



## Report Sheds Light on Reality of a Decarbonised Decom

8 June 2021

Decom North Sea (DNS) has collaborated with academics at Edinburgh Business School Heriot-Watt University to publish a report investigating the prevalence of reuse and a circular economy within decommissioning and recovery of offshore platforms based on the UKCS.

Launched at a joint DNS/SPE event entitled “Decarbonising Decom: the next generation’s perspective” the report indicates a much lower decommissioning recycle rate than previously thought – what it coins “The 95% recycling myth” – with the majority of recycling statistics related to steel only. The report finds that overall 'sent-to-recycling' rates in decommissioning (encompassing the whole platform and structure weight) are usually less than 65%, and as little as 5% in some cases.

The report also highlights the environmental impact associated with overseas recycling of decommissioning assets and recommends that domestic decommissioning and an increasingly circular system have the potential to mitigate those negative effects.

Funded by the Scottish Institute for Remanufacturing with Prof Umit Bititci as the principal investigator, the report was authored by Edinburgh Business School researcher, Melissa Marques, in collaboration with academic colleagues, Aberdeen-based subsea engineering experts J&S Subsea and Decom North Sea. Ms Marques drew upon her research of the circular economy and the value reuse can bring to companies when compiling data from across the decommissioning supply chain, industry regulators and a major operator.

Commenting on the team’s findings, Ms Marques said: “The purpose of this research was two-fold: firstly, to provide greater clarity on the overall percentage of recycling activity within the offshore decommissioning sector, and the environmental impact this has.

“Secondly, having analysed UKCS decommissioning practice, we are in a position to identify barriers to an increased uptake in reuse, with several recommendations for the operator community, supply chain and wider industries to consider as the journey towards decarbonisation gathers pace.”

Pamela Ogilvie, Business Development Director at DNS adds: “Since Decom North Sea established in 2010, the circular economy has been central to our ethos, with a work group dedicated to its promotion early on in our journey. We remain as dedicated to the circular economy as ever, and look forward to developing the challenges and findings of this report further via our Decommissioning Leadership Group’s Reuse SIG.”

## **Ends**

Issued by think on behalf of Decom North Sea. For further information please contact Rachel Creegan at [rachel@thinkpr.co.uk](mailto:rachel@thinkpr.co.uk) or Leigh-Ann Rogie at [leigh-ann@thinkpr.co.uk](mailto:leigh-ann@thinkpr.co.uk)

**Photo Caption:** Pamela Ogilvie, Decom North Sea

## **Notes to Editors**

Decom North Sea is the single topic, multi region membership organisation which connects capability with opportunity across the decommissioning sector.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Decom North Sea is working to enhance knowledge transfer and facilitate collaborative activities to deliver “innovative models” that minimise decommissioning costs, ensuring best value for tax payers and maximising business potential for its member companies.

Decom North Sea has grown since its inception in 2010 and now has a global membership drawn from operators, major contractors, service specialists and technology developers.

With UKCS decommissioning spend alone forecast at an estimated £15.1 billion by 2030 (Oil & Gas UK Decommissioning Insight Report 2020), Decom North Sea plays a vital role in solution development, cross sector learning and helping to build supply-chain capability. Decom North Sea work with a number of strategic partners including the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA), OGUK and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy to achieve these objectives.

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