

# MICEDD

## DEEPWATER DEVELOPMENT

28 - 30 March 2023 | Millennium Gloucester Hotel | London, UK

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Quest Offshore

World Oil®

**Hub & Spoke Strategies  
Using Utility Buoys to Enhance the Value  
of Subsea Tie-backs**

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Buoyant  
Production  
Technologies**



# Agenda

1. An introduction to the Crondall Group and BPT
2. Hub and spoke strategies
3. Case studies: Umbilical v Utility buoy
4. Conclusions



# Cron dall's consulting services

Cron dallenergy



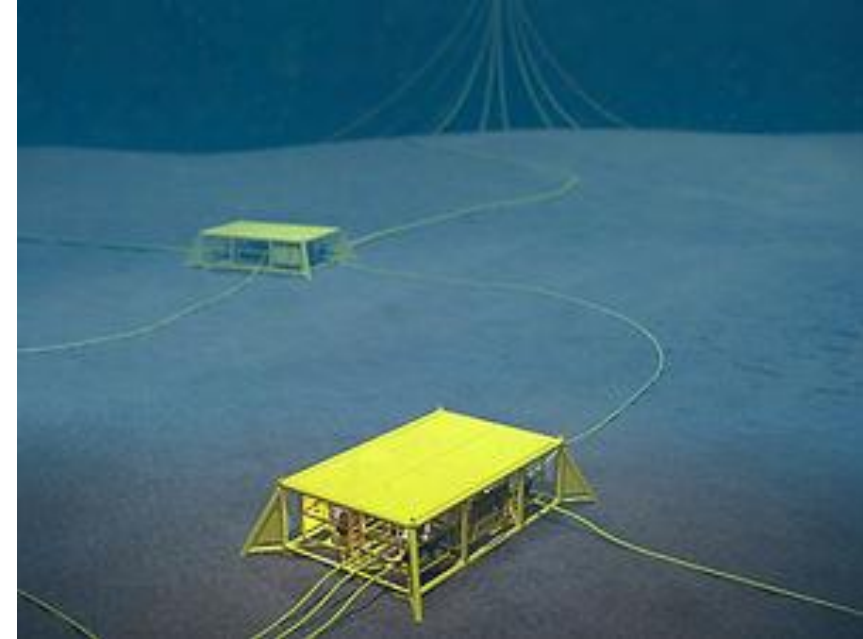
Hub & spoke strategies

The background is a solid dark blue. It features several thick, stylized lines that create a sense of movement and growth. A white line starts from the bottom left, moves horizontally to the right, then curves sharply upwards and to the right, ending at the top right. An orange line starts from the bottom left, moves diagonally upwards to the right, then curves horizontally to the right, and finally curves upwards and to the right, ending at the top right. The white line is positioned above the orange line in the upper right quadrant.

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# Hub and spoke strategies

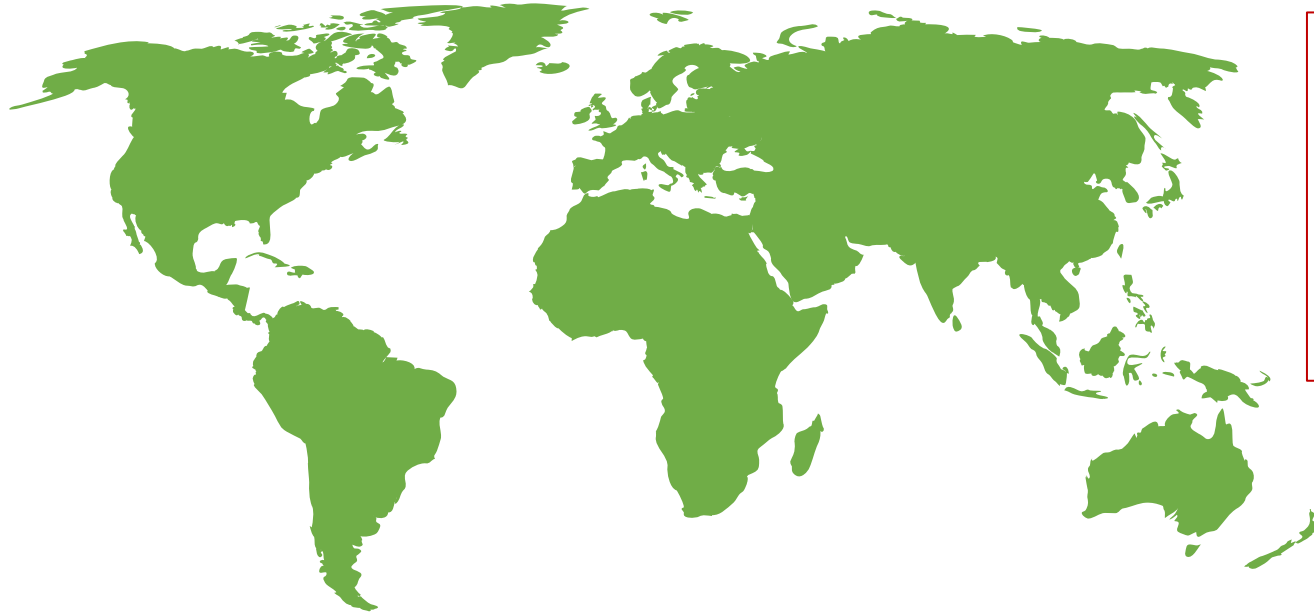
- Hub and spoke strategies have been used for many years as a way to:
  - Deliver low cost developments for smaller fields/reserves through subsea tie backs
  - Increase production and maximise the economic potential of existing hub and surrounding infrastructure.
- However, in some deep water basins, the majority of the shorter range tie-backs have been done.
- There is a significant value opportunity with tie back prospects further out.





# Drivers for subsea tiebacks are evolving

- Reduced CAPEX for new production facilities.
- Focus on extending life of existing assets.
- Longer distance tie-backs to hubs.

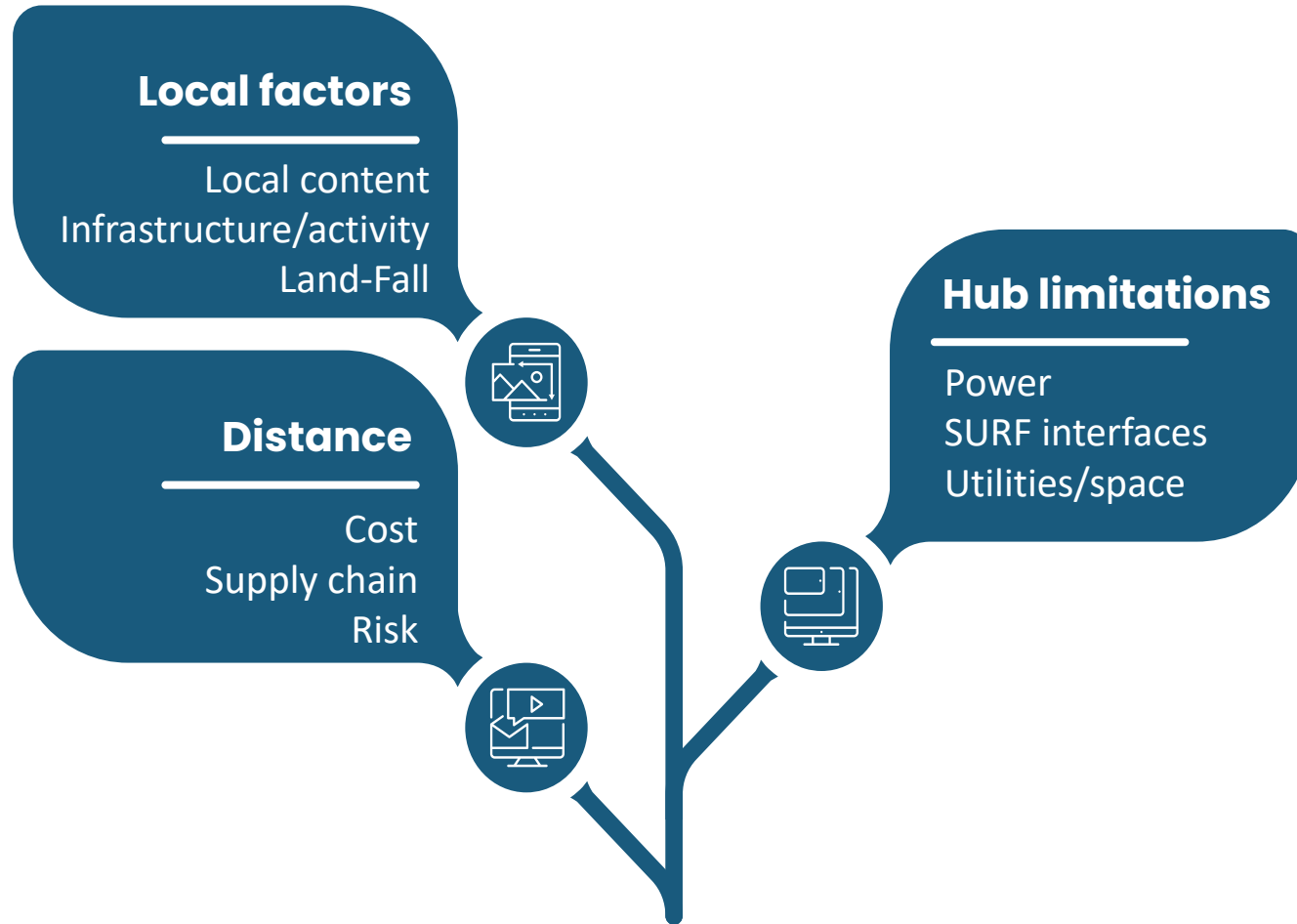


- Deepwater & remote gas developments
- Lifetime beyond existing O&G infrastructure
- Offshore CCUS

- New subsea technologies such as subsea separation, pumping, water injection, etc. offer the opportunity to significantly expand the range of future tie-backs and turbocharge hub and spoke arrangements.
- BPT's utility buoy technology is designed to provide the power, control, chemicals and other utilities to support these new technologies.



# Subsea tieback power and control



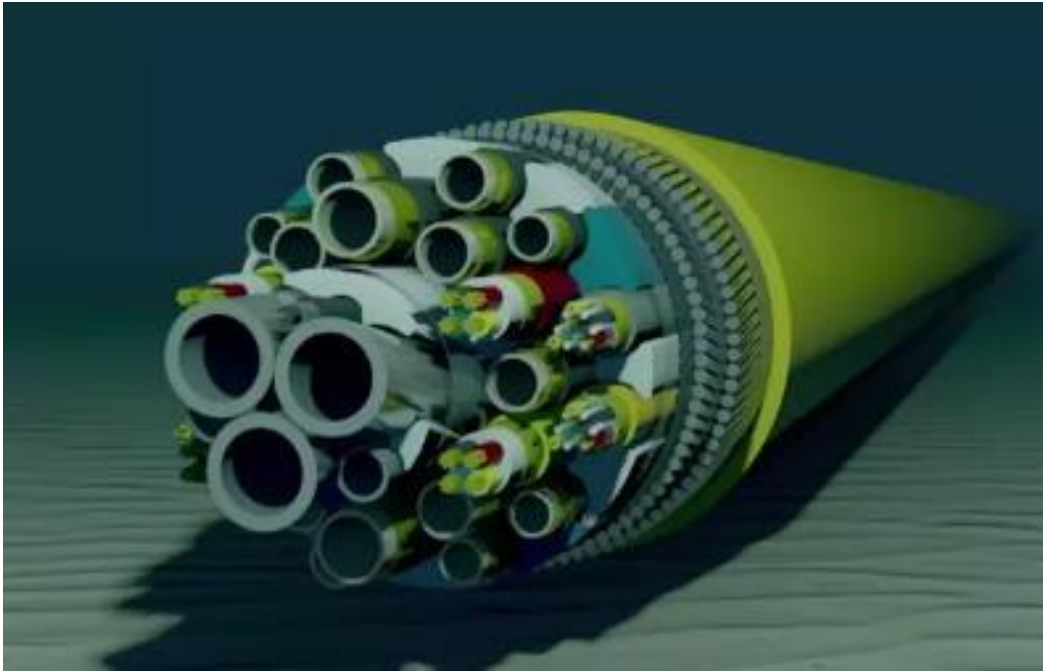
Key project considerations

- Subsea tiebacks are typically controlled via a static umbilical.
- Umbilical supplies power, chemicals, hydraulics for well control.
- Alternative approach is to provide these utilities from a utility buoy at the well site.





# Long-distance control umbilical



- Traditional approach to tieback control
- Long distance proven out to 180km (Zohr)
- All utilities provided from hub
- Procurement cost increases with length & function
- Installation cost increases with length & water depth
- Umbilical failures not uncommon:
  - Open circuit/ short circuit – risk increases with distance
  - Low insulation earth faults due to umbilical degradation

# Hub facilities – supporting umbilical services

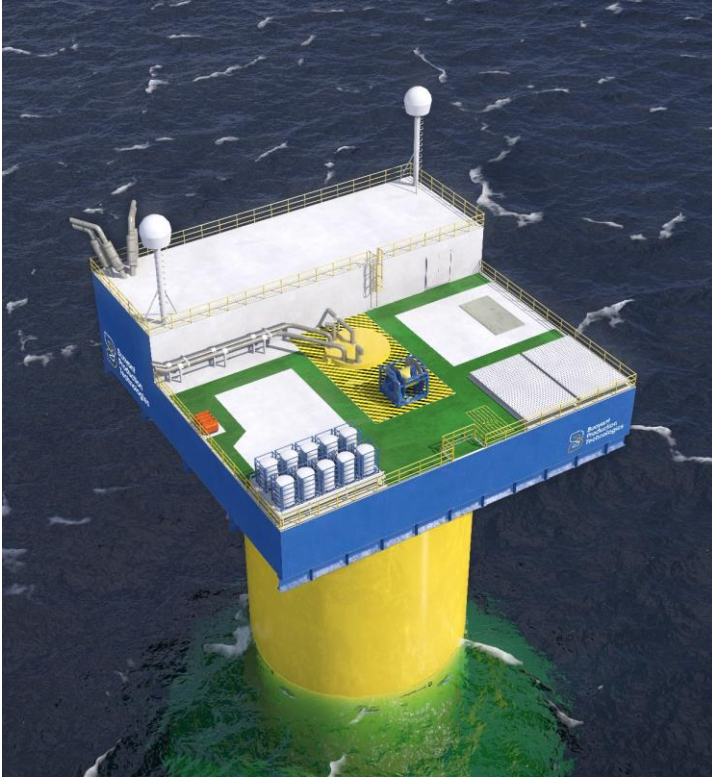


Hub facility supplies all services to the umbilical

- Upgrade may be required for:
  - Control system
  - Subsea control and power (HPU, MCS)
  - Power generation
  - Chemical injection & storage
  - Umbilical interfaces
- Hub modification scope and costs can vary:
  - Small brownfield modification and umbilical pull-in
  - Major brownfield modification
    - New power swivels (FPSO specific)
    - Additional power generation modules, WI, chemical injection skids
  - Topsides expansion e.g. bridge linked platforms



# Utility buoy at the well-site



Local supply of power, control, chemicals and utilities with a floating “Normally Unattended Installation” (NUI)

- Limited use to date (2 projects)
- All utilities from local buoy – no hub upgrades
- Procurement cost independent of tieback distance
- Installation cost increases with water depth
- Unmanned system reliability and maintainability determines system uptime:
  - Unmanned power generation (renewables and/or engines)
  - Dual redundant VSAT
  - Remote control and monitoring
  - Campaign maintenance

Case studies:  
Umbilical v Utility buoy

A decorative graphic consisting of several thick, overlapping lines in white and orange. The lines start from the left side of the frame and move towards the right, with some lines curving upwards and then becoming horizontal. The background is a solid dark blue color.

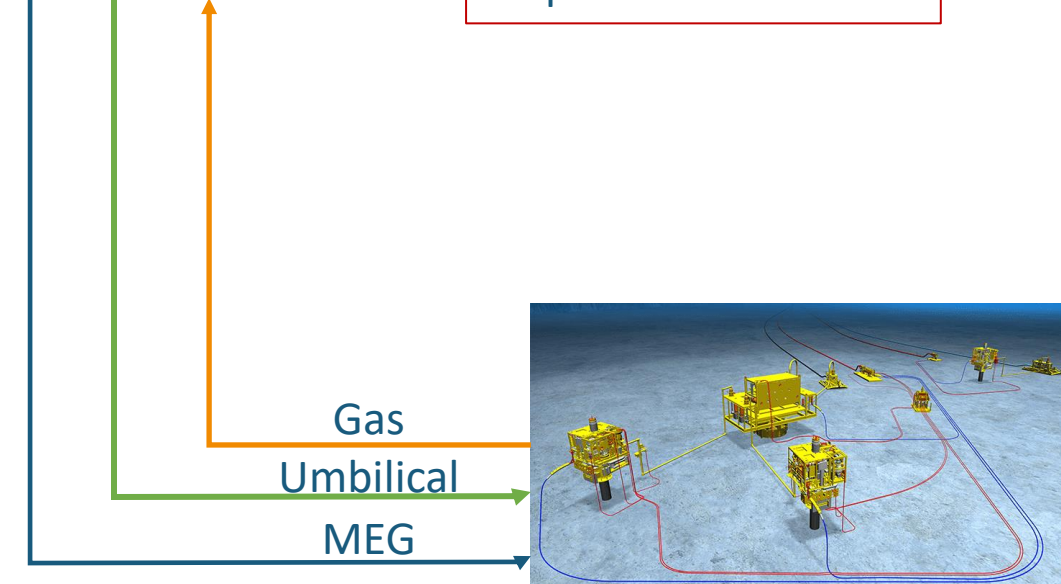
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# Case study 1 – 120km gas tieback



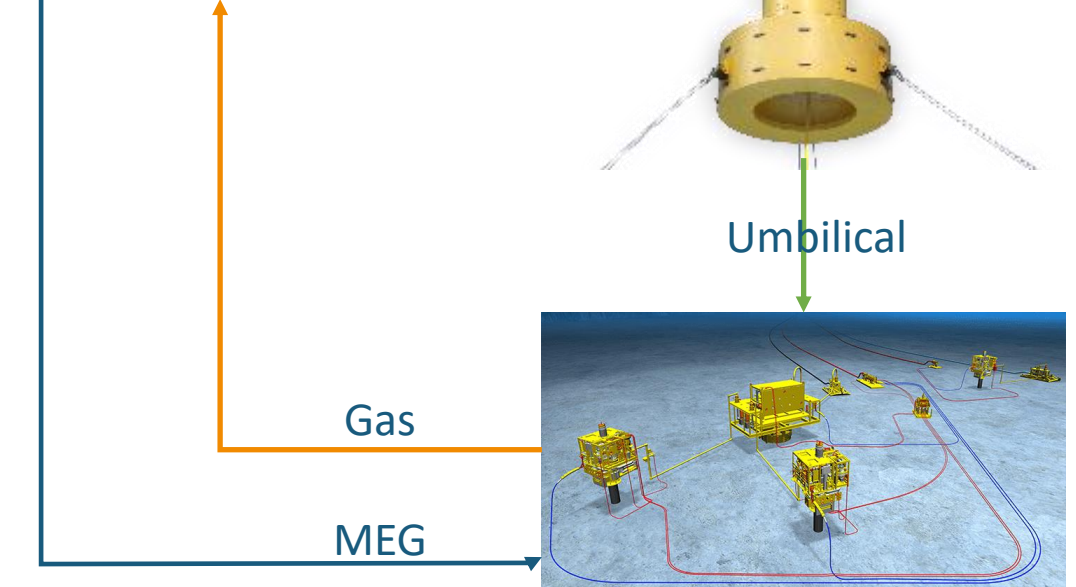
- ~70kW peak power
- Chemical pumps
- HPU
- Operational personnel offshore



UMBILICAL CONTROL



- ~100kW peak power
- Chemical pumps
- HPU
- Operational personnel onshore

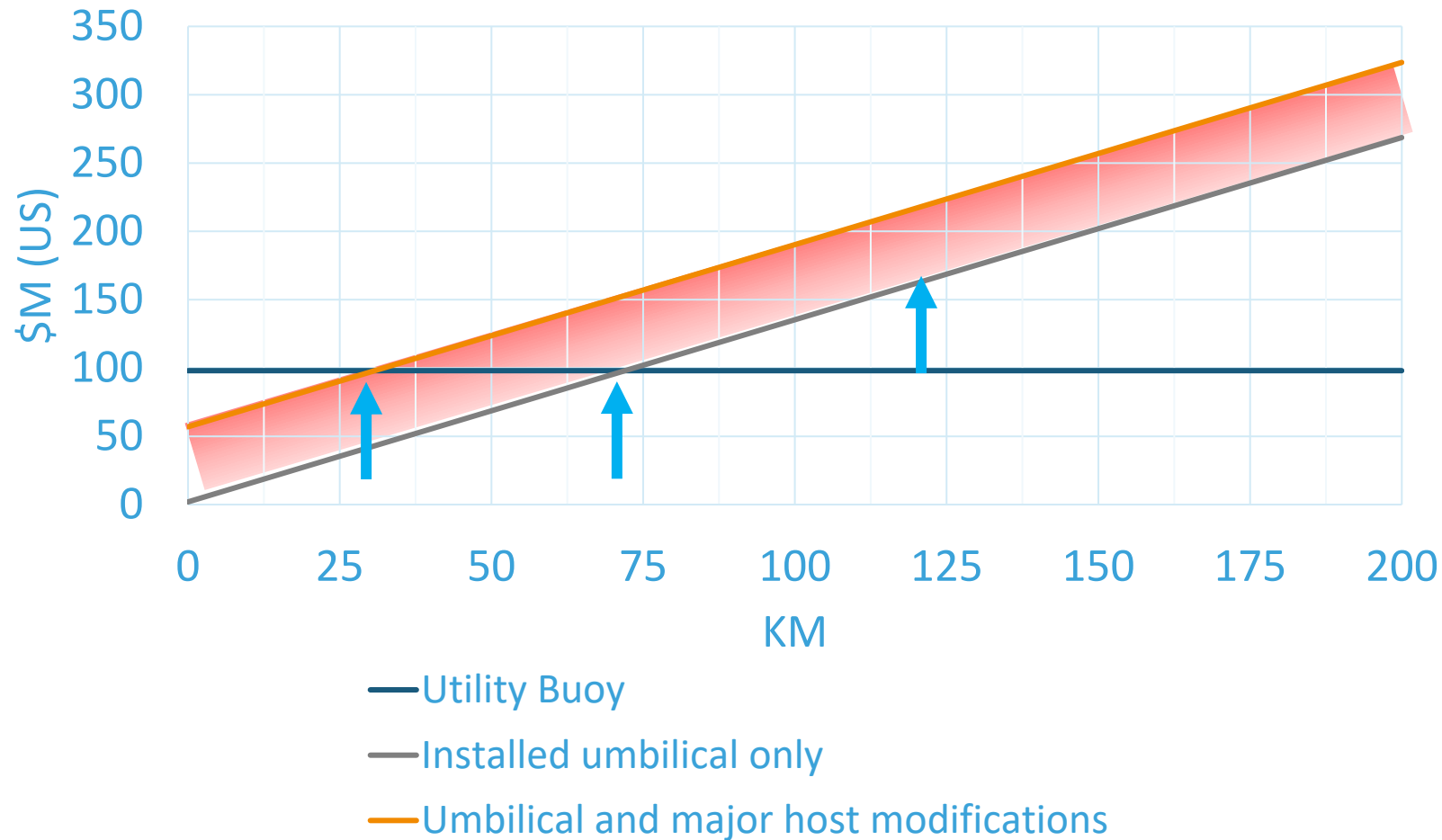


BUOY CONTROL



# Umbilical vs buoy: NPV vs distance

## NPV assessment - Low Power system



For the 120 km tie-back case, the utility buoy offers \$70-\$125M NPV saving over the umbilical solution

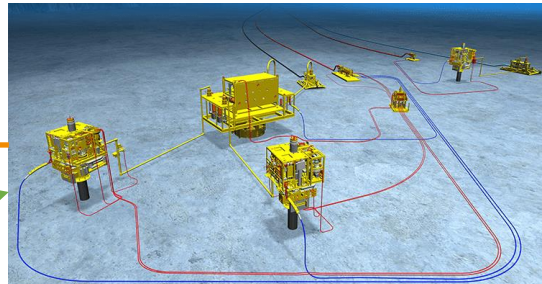


# Case study 2 – 50km oil tieback



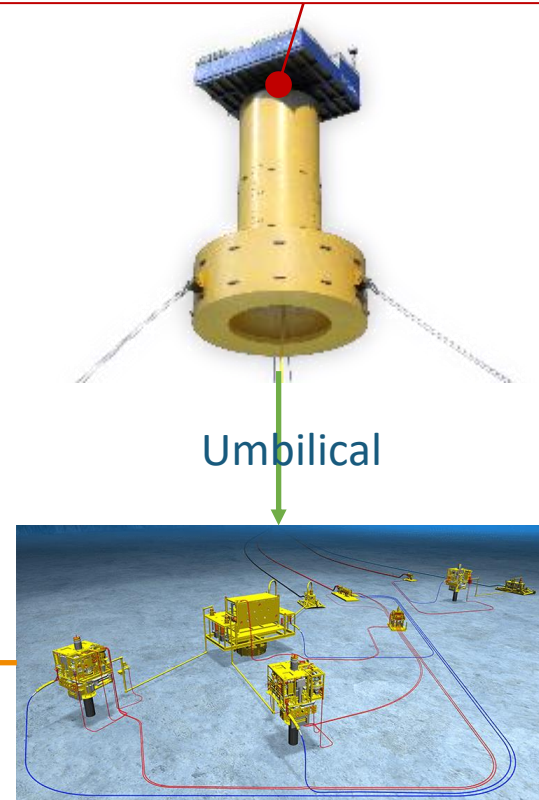
- 5MW peak power
- Chemical pumps
- Power gen.
- HPU
- Operational personnel offshore

Multiphase fluid  
Umbilical



- ~7MW peak power
- Chemical pumps
- Power gen
- HPU
- Operational personnel on hub

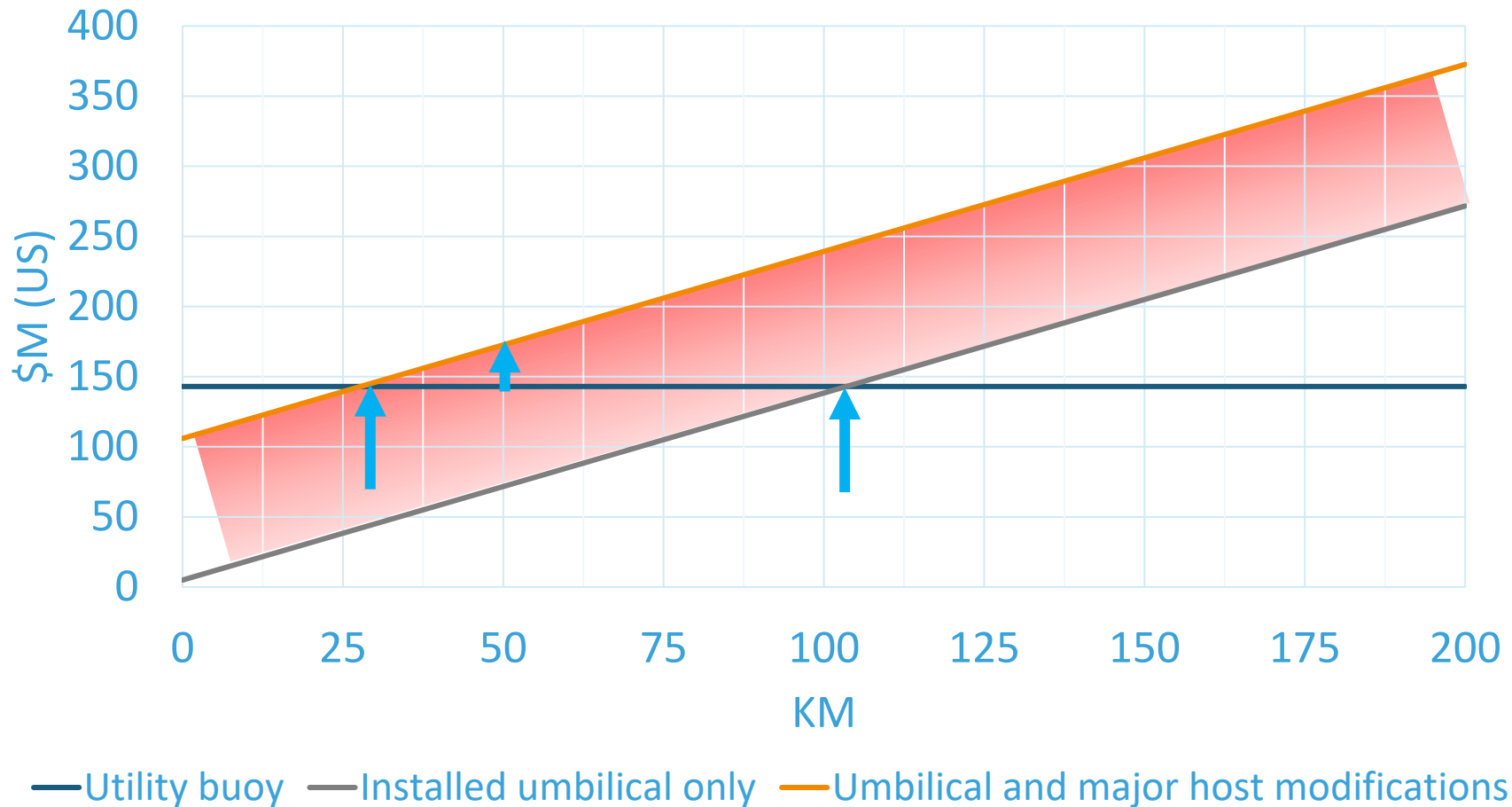
Multiphase fluid





# Economics – project NPV vs distance

## NPV assessment - High Power system



At 50km, the economics are more marginal, but heavily contingent on the ability of the hub to provide the required power.



# Non-financial factors

## UMBILICAL

### Strengths

- Established technology
- Standard manned operating model

### Weaknesses

- High criticality & consequence in case of umbilical failure
- Supply chain constraints
- Limited by hub facility capabilities and upgrade cost/feasibility

## UTILITY BUOY

### Strengths

- NPV savings
- Renewable (zero emission) power options
- Supply chain flexibility
- Local content opportunities
- Minimal impact on hub

### Weaknesses

- Unmanned operational model
- New technology risk



Conclusions

A decorative graphic consisting of several thick, rounded lines in white and orange, set against a dark blue background. The lines are arranged in a stepped, upward-sloping pattern, creating a sense of progression or growth. The white lines are more prominent, while the orange lines are layered behind them.

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# Summary

- A utility buoy, located at the well site, can be employed as an economically attractive alternative to a long distance static umbilical.
- Generally the economic tipping point is around 50+km, but reduces when hub modifications are complex.
- The economic (NPV) benefit is greatest when the host or hub facility is constrained in terms of the required utilities and/or space or weight.
- More challenging projects with complex & power hungry subsea infrastructure may exceed the hub's capacity to support an umbilical solution.
- Floating Normally Unattended Installation (NUI) utility buoy systems at the well site provide an opportunity to unlock the hub and spoke strategy for these challenging tie-backs.



Questions

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