

DIGITAL X-RAY AT VALHALL

As the third oil company in Norway, BP Norge's offshore inspection unit has acquired digital x-ray equipment made by DÜRR NDT.

"The equipment was acquired for the Valhall Re-development (VRD) project and was a win-win situation for both the project and the inspection unit," says Kåre Dale, Valhall senior inspector.

Positive for VRD

"I was of course positive to acquiring the digital x-ray equipment when they contacted me," says Terje Iversen, Operations Manager VRD. "The introduction of new techniques which can make the work easier and more cost-efficient is clearly called for in the tenets of the VRD project - this is a good investment for BP in the long term," says Iversen.

Major environmental benefit

"The introduction of digital x-ray generates major environmental benefits," says Kåre Dale. "The films are developed, or more correctly, scanned in a developing machine which generates digital images. This is a major environmental gain in itself, but the radioactive radiation from x-ray photography is also significantly reduced. We use a radioactive isotope for taking the pictures, and we can reduce exposure rates by 80 % and use weaker isotopes and thus expose ourselves and our surroundings to far less radiation. Digital x-ray images can be copied like any other digital image and be distributed by email or attached to our technical reports - another major advantage."

German technology at its best

The digital x-ray equipment developed by DÜRR NDT GmbH & Co. KG in Germany and has just been approved for use in connection with industrial radiography EN and ASTM standards.

This means that Valhall and the inspection units have acquired cutting-edge equipment which will be used for welding inspections for VRD and periodical inspections (RBI) for many years to come.



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