



PRESS RELEASE

UNION WELCOMES PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS BOOST

The Biggest Union in the Offshore Fabrication Sector today announced its support for the news that over 1,000 manufacturing jobs could be created in the North East of England.

The GMB Union welcomed the news that Offshore Group Newcastle (OGN) the UK-based oil and gas engineering and fabrication contractor, has announced it has been selected by US-based Apache Corporation to construct a new oil production platform for the UK Forties field.

GMB Regional Organiser for Engineering on the Tyne, Michael Blench said:

"This announcement is extremely good news for those employed in these vital trades and their families. At a time when the UK economy is being hit hard particularly in the public sector, this is a massive boost for job creation in the North East".

The GMB noted that the deal worth £150 million was one of the largest North Sea contracts recently awarded, with over 1,000 jobs to be generated over 20 months at OGN Group's Hadrian Yard site in Newcastle as part of development in the North Sea.

Mr Blench said:

"The GMB has been championing offshore development for a long period of time as an essential part of expanding UK manufacturing skills and the sector. Manufacturing is at the heart of the North East and this development on the Tyne will give GMB members vital work at a difficult time".

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Contact: Michael Blench Organiser 07870 176748

