



Pre-Installed Cable Protector: Successful First Long String Deployment in a North Sea Production Well

SUCCESS STORY VALLOUREC

Overview

Vallourec's innovative new cross coupling cable protectors (PICP) can be pre-installed on tubulars saving valuable rig time & improving safety by reducing personnel exposure in the red zone during RIH operations. Recently, the first long string with PICP was installed in a North Sea production well.

Challenge - Reduce time on the critical path & personnel working in the red zone

An oil and gas operator in the UK was planning an important upper completion of 5 ½" 17# 13CR VAM® TOP tubulars with 1 to 4 cables on a remote platform in the North Sea.

The main aims were to deploy the completion successfully, reduce the time needed for the Run in Hole (RIH) operations and improve safety by

removing the necessity for multiple personnel working in the 'red zone', around the rotary table, when more traditional cable protectors have to be installed.

The operator understood the safety improvements that PICP could provide and decided to utilise them for this completion.

MAY 2023

PRE-INSTALLED CABLE PROTECTOR:
SUCCESSFUL FIRST LONG STRING DEPLOYMENT
IN A NORTH SEA PRODUCTION WELL

SUCCESS STORY VALLOUREC

"The key point – the reduction of personnel in the red zone has greatly improved safety for RIH".

IOC Feedback

Solution - Easy, Quicker and Safer Installations

The oil and gas operator had trialled a handful of Vallourec's Pre-Installed Cable Protectors (PICP) in 2021 and from that positive reception they could see the safety benefit potential of using PICP and requested Vallourec to supply units for a long string installation.

The PICP units were supplied in late 2022 and were pre-installed on tubing joints and then loaded onto transport frames in January 2023 at a rig-ready facility near Aberdeen, Scotland.

The frames were shipped out to the platform in mid-February and

the actual RIH took place in late February 2023. A total of 139 PICP units were successfully installed.

One of the critical objectives for the operator was to improve safety and this was achieved with the rig floor activity needed for PICP requiring only 1 person in the 'red zone' to install the cable and torque up the cable protectors' single bolt. More traditional cable protectors typically require 3 or 4 personnel in the 'red zone' to fully install the units, insert the cable and energise the cable protectors.

With the PICP units being pre-installed onshore, during rig-

ready preparation of the tubulars, there is no manual lifting or handling required on the drill floor – which again provided the O&G operator with improved safety by eliminating potentially dangerous activity.

In addition, Vallourec's PICPs were shown to reduce the offshore logistics needed to install them as they are simpler and easier to use.

On the back of this successful deployment, the operator has initiated an order for more PICPs.

Benefits/ Results - Safer RIH operations

- Improved safety: single person operation on rig floor
- Reduced personnel exposure: less time around the rotary table
- Innovative stabbing guide: easy to use and assists to align the cable protector with the cables at the rotary table
- Single tool required at the rotary table (pneumatic NutRunner): reducing time, activity and dropped object potential on the rig floor
- No change to tubular handling or torquing operations from standard RIH procedure
- Side door elevators used: the PICP are rated to hold the 'full string weight'
- Simplified logistics: no heavy & cumbersome cable protector crates on rig floor
- Accurate cable protector count readily available from the tubing tally.
- No need to stop RIH operations to replenish traditional cable protector crates

OTHER SUCCESS STORIES

To find out more about Vallourec's Pre-Installed Cable Protector, visit the [dedicated page](#) on our website.