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NCE NODE
Norwegian Offshore & Drilling Engineering
 Sørlandet Kunnskapspark, Gimlemoen 19
 NO-4630 Kristiansand, Norway
 Tel: +47 90 99 08 08
 Mr. Kjell Johannessen
 Email: koj@ncenode.no
 Website: www.ncenode.no

NCE NODE is the oil and gas technology cluster at the southern coast of Norway consisting of approximately 50 companies in the value chains of three niches – offshore drilling, offshore loading and offloading, mooring and anchoring, and active heave compensated cranes. These companies are based on the region’s long industrial and shipping tradition, many among the pioneers when the era of oil and gas exploration started in Norway in the mid 1960s. Products range from complete oil and gas platforms to critical high technology equipment for drilling and production of oil and gas in harsh climates.

Market Position

Together the larger NODE companies are the dominant players in all the three niches, with a high global market share. The current international network and the tradition of international trade are of utmost importance for the region in the decades to come. The innovative capacity is a hallmark of the NODE companies. Combined with domestic and international R&D effort, the region will be attractive for highly skilled people as well as for venture capital in the future.

Mechatronics

The global market position shows that the southern coast of Norway is a leading region when it comes to mechatronic products and systems. The very clear ambition is to create a global centre of excellence in Mechatronics

together with the local university (UiA – Agder University), to provide a firm base for future innovations. The most distinct mechatronic product areas are:

- Automatic drilling systems,
- Heave compensation,
- Automatic offshore loading and offloading systems, and
- Mooring control systems

Remaining hydrocarbons will be much more difficult to discover and produce than what we have seen in the past decades. The NODE companies appreciate this innovative challenge. The knowledge acquired from several decades of oil and gas business has unlimited potential within the renewable energy future. NORCOWE (Norwegian Centre

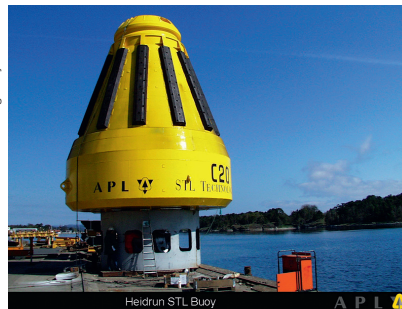
for Offshore Wind Energy) is a good example of the NODE companies’ commitment to stay in the Energy Business in the future. Experience from marine operations and offshore industry is an invaluable asset in developing offshore wind industry.

The Southern Region – the Base for NCE NODE

The southern coast of Norway has a high quality of living combined with an excellent balance of the sea, fjords and nearby mountain terrain ideal for skiing and hiking, a rich variety of cafés, restaurants, And a wide range of educational opportunities and solid R&D activities, provides the basis for continued success of this powerful offshore and drilling engineering cluster.



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