

## **Safer piloting using ADX PPU system**

**In February Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) pilots used a new navigational system aboard the oil production vessel “Alvheim”. The navigational system ADX PPU increases both the quality and safety of pilot missions aboard vessels and rigs with lacking navigational aids.**

By Anne Grethe Nilsen, Information Adviser, Norwegian Coastal Administration

- The information we receive from using the ADX PPU provides quality assurance of our chosen sailing schedule. It is an incredibly useful tool for us, and it also increases the sense of safety both for us and our clients, says Geir Sigve Thorsen, the pilot on-call at “Alvheim”.

Aboard the floating oil and gas production vessel “Alvheim” is 8200 tons of processing equipment, with an estimated worth of NOK 2.2 billion. On this particular day in early February “Alvheim” is being towed through the bottleneck strait outside the coastal town of Haugesund in the South-West of Norway towards its destination Aamoyfjorden, outside the city of Stavanger.

Thorsen explains that the mission was successful. Together with his colleague, pilot Kyrre Pettersen, he has guided five tug boats through the tow of the 252 meter long vessel. Aboard the leading tug boat was also a third pilot, Arve Gangaasaeter. Due to optimal weather conditions the mission took less time than expected, only 12 hours, and occurred without incident.

### **Robust and reliable**

In a NCA test report the navigational system is described as “robust and reliable”. The navigational system enables pilots to access satellite information from the American GPS system and the Russian GLONASS system, which together with a filtering system provides accurate positioning, and rate-of-turn readings.

By combining GPS and GLONASS technology you gain access to nearly 60 per cent more satellites than if you were using the GPS system alone. The NCA has found this to be highly beneficial aboard rigs where drilling towers and cranes result in poor conditions for satellite reception. In addition, the ADX PPU has integrated AIS reception, which enables the pilot to see additional vessel traffic, displayed in electronic charts.

### **A need for more**

At the present time the NCA only has one ADX PPU available for pilots. But based on increasing oil and gas activity along the coast in Western and Northern Norway, the NCA has, on a long term basis, identified a need for additional ADX PPU systems.

- These types of vessels and rigs hold considerable values in terms of equipment onboard. We find that the persons who are in charge of this equipment lower their shoulders when they discover that our pilots combine the use of traditional navigation methods with more advanced technology. The feedback from customers is highly positive and encouraging, says Jon Leon Ervik, Head of the Department for Pilotage and VTS in the Norwegian Coastal Administration.