



MEDIA RELEASE

28 February 2006

SAL bound for Pohokura in world-first

At approximately 7am tomorrow morning, the SAL MV Annegret arrives in Port Taranaki, New Plymouth from the Australian Marine Complex (AMC) in Henderson, Western Australia with its precious 420 tonne steel jacket cargo on board valued at \$10 million. The 56 metre long jacket is the first Australian exported structure of this kind and will be installed 13 km offshore, North-East of New Plymouth on behalf of the Joint Venture parties Shell Exploration NZ Ltd (30%), Todd Pohokura Ltd (26%), OMV(26%) and Shell (Petroleum Mining) Co Ltd (18%)

In a world-first the highly complex structure has been loaded from a horizontal position into a vertical position, 42 metres out of the hatch into the sky. The unique engineering method devised by SAL provided a swivel action and outward rotation of the lifting yoke and tailing crane that turned the steel jacket during the lifting process. This also kept the structure one metre off the ground at all times.

Renowned for having the fastest heavy lift ships in the world, the SAL vessel is travelling at an incredible speed of 20 knots for the duration of the 8 day voyage. With seagoing transport recognised as the smoothest method, the advantage of faster transit time compared to the 5-8 knots of a barge, along with the engineering expertise in positioning the jacket vertically, provides tangible economic benefits. The results minimise potential fatigue of the structure, therefore increasing its lifespan from 20 years to 30 years.

In a move that represented the significance of the project the sensitive voyage has undergone rigid safety requirements by the Classification Society GL in Germany and is being continuously monitored for changes in weather conditions via satellite, by the Houston Weather Bureau in the United States.

“The challenge for the safe passage of the steel jacket is analysing and predicting the sea, swell, wind and current patterns of the ocean, and chartering the smoothest course. This is only possible when you have a highly experienced, specialist scientific team including engineers, technical researchers and seagoing personnel. SAL is fortunate to have this team including a Captain with over 50 years experience in Heavylift Shipping.”

Master Mariner, Captain Hajo Bäker, Heavy Lift Superintendent / Offshore Loading Master.

The offshore uploading of the steel jacket, which will lay in 35 metres of water in the Taranaki Basin, is due to be completed mid March 2006. In another world-first the vertical positioning of the jacket means the Annegret will moor just 4 metres from the legs of the ENSCO 56 JUR (offshore jackup rig) in an exercise that has previously only ever been carried out via barge. A motion mooring analysis system including model simulations to predict mooring line tensions was conducted by the Classification Society GL in Germany and MARIN Maritime Research Institute in Netherlands, to ensure the viability of the first time procedure.

*Low-resolution image is provided. High-resolution images are available
For media access to Port Taranaki (Breakwater Rd) call Phoenix Shipping 0274 777 545.
Photo ID, Media ID and a hard hat may be required.*

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