Established in 1978, Subsea 7’s Pipeline Bundle Fabrication Site is located 6 miles north of the town of Wick, Caithness in the far North of Scotland. This unique site runs 7.8km inland, covers a total area in excess of 300,000m² and has a sheltered bay in which to launch the Pipeline Bundles.

Key points

• Geographically situated to service West of Shetland fields, North and Norwegian Seas
• Site length – 7,800 metres
• Site area – over 300,000m²
• Longest pipeline bundle length – 7.7km
• Heaviest structure/manifold assembly - approx. 600te
• Site/track bearing capacity - 25te/m²
• Three Fabrication shops plus modern office/maintenance/storage facilities
• Four construction tracks providing a total capacity of almost 28km for pipeline bundles and associated work
What is a Pipeline Bundle?
The Pipeline Bundle product integrates the required flow lines, water injection, gas lift and control systems necessary for any subsea development and assembles them within a steel carrier pipe. At each end of the pipeline, the structures, manifolds, incorporating equipment and valves, designed specifically to the requirements of the field, are attached. The fully tested system is then launched and transported to the location using the Controlled Depth Tow Method. Once installed no trenching or rock dumping is required.

Storage and Handling
There is a total of 50,000m² of pipe storage areas. The main line pipe storage area is serviced by two 10t Goliath Cranes. There are also a number of dedicated areas for the storage of project materials and consumables including, the main store and dedicated satellite stores where smaller items are contained.

Fabrication Shops
The site has three Fabrication Shops utilised for the welding/fabrication of pipeline bundles. Fabrication Shops 1 and 2 contain dedicated overhead cranes. All of the facilities contain production firing lines with Fabrication Shop 2 serviced with a total of 5 firing lines which can be used simultaneously. Pipe in pipe assemblies are regularly assembled from this facility.

Fabrication Shop No. 1: 133m x 15m
Fabrication Shop No. 2: 120m x 15m
Fabrication Shop No. 3: 90m x 10m

Tracks
The site has four separate railway tracks, which total 27,200m, on which dedicated bogies run. These are used for the movement of pipes and pipeline bundles.
Track 1 length: 7,700m
Track 2 length: 7,700m
Track 3 length: 6,000m
Track 4 length: 5,800m.

Launchway
In order to move the completed Bundles from land to sea, a 240m launch way is installed to assist them on their journey to their offshore destination.

Plant and Equipment
The Wick site is fully equipped with vehicles/plant/heavy lift pipe layer side booms and only limited equipment is hired in as required.

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Aerial view of Wick Fabrication Site
Pipeline Bundle launch
Multiple assembly lines
Production welding

Information correct at time of going to press

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