Contingency Planning for the Balmoral FPV

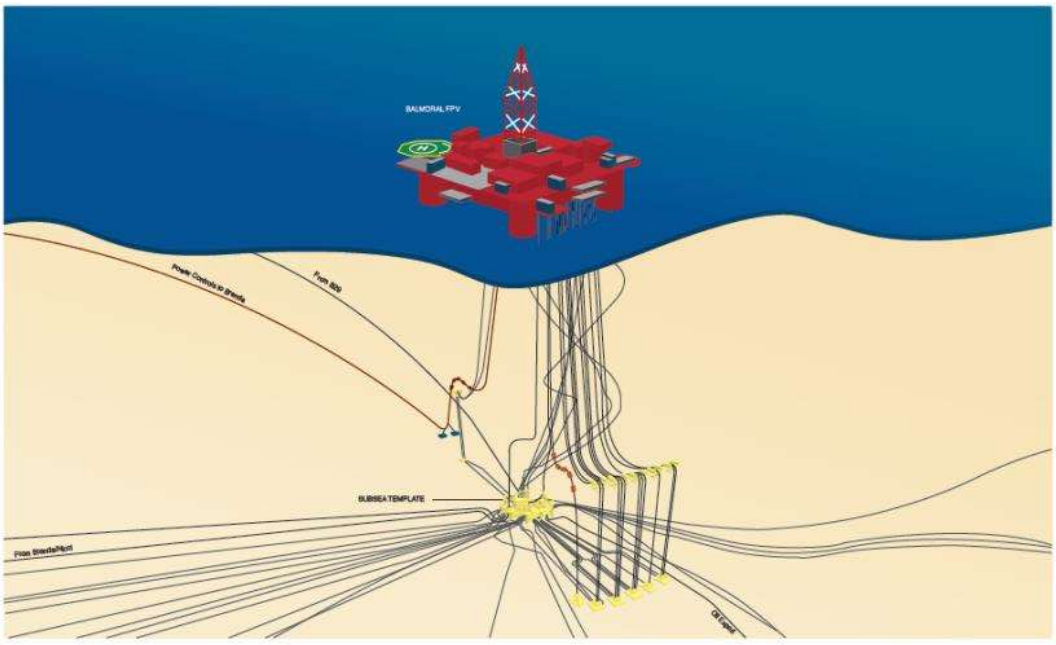
Premier Oil
Aberdeen

The Premier Oil operated Balmoral Floating Production Vessel (FPV), a combined production, diving and quarters semi-submersible, has permanently operated in the Balmoral field, 200 kilometres North East of Aberdeen, since 1986.

As the vessel approaches its end of life, Premier Oil has recognised that there is the potential for events to occur that could necessitate the early cessation of operations at Balmoral. As a first step in contingency planning, Premier Oil asked MMI Engineering Ltd to develop and run a workshop to identify the likelihood of such events.

MMI developed a workshop that took the form of structured brainstorming, using a series of “guidewords” developed to target and align discussions towards aspects of the Balmoral that should be considered in the study.

The main aspects considered were the vessel’s subsea, marine and process systems; together with the identification of generic incidents that would lead to early cessation, i.e. mechanical failures of a certain cost, interruptions to production of a certain duration, fluctuations in the oil price or radical changes to legislation.



Schematic of the Balmoral FPV on Location

The workshop was facilitated by MMI and involved a multidisciplinary team from Premier Oil and other companies associated with the ongoing operation of the Balmoral FPV asset.

Upon completion of the workshop, MMI provided a report to Premier Oil that provided a series of actions and recommendations. The most critical actions centred around the marine systems; the hull of the installation, the moorings and the riser systems. In addition power generation was highlighted and it was identified at that time of the workshop, that reducing the consumption of diesel for power generation could significantly improve the economics of the asset and potentially influence a decision regarding early cessation.