

An aerial photograph of the North Sea showing several offshore drilling rigs and support vessels. The water is a deep blue, and the horizon is visible in the distance under a cloudy sky. The rigs are scattered across the sea, with some leaving white wakes behind them.

HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING

PIPELINE CONNECTION MITTELPLATE
North Sea/Germany

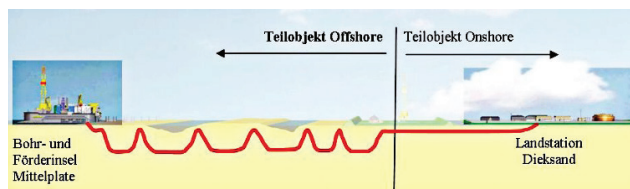
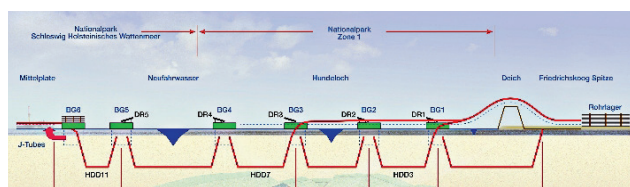


PIPELINE CONNECTION MITTELPLATE North Sea/Germany

Client: RWE Dea AG/Wintershall Holding AG

The RWE Dea AG and Wintershall Holding AG make up the Mittelplate Consortium that is responsible for operating in Germany's largest oilfield. The project comprised the pipeline connection between the offshore drilling platform Mittelplate and the onshore processing facility.

Putting a pipeline through the highly prized and rigorously protected Wadden Sea wetlands required extensive use of HDD to minimise the impact of construction on the tidal flats. The pipeline route was divided into six sections with lengths up to 1,400 m.



Project details

Client	RWE Dea AG / Wintershall Holding AG
Scope of work	EPC contract: shore approach and offshore connection
Location	North Sea estuary, Germany
Total Length	15,000 m; 6 sections
Diameter	10", 6" (stainless steel pipe)
Geology	Sand, clay
Equipment	Application of 5 HDD rigs in total. Pushing/pulling force: 250 tons, 300 tons, 400 tons
Contract Period	Commencement – February 2005 Completion – April 2005
Original Contract Value	US\$ 26.5 million



Challenges

- Largest HDD project in Europe for 2005
- Extreme environmental and ecological compliance was necessary
- Zero spill policy achieved
- No mud loss to environment
- Full containment of solids & waste
- Difficult sea conditions in the North Sea
- Completed ahead of schedule