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### **NEL Opens New Densitometer Calibration Facility**

NEL today launches the UK's first densitometer calibration facility to comply with the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC) interim policy guidance for fiscal applications in the UK oil industry.

DECC's new requirements follow a Joint Industry Project (JIP), initiated by NEL, which identified major shortcomings in the calibration of liquid densitometers. This had significant implications for the North Sea oil industry as incorrect measurements left companies vulnerable to potential disputes and financial exposure.

Dr Norman Glen, Head of Density Measurement at NEL, said: "The discovery of these issues led to a loss of measurement confidence throughout the North Sea oil industry. However, the recommendations of the JIP, and the consequent significant improvement to calibration facilities, means that it can now be assured of accurate financial reporting, fair trade and taxation."

The most significant change to DECC guidance is that densitometers should now be calibrated at their anticipated operating conditions i.e. simultaneously at temperature and pressure, using one or more transfer fluids.

NEL's new facility is capable of calibration across a temperature range from 10<sup>o</sup> to 110<sup>o</sup>C, at pressures from 1 to 100 bar. The facility can control the temperature of the densitometer under calibration to within 0.01 °C, while controlling the pressure of the fluid within 0.02 bar. As all measurements are traceable to national standards, this provides the overall traceability required to ensure confidence in the calibration of densitometers and will significantly improve the measurement accuracy of density throughout the North Sea oil industry.

**Note to editors**

NEL will be showcasing its new Densitometer Calibration Facility on stand 2C53 at Offshore Europe, Aberdeen 6-8 September.

**For information on the DECC Policy Statements on Traceable Density Measurement, please refer to:**

[https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/upstream/measurement/TDM\\_state.pdf](https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/upstream/measurement/TDM_state.pdf)

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**About NEL [www.tuvnel.com](http://www.tuvnel.com)**

NEL is a world-class provider of technical consultancy, research, testing, flow measurement and programme management services to the energy, oil & gas and manufacturing industries, as well as government.

NEL is a global centre of excellence for flow measurement and fluid flow systems and is the custodian of the UK's National Flow Measurement Standards. As an international technology services organisation and provider of pipeline fluid management services to the global petroleum industry, NEL has an impressive track record in the development, design and application of new technologies.

NEL is a part of the TÜV SÜD Group, an international service organisation with over 16,000 employees in more than 600 locations worldwide.