

Press Release

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Voith Receives Major Order for 60 Large-Size Gears for Brazilian Offshore Oil Field

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Voith has received a major order for the delivery of 60 variable-speed planetary gears type "Vorecon". The "Vorecons" will enter service in offshore production on the oil fields of the huge pre-salt cluster in the Atlantic approximately 300 km outside Rio de Janeiro. The operator is a consortium led by the Brazilian mineral oil group Petrobras. The total volume of the order is in the lower three-digit million Euro range.

Delivery of the first gears is scheduled for November 2012. With this order, which will run for several years, Voith is strengthening its leading position in the growing oil and gas markets of Latin America and the NAFTA region. The proportion of value creation in South America will rise throughout the duration of the project. Voith, active in Brazil for nearly 50 years, will build a new dedicated assembly hall with a test field at the location São Paulo.

The applied Voith technology is an important building block for the technically reliable and commercially viable exploitation of the oil reserves located off the Brazilian coast. By 2017, the consortium of operators is setting up eight floating oil platforms in the area for a total of USD 3.5 billion. These platforms are to extract the oil reserves contained in the so-called pre-salt cluster up to seven kilometers below the water surface. The exploitation involves the penetration of a salt layer with a thickness of up to two kilometers, as well as a three-kilometer deep stone layer.

Regarding the exploitation of the “pre-salt cluster”, the operator is taking a new approach: a mixture of oil, gas and water is moved to the surface from the oil fields. The three constituents are then separated on special vessels. The crude oil is bunkered on ships, while the gas is returned to the subsea oil field and thus preserved for later utilization. In the past, most of the gas was combusted and therefore lost.

Compressors densify the gas for return transportation into the oil field. The compressors are driven by electric motors, whose speed is controlled by the Voith “Vorecon”. As a result, the gas has a constant pressure of up to 550 bar, independent of its highly varying density. Due to its compact, robust design and its high reliability the “Vorecon” is ideal for the rough conditions in the Atlantic Ocean.

Voith sets standards in the markets energy, oil & gas, paper, raw materials and transport & automotive. Founded in 1867, Voith employs more than 40,000 people, generates €5.6 billion in sales, operates in over 50 countries around the world and is today one of the biggest family-owned companies in Europe.

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