



News

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Norway's StatoilHydro endorses IECEx

Norway's main petroleum company — [StatoilHydro](#)— says it is choosing independently assessed and IEC 60079-19 certified Ex Repair Workshops such as the International Electrotechnical Commission's system for certification to standards for equipment for explosive atmospheres ([IECEx](#)) rather than try to handle this question on its own. StatoilHydro says that going with the IECEx is a cheaper and easier means of maintaining the equipment used on its oil platforms.

Equipment that is used in explosive atmospheres, such as offshore oil platforms, coal mines, sugar refineries and your local gas station, must be built, maintained and repaired to very exacting standards for safety. The IECEx offers a means for manufacturers to test and certify their equipment as a means of demonstrating compliance to these standards. In addition, the new IECEx Certified Service Facility Program provides independent assessment and certification of repair workshops involved in Ex equipment that comply with the IEC Standard covering this subject.

StatoilHydro's endorsement came during a meeting of the IECEx in Oslo on 17 October, where the company said: "As a large owner of Ex plant and equipment, we have tried various options including operating our own repair and overhaul workshop, selecting workshops based on StatoilHydro's own assessment and find that selecting Ex repair workshops covered by independent third party certification such as the IECEx scheme to be the most effective and reliable solution."

IECEx Secretary Chris Agius says "We see this as a smart business decision on the part of StatoilHydro. Why pay more to do something yourself when you can pay less for top quality, reliable service? That's what the IECEx offers to industry and that's why industry is choosing us."

The meeting in Oslo was the first of its kind in Scandinavia and it was organized by [NEK](#), the Norwegian Electrotechnical Committee. More than 40 people from four countries participated and they came from a broad spectrum of industry, including rig owners, oil companies, governmental authorities, test labs, engineering consultants, repair facilities, equipment manufacturers and distributors, and training centres.

StatoilHydro is the largest petroleum company in the Nordic countries and Norway's largest company.



Brage
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