

Corus Tubes wins contract for one of the world's deepest pipelines



Corus Tubes, a business unit of Corus, has won a major contract to manufacture and deliver linepipe for one of the world's deepest pipelines – the Perdido Norte project in the Gulf of Mexico.

Corus Tubes has been contracted by Williams to deliver 312 km (approx. 77Kt) of uncoated steel linepipe, for use in ultra-deep water depths ranging from 3,500 – 8,300 feet (1,067 – 2,530 msw) with a rugged seabed terrain. The pipe will be manufactured to withstand a service rating equivalent to ANSI 1500.

The linepipe, which is 18" in diameter ranging from 19.1mm – 27.0mm thick, will be laid in the first half of 2008. One section of the pipeline will transfer hydrocarbons from the FPS Host in Alaminos Canyon 857 and will terminate in East Breaks Block 994 (78 miles). The gas pipeline will terminate at Williams Seahawk pipeline in East Breaks Block 599 (106 miles).

The 18" pipe will be manufactured at the Corus Tubes Mills in Hartlepool, UK, using the world's strongest "Crimp" and "O" press combination. The process, used in conjunction with Corus Tubes' expansion system, enables the production of heavy wall pipes with excellent dimensional tolerances and collapse resistance capabilities, ideally suited to the extreme conditions of ultra deep waters.

Corus Tubes Energy business director Tim Bird said: "We are delighted to have been selected to manufacture and deliver linepipe for such a ground-breaking development which is pushing the boundaries of exploration and production to access deeper depths and resources. Corus Tubes has a strong track record of success in challenging offshore projects and our pipes are already in service in the deepest operational waters worldwide."

"This project reflects our leading edge capabilities in pipe production and delivery and capitalises upon the deployment of the world's strongest 'C' and 'O' presses allowing us to create a pipe which combines relatively small outside diameter, a thick wall and very tight dimensional tolerances" said Bird.

"Williams' reputation for challenging and noteworthy pipeline projects will only be enhanced by the Perdido Norte project, and Corus is an important supplier to help us achieve success," said Rory Miller, Williams' vice president for the Gulf Coast area. ■