

Session – Operations and Requirements

A Practical Approach to Managing DP Operations

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Abstract

Following some serious DP related incidents Shell embarked on evaluating all DP vessels used by them for critical operations. This was seen as a means of avoiding similar problems in the future. After performing this on some 12 DP vessels a process was established and a requirement specification developed (by the authors) to encapsulate this process for use on all future projects involving DP.

The specification covers the types of equipment and minimum performance levels that Shell requires for conducting operations safely using a DP vessel.

Shell's philosophy is to manage DP operations using these requirements to gain a clear understanding of the safest mode of operation for the vessel. A pre hire verification process is initiated to gain this understanding. Upon final selection of the vessel and placement of a contract, the Contractor is to develop Field or Well Specific Operational Guidelines that will be used to execute DP operations safely. For critical operations the safest mode of operation will be decided in collaboration with the contractor and be included in the FSOG or WSOG.

The overriding philosophy behind the process is to:-

- 1) Understand the worse case failure and significant single point failures (if any) of the DP system.
- 2) Determine the configuration for the safest mode of operation.
- 3) Undertake Defined Critical Activities with vessel's DP system, configured for safest mode of operation.
- 4) Ensure that all key DP Personnel on the vessel are brought to the same level of understanding with regards to the FSOG/WSOG.
- 5) Have robust contingency plans in place.

The paper will present the contents of the Requirement Specification as well as the background of its development.

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