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## World's largest cutter at Easington

(2005-05-20) **The world's largest cutter suction dredger - "JFJ de Nul" - arrived offshore Easington, England, on 12 May to start trenching work on the landfall part of the Langeled gas pipeline project.**

"We started trenching (10 m wide and 2 m deep) from about one kilometer offshore and will reach six or seven kilometers out by Friday (20 May)," said Langeled/Easington landfall project manager, Arne Ivar Helland. "The dredger is making up to one kilometer per day, depending on the weather."

The "JFJ de Nul" is assisted by the crew ship, "Argus," survey vessel, "Norse," tug boat, "Afon Goch," and multi cat, "Grey Mammoth."



LANGELED LANDFALL: The dredging vessel "JFJ de Nul" started its trenching work - to a point some 20 km off the coast of Easington, England - last week.

### Ship to shore

The trenching work will continue to a point 20 kilometers offshore, from where the lay barge, "Tog Mor," starts laying Langeled towards shore on 20 June.

The ship-to-shore pipe-laying job is expected to take 30 days. At about the same time the pipe-laying job into Easington wraps up in mid-July, the pipe lay vessel LB 200 will start laying pipeline from the 20 kilometer point offshore towards the Sleipner platform in the North Sea, the junction for Ormen Lange gas between Norway and the UK.

Trenching work started one kilometer offshore because it was believed current-swept sands would refill the trench section closer to shore by the time the pipeline laying operation reaches it in mid-July, explained Helland.

The "Tog Mor" will stop laying pipe some 500 meters from shore to avoid running aground. A giant onshore winch will pull the remaining section onto land and into place.

The Langeled/Easington landfall project – part of the larger Langeled UK project - consists of the aforementioned seabed trenching and pipe-lay work, construction of a tunnel from the beach to an onshore site some 700 meters from the gas receiving terminal, and the building a temporary cofferdam (sheath to keep the trench open) from the beach to a point 240 meters offshore.

### All systems go

The project is "moving on just as planned," says Helland, adding that reinstatement work (to cover all tracks of the trenching and pipe-laying work)



**BIG TEETH:** Due to extremely hard clay in the seabed, the JFJ de Nul's cutter, the world's largest, is working with an employed power of 4000 KW at the cutting head to open the 2 m deep and 10 m wide trench in one go.

will start just as soon as the pipe is laid.

"On pipeline projects, there shouldn't be any signs of the work left. It's a pity, really, that no one gets to see the work we've done."

The land-based part of the Langeled UK project – construction of a new gas-receiving terminal at Easington – is also proceeding smoothly, according to Langeled UK project manager, Roar Ståle Larsen.

"The engineering is now nearing completion. All major equipment and bulk materials are ordered and contracts for site preparation and civil have been awarded. Site preparation is already completed and civil contracts have started mobilizing," he explained.

The new gas-receiving terminal is scheduled to start operating October 2006.

"Everything's going as planned and the relationship with the authorities and local people is good," he adds.

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