



## Minister Salutes Triton Success

September 8, 2000

The Rt. Hon Helen Liddell MP, Minister for Energy and Competitiveness in Europe, today officially inaugurated the £540 million Triton Project at the offices of Amerada Hess in Aberdeen. The Project, which incorporates the Bittern, Guillemot West and North West fields, took just 2½ years from sanction by the partner companies to the delivery of first oil to the Triton floating production storage and offloading vessel on 15 April 2000.

In inaugurating the Triton Project, Helen Liddell said,

"Triton represents a further sign of continuing life on the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS), and I am pleased to congratulate all involved on successful production through this vessel.

"It has been a good week for the UKCS, with another major project coming onstream, and positive investment signals from some major players.

"As the North Sea matures, it continues to offer up technological challenges which could result in real rewards for industry. With the kind of partnership and innovation displayed in the Triton project, and the initiatives developing through PILOT, our nation's offshore oil and gas resources promise a great future."

Commenting on the achievement, Nick Fairbrother, Managing Director of Amerada Hess Limited said,

"In a maturing North Sea, Triton has set a new benchmark. The project demanded a new level of teamwork between investors, suppliers and fabricators in order to unlock the value of the three fields and mould them into a single development. I believe this has produced a superb result, a high quality development that builds on the considerable expertise and experience of all the partners. Even with the exacting timetable we set ourselves and the challenges encountered along the way, Triton has been developed rapidly and within the budget we originally set. It provides a model for releasing the potential of similar clusters of small and marginal accumulations on the UK Continental Shelf.

"Amerada Hess intends to build on this latest achievement. Our plans to increase capital investment and exploration spend in the UK as opportunities become available is a demonstration of our continued commitment to this country and belief that the UK Continental Shelf still has a great deal to offer."

The Inauguration marks the end of a very successful project phase and the build up of production after the completion of the majority of offshore commissioning on the Triton vessel. Production levels and operating efficiency are steadily rising and on target for plateau production as the process plant is tuned and experience of its operation is gained. Triton production is currently averaging in the order 66,000 barrels of oil per day and gas export of 80 million ft<sup>3</sup> per day.

The partners in the Triton Project are Amerada Hess (Operator of the Triton FPSO), Shell (Operator of the Bittern Field), Veba (Operator of the Guillemot West and North West Fields), ExxonMobil, Enterprise and Paladin. The fields served by the FPSO Triton have estimated reserves of some 140 million barrels of oil and 210 billion cubic feet of gas and an expected field life of 13 years.

### Triton Project key dates

July 1996	Bittern discovery followed by appraisal and concept selection process
October 1997	Project sanction by Triton Partners
March 1998	DTI Field Development Approval
April 2000	First oil
June 2000	First gas export