



Getting the job done in difficult times calls for new solutions

Vår Energi, Norway



Just as an Italian Alfa Laval service team was finalizing preparations to go to Norway to upgrade an Alfa Laval Olmi shell-and-tube heat exchanger, the Covid-19 pandemic hit Europe. But despite travel bans and national lockdowns, the team managed to complete the service in time thanks to new collaborations and a strong customer focus.

From initial analysis to recommissioning

Vår Energi is a Norwegian oil and gas company operating on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. In 2019 the company contacted Alfa Laval after experiencing issues with an Alfa Laval Olmi shell-and-tube heat exchanger on one of its offshore platforms.

When analysing the situation, Alfa Laval's engineers discovered that the operating pressure was higher than the original specification. They proposed an upgrade that would allow the heat exchanger to operate at the

new, higher pressure and the customer approved. The upgrade was quickly designed, manufactured, installed and tested by the Alfa Laval Olmi team before the heat exchanger was certified by a third-party inspector and recommissioned.

A new reality

The engineers at Vår Energi were so satisfied with the way Alfa Laval handled the process that they immediately started planning for a similar upgrade of another Alfa Laval Olmi heat exchanger on the same platform.

The second upgrade was planned for April 2020 and a group of service experts from the Alfa Laval Olmi factory in Suisio, Italy, was just finalizing its preparations for a second trip to Norway when the Covid-19 pandemic hit Europe. With travel bans and national lockdowns in place, the Alfa Laval Olmi team had to find a new way to perform the upgrade to complete it on time.

A new cooperation

A three-party cooperation between the Alfa Laval Olmi team in Italy, Alfa Laval's Nordic service organization and Vår Energi was formed to implement the second upgrade.

As with the first upgrade, the Alfa Laval Olmi team in Italy took care of all analysis and design work, as well as the manufacturing of all spare parts. The team also provided custom-made tools and testing equipment.

The Alfa Laval Olmi specialists developed and provided welding specification protocols (WSPs) and detailed documentation for all the procedures in the intervention, including test and quality assurance protocols.

Despite Italy being in total lock-down, the Alfa Laval Olmi team managed to ship all parts, tools and equipment to Norway.

24/7 remote support from Italy

When the first heat exchanger was upgraded, Alfa Laval Olmi experts and service technicians performed all the on-site work. For the second upgrade, this was taken care of by local welders and fitters provided by Vår Energi. An engineer from Alfa Laval's Nordic service organization supervised the work on the platform and translated all technical instructions from English to Norwegian.

A team of welding and service specialists in the Alfa Laval Olmi factory in Italy were also available 24/7 for support. The Italian and Norwegian teams had daily conference calls where the upcoming stages of the upgrade and possible issues were discussed.

Completion ahead of time

Thanks to an excellent cooperation between the teams from Vår Energi and Alfa Laval, the upgrade was completed ahead of the time plan.

The last stage before the heat exchanger was recommissioned was the inspection and certification performed by a third-party inspector from DNVGL.

Odd A. Jørgensen, Maintenance Advisor at Vår Energi, was very satisfied with the intervention. "The project was a big success and we received outstanding support from Alfa Laval's teams in Italy and Norway. This allowed us to complete the job ahead of schedule, even with an extended scope of work compared to the original plan," he says.

Fast facts

The plant

Vår Energi's FPSO platform Goliat in the Barents Sea, Norway.

The challenge

To upgrade an Alfa Laval Olmi shell-and-tube heat exchanger despite Covid-19 travel restrictions.

The solution

A close cooperation where local personnel provided by Vår Energi performed the work on the platform, Alfa Laval Nordic supervised on site and the Alfa Laval Olmi team provided parts, customized equipment, technical procedures and 24/7 remote support.

The benefits

- Work completed ahead of time.
- Secure operation and high performance.



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