.

Noia will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of its members and the offshore industry. The offshore oil & gas industry is vital for our province's economic prosperity and we want to ensure a vibrant and successful future for generations to come. ■



A woman with brown hair tied back, wearing a blue lab coat, is looking through a microscope. She is in a laboratory setting with various equipment visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Continuous innovation, from pore to pipeline.

In 1927, Conrad and Marcel Schlumberger used their new electrical well logging technique to identify formations in the Pechelbronn oil field in the Alsace region of France—a first in the oil and gas industry. Today Schlumberger continues to innovate by introducing pioneering technologies delivered with technical expertise gained from decades of experience. From reservoir characterization and drilling to production and processing, we integrate multidisciplinary products and services to optimize hydrocarbon recovery and maximize production for our customers.

Find out more at  
**slb.com**

Copyright © 2019 Schlumberger. All rights reserved. 19-OF-645841

**Schlumberger**



# Meet Noia's newest Board members



## Heather Beresford

**TechnipFMC**

Heather Beresford holds a Bachelor of Engineering (mechanical engineering) from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Upon graduation she spent eight years in Houston and London, England, employed by Schlumberger, Allseas and Subsea 7, working both onshore and offshore in multiple deepwater projects such as GulfTerra Phoenix, Shell Magnolia, Chevron Lobito Tomboco, ExxonMobil Saxi Batuque, BP Atlantis, and Marathon Oil Droshky. Heather joined the St. John's office of TechnipFMC in 2009 as a lead construction engineer for HMDC's OLS Replacement Project, followed by assistant project manager for the ExxonMobil Sable Venture Pipeline Replacement Project. In 2012, she moved into business development and tendering and is currently tendering manager responsible for TechnipFMC's tendering activities from kickoff to contract award for various projects.



## Jennifer Haley

**Aker Solutions Canada**

Jennifer Haley has been contributing to both onshore and offshore major resource development projects within Newfoundland and Labrador since 2002. For the past nine years, she has held the position of supply chain manager for Aker Solutions Canada. Jennifer has supported many of the offshore production facilities, including the *SeaRose* and *Terra Nova* FPSOs and Hebron and Hibernia (including the Hibernia South Extension) platforms. Her experience in supply chain management has allowed her to work with major engineering, procurement, construction and management companies, enabling her to form valuable relationships throughout all levels in the supply chain community, from start of manufacture and vendor engagement through to delivery to the end-user. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and a master's certificate in project management from Memorial University of Newfoundland.



## Sheldon Lace

**Atlantic Towing**

Sheldon Lace is the offshore business director for Atlantic Towing. He holds a Bachelor of Science (forest management) from the University of New Brunswick and a Master of Business Administration from the Ivy School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. Following graduation from UNB, Sheldon embarked on a successful 19-year career with J.D. Irving Limited where he gained extensive business and leadership experience in multiple roles within J.D. Irving's sawmills, woodlands and transportation divisions. In 2012, he transitioned to Atlantic Towing as coastal business manager. Promoted to lead the organization's offshore business in 2014, Sheldon currently oversees a fleet of 13 offshore supply vessels and is responsible for all commercial and operational aspects associated with Atlantic Towing's offshore business.

---



## Denis Mahoney

**McInnes Cooper**

As a partner and director at law firm McInnes Cooper, Denis has more than 25 years' experience as employers' legal counsel, including extensive experience advising employers in the oil & gas, mining, transportation, construction and service sectors on a wide range of labour and employment matters. He is an experienced business and legal advocate, working with companies to provide strategic advice and solutions. Denis is vice-chair of Memorial University's Board of Regents and has been an active Noia volunteer for a number of years, most recently serving as a 2019 Fall Seminar committee member, conference session moderator and OTC delegation member. Denis has committed to using his industry experience and advocacy skills in support of Noia's call for the sustainable development of the Newfoundland and Labrador oil & gas industry.

---



## Gregory Stacey

**KCA Deutag Drilling Canada**

Active in the oil & gas industry since 2000, Gregory Stacey has provided leadership to drill teams in various positions, including assistant driller, driller, tool pusher and assistant rig manager. He joined the Hebron team in 2014, developing control of work systems, competency systems and computer-based training integration. During commissioning and testing of the Hebron drilling systems in 2017, he created and executed the Hebron competency system for drilling area systems and equipment. Now a QHSE & T manager with KCA Deutag Canada, Gregory helps manage and maintain the highest levels of safety within Hebron's drilling department. With a strong operational background, he is also involved in multiple projects aimed to increase safety and efficiency using modern technology, including digitization of control of work documentation, implementation of digital/tablet-based hardware and support for drilling system automation.

# Noia's 2020 Board of Directors



**Chair**  
**Karen Winsor**  
Atlantic XL



**Vice-Chair**  
**James Parmiter**  
Cahill Group



**Treasurer**  
**Christian Somerton**  
Pennecon



**Past-Chair**  
**Mark Collett**  
Crosbie Group



**Noia CEO**  
**Charlene Johnson**



**Director**  
**Heather Beresford**  
TechnipFMC



**Director**  
**Paul Broders**  
Wood



**Director**  
**Beverley Evans**  
KBRS Knightsbridge  
Robertson Surrence



**Director**  
**Jennifer Haley**  
Aker Solutions  
Canada



**Director**  
**Sheldon Lace**  
Atlantic Towing



**Director**  
**Denis Mahoney**  
McInnes Cooper



**Director**  
**Gerry Mayo**  
PF Collins International  
Trade Solutions



**Director**  
**Gregory Stacey**  
KCA Deutag Drilling  
Canada



# Delivering staffing solutions to projects in Newfoundland and Labrador for over 25 years

Since 1993, our vast network of talented technical personnel has been instrumental in delivering major projects across Atlantic Canada and beyond and has grown rapidly to become the largest locally-owned technical staffing company in Newfoundland and Labrador.

## Comprehensive Workforce Solutions

We offer the following services, tailored to meet each client's specific requirements:

- HR and Recruitment Services (temporary and permanent)
- Payroll and Benefits Administration
- Immigration and Mobility Services
- Management of Project Training Requirements
- KPI Management
- Consulting

## Local Presence... Global Reach

We know what it takes to deliver projects in the harsh Newfoundland and Labrador climate, as well as across the globe. Through our partner network, we offer technical staffing services across North America, Norway, Europe, Australia, Singapore and Guyana with over 1,200 personnel and growing.





The Victoria Park sledding event was hosted by Newfoundland and Labrador comedian and actor Mark Critch.

## Noia membership benefits include events for entire family

The benefits of a Noia membership extend well-beyond the member and their organization, with several events designed for the entire family.

In February, Noia was pleased to partner with the Victoria Park Foundation, the City of St. John's, Tim Hortons, WaterWest Kitchen & Meats and Heave Away Waste Management for a family fun afternoon of sledding and networking at Victoria Park.

Hosted by comedian and actor, Mark Critch, the event consisted of good old-fashioned winter fun, belly laughs and treats for the whole family. There was complimentary chili and hot chocolate to warm bellies, while the display of community spirit warmed hearts.

It was a free event, with participants encouraged to bring along non-perishable food items in support of Bridges to Hope for those in the community most in need.

Then, on Saturday, March 7, Noia and the Newfoundland Growlers once again teamed up to highlight the importance of the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore oil & gas industry. With more than 3000 tickets purchased, the Growlers faced off against the Adirondack Thunder and earned their 41st win of the season.

The "I♥NL Oil & Gas" logo was proudly featured on the ice and remained there for the duration of the season.

The evening consisted of trivia contests about the tremendous value of the offshore oil & gas industry, videos





that showcased Noia members and their capabilities and an information table hosted by Noia and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) where fans could learn more about the industry and receive swag to show their support. CAPP, ExxonMobil Canada, Cahill Group, Terrapure and K&D Pratt Group were gold sponsors of this event and all shared promotional videos

"Last year Noia members and supporters created an exceptional atmosphere in our rink showing their pride in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore and their support of the Newfoundland Growlers. We look forward to once again partnering with Noia to support the offshore oil & gas industry."

-- Glenn Stanford, Newfoundland Growlers Governor and CEO



on various aspects of the offshore oil & gas industry throughout the game. Pennecon sponsored t-shirt tosses that were a hit with young fans.

Noia provided the first 500 attendees an "I ♥ NL Oil & Gas" winter hat or rally towel. There were other promotional items available at the information table, such as magnetic bumper stickers, popsockets and stickers with the "I ♥ NL Oil & Gas" logo.

Noia was proud to continue this partnership with the Newfoundland Growlers while also providing a family-friendly event that increased awareness and highlighted support for the offshore oil & gas industry.



The stadium was full of energy, enthusiasm and pride for an industry that provides tremendous economic benefits to everyone in Newfoundland and Labrador and was another hugely successful Noia event. And a big 6-3 win for the Growlers! ■





# Improving lives in Newfoundland and Labrador

At ChampionX, we're unlocking energy and improving the lives of our customers and communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

With over a century of global energy experience, we address the critical needs of our customers by providing proactive offshore production solutions and practical chemistries backed by real-time contextualized data and a committed RD&E focus.

We do all of this while ensuring every decision we make and solution we offer is safe, ethical, and provides real value.

Formerly Nalco Champion Upstream and Apergy, together, we are a global leader working hard to bring value to you.

**We are ChampionX.**



[championX.com](http://championX.com)

# Operators aim to enhance environment, health and safety collaboration in the offshore

Safety and sustainability of operations are top priorities for the companies operating offshore Newfoundland and Labrador, according to a document released by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) in February.

In “Collaborating for Safety and Sustainability: A Continuous Improvement Plan,” operators in the offshore of Atlantic Canada have sharpened their focus on the environment, health and safety areas of their operations to develop specific actions to improve performance. The plan outlines a vision to make Atlantic Canada the safest and most environmentally responsible offshore operating region in the world and identifies 13 focus areas that CAPP and its members will progress to help achieve the vision.

The objective of the report is to enhance collaboration and communications with a focus on incident prevention, training and competency with the offshore workforce; spill response capability to minimize the impact of potential release on the environment; and to support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

After consultation with a variety of industry stakeholders, the report provides 13 initial focus areas, including near- and long-term objectives to increase understanding and information sharing, and enhance performance in the offshore oil & gas industry. The initiatives include:

- Establishing a common language to manage risk.
- Improve understanding of the perception of safety culture.
- Share lessons learned among industry.
- Collaborate to identify opportunities for alignment and improvement.
- Enhance training, learning and information sharing.
- Work with the fishing industry and other stakeholders.
- Share and adopt best practices.
- Evaluate options for additional simulation training to enhance learning.
- Conduct an assessment of spill response capabilities.
- Map greenhouse gas emissions for producing assets.
- Work with government and regulators to enhance training for wildlife observers.
- Evaluate and adopt new leak detection and subsea monitoring technology.
- Identify research and development opportunities.

“Canada’s standards for environment, health and safety in the offshore region are among the most stringent in the world,” said Paul Barnes, CAPP’s director of Atlantic Canada and Arctic. “Our members have developed comprehensive safety management systems to ensure they meet or exceed regulatory requirements. We are confident that through enhanced collaboration between industry, government, regulators and other stakeholders, we will raise the bar on safety and environmental performance in the offshore region.”

“Collaborating for Safety and Sustainability: A Continuous Improvement Plan” will continue to evolve and change as CAPP engages with others that share the same goals of strengthening environment, health and safety in the offshore region. More information about the report can be found at [www.atlanticcanadaoffshore.ca/collaborating-for-safety](http://www.atlanticcanadaoffshore.ca/collaborating-for-safety). ■

## Platinum Sponsor



## Gold Sponsors



## Co-Sponsors







# Virtual FALL Seminar

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Your onshore gateway  
to offshore success.



**PORT**  
OF ST. JOHN'S

STRATEGIC | EXPERIENCED | KNOWLEDGEABLE

[www.sjpa.com](http://www.sjpa.com)

