

AUSTRALIA

GARD – WEST ATLAS PLATFORM

DECOMMISSIONING

A VERY DELICATE TIME

For this complex but successful wreck removal project, a JV was formed with Svitzer Salvage to decommission the West Atlas drill rig which had been victim of the Montara platform well blow out in 2009 in the Timor Sea, offshore Western Australia.



GARD – WEST ATLAS PLATFORM



The Montara Wellhead Platform (WHP) was located in the Australian sector of the Timor Sea, approximately 250 km northwest of Truscott, Western Australia, in a water depth of circa 77m. Its blow up is considered one of Australia's worst oil disasters. The slick was released from the 21 August 2009 and continued leaking until 3 November 2009, when it was stopped by pumping mud into the well and the wellbore cemented thus «capping» the blowout.

On 21st August 2009 the West Atlas jack-up drilling rig - one of the largest in the world - was adjacent to the Montara at the time of the blowout, and on 1st November 2009 during an attempt to stop the blowout the platform and the rig caught fire.



The JV SvitSea with salvage company Stizer was awarded the West Atlas wreck removal project by Gard AS, the claim leader for the insurers. Project involved the removal of debris, the rig lowering and towage of the West Atlas drill rig up to Singapore.

The Telford 25 (ex Jascon 25) was selected for the accommodation, lifting of debris and other support services.

The scope included:

- Project management and engineering
- Development of safety procedures and NOPS safety case
- Development of safe working environment
- Installation of gangway towers and hydraulic gangway
- Debris and waste removal and machinery load-out
- Removing > 3,600mt of steelwork, hazardous material and contaminated liquids from the rig
- Removal of the cantilever drilling deck from over the platform
- Platform, rig and subsea survey and seabed clearing
- Rig lowering and floatation
- Tow of rig to Singapore

No oil spill was noted over the 12 months of the project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CLIENT
Gard AS

PROJECT
West Atlas

LOCATION
Timor Sea, Australia

PROJECT TYPE
Wreck removal and decommissioning

CONTRACT PERIOD
**January 2010
– January 2011**

VESSEL
TELFORD 25

