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Managing Pressure, Minimising Risk

Isolation Emergency Pipeline Repair System | Qatargas, North Field, Qatar

The world's largest LNG producer, Qatargas, has awarded pipeline engineering company STATS Group a multi-million pound contract to provide Remote Pipeline Isolation Equipment complete with subsea monitoring and tracking capabilities as a part of Qatargas' Emergency Pipeline Repair System (EPRS).

STATS will design, manufacture, test and supply a new range of high integrity double block and bleed Remote Tecno Plugs™ for pipeline sizes 32", 34" & 38" specifically for this project. These will become part of EPRS hardware for Qatargas' production facilities in the Arabian Gulf's North Field, where gas and condensate is dehydrated offshore before being transferred by pipelines to Ras Laffan Industrial City for export.

The installation of the Remote Tecno Plugs™ will provide positive isolation at the required location and thus provide a safe environment to carry out quick and effective repair on subsea pipelines in the event of a damage incident.

The Aberdeen-based pipeline isolation and integrity specialist will also provide call-out services to maintain the equipment in a state of readiness as well as field personnel to assist in any required deployment of the system.

This is the first project STATS have been awarded by Qatargas and the company's most significant win to date in the Middle East. The 10 year contract is estimated to be worth in excess of \$10 million (£6.4 million).

STATS Group managing director, Pete Duguid, said the Qatargas award would establish his company's reputation as a global leader in EPRS development and implementation.



STATS chief executive Pete Duguid, right, with Mark Staub of Qatargas, at STATS' Kintore HQ

Mr Duguid said: "To be awarded a contract of this magnitude underlines the confidence Qatargas has in STATS and our unique technologies and our ability to respond to all its pipeline integrity and repair issues."

"This award puts us in a very strong position to take advantage of the emerging EPRS sector in the Middle East and gives us a platform to establish our credentials as a leader in this type of work on a global scale."

Mr Duguid added: "Qatar is investing billions of dollars in developing a world class gas supply infrastructure and the operators are focussed on providing the highest standards of integrity across their assets. We are pleased to be able to support Qatargas in establishing a benchmark for other global EPRS projects."

STATS Group are recruiting an extra 20 staff to support the Qatari project and other major pipeline isolation contracts which are already secured in 2012 and beyond.

Last year the company appointed Vikas Shangari as Business Development Manager for the Middle East, based in Doha. In addition to supporting the Qatargas project, Mr Shangari will focus on expanding the STATS brand and technologies in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and across the Gulf States.

