

Challenging wind and waves

Linking hydrodynamic research to the maritime industry

Helicopter Operations for Offshore Ships

HELIOS JIP

Background

Helicopter services have been used by the offshore industry for decades. Traditionally offshore production platforms were fixed. For drilling, installation and work-over, large and stable semi submersibles were deployed. Nowadays helicopters have to operate on FPSO's, drillships and relative small well intervention and installation vessels.

As helicopter services form a critical link in offshore logistics there is a need for a better physical understanding of helicopter operations in relation to (small) ships to optimise these services. It is noted that safety is and will be top priority in all operations of the oil and gas industry.

Objectives

More specific, this pilot study should result in the following:

- Report on current practice of helicopter operations on board offshore vessels including the relevant CAA regulations and flight procedures in the various countries and sectors;
- Insight into the physics of helicopter operations in relation to offshore ships;
- Workability criteria;
- Methodology for assessment of operational envelopes;
- Recommendations for design of ships and heli-decks and support systems;
- Feasibility assessment of a helicopter-ship simulator for training.

Scope of Work

- Current Practice;
- Physical Understanding;
- Methodology for operational envelope;
- Ship Design, Systems & Operations;
- Heli-Ship-Simulator;
- Trials;
- Implementation.



Project deliverables

- Rational criteria;
- Operational envelope methodology;
- Recommended practice for design & operation of vessels;
- Evaluation of potential support systems;
- Recommendations for regulations;
- Heli-ship simulator feasibility.

Project organisation

The Joint Industry Project will start in April 2009 and will be completed within 3 years.

The proposed work will be conducted as a JIP by: StatoilHydro, MARIN, Kongsberg and National Aerospace Laboratory NLR.

Please join: Oil companies, FPSO & Vessel Operators, Heli-Operators, Suppliers and Authorities.



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