Flare tip replacement, Australia

ExxonMobil contacted Conbit for the offshore flare tip replacement project at the Snapper (SNA) platform. They were chosen because of their well-established handling methodology and reputation for many flare tip replacements all over the world.

A base frame and lift boom were utilised to perform the mechanical handling in the removal of a pre-existing flare tip and replacement with a new flare tip weighing 731kg.

Using this lightweight equipment, compared to a helicopter, this offered a more cost effective and flexible method that was more favourable to the client.

It was completed within three days – less than the given timeframe.

The SNA platform is located in Production License Area VIC/L10, approximately 32 km off the Gippsland coast of Australia in a water depth of 55m. The Snapper EP covers all activities relating to hydrocarbon production from the Snapper facilities and transport of hydrocarbons in the associated pipelines.

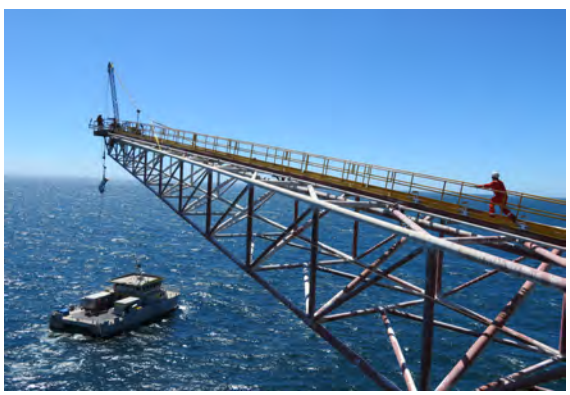

Photo: Lifting new elbow part

PROJECT

- ✓ ENGINEERING
- ✓ INSTALLATION

Client
ExxonMobil

Project Name
Snapper - Flare tip replacement project

ExxonMobil

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Flare tip replacement, Australia

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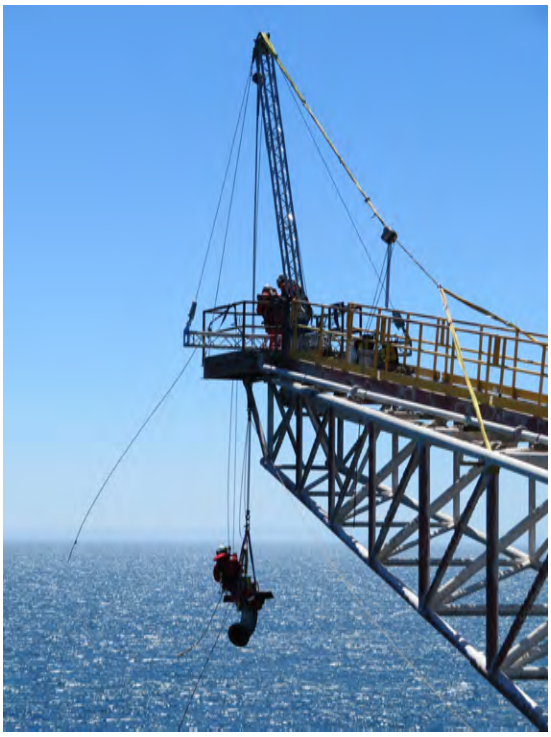

Photo: Disconnecting the rigging line from the load

Photo: Load ready for lifting to the supply vessel

THE POWER OF PREPERATION

Conbit prepared for the manoeuvre with a thorough engineering plan. The flare tip access platform had a sufficient amount of strong points to carry the loads of the lifting system and the flare tip. To assure all stakeholders involved, a load-test took place at the engineering phase at the Conbit warehouse, with the client witnessing it. After this, the primary lifting equipment was sent via air cargo.

CHALLENGES

Conbit faced the unexpected challenge of performing the offshore lift to a supply vessel with no dynamic positioning. This impacted the timing and created further challenges of keeping the vessel level and finding the critical moment for the touch-down. As a result, Conbit devised an action plan to minimise this impact.

Furthermore, Conbit was required to mobilise the equipment in a very short timeframe, which tested the logistics team's ability. With expert planning and shipping of equipment, Conbit could negotiate this challenge.

ADDITIONAL SCOPE

Conbit were also tasked with removing existing piping using their lightweight rigging equipment and changing out the elbow from underneath the flare-tip, weighing 350kg. By remaining flexible and adaptable, Conbit could easily take on this additional scope for the client.