ABSTRACT
During recent years the Ormen Lange Offshore Project has been developed in a setting where environmental conditions, technical solutions and execution strategy to a significant extent have been challenged. The environmental conditions are characterized by heavy winter storms with swell, strong current, deep water temperatures below zero, irregular sloping seabed terrain and considerable variations in seabed conditions. The technical solutions have been governed by a subsea development concept tied back to shore over a considerable distance and with a large production capacity. The execution strategy has been heavily influenced by a risk approach both on contract strategy, method and equipment selection, general robustness and follow-up during construction. The success of the Ormen Lange Offshore Project has been highly dependent on a strong project management to accommodate and account for these issues.

KEY WORDS: Subsea, Pipelines, Deepwater, Seabed, Installation

INTRODUCTION
The Ormen Lange project is one of the largest offshore gas development projects ever. On stream the Ormen Lange field can cover 20% of the gas requirements in UK for the coming 40 years. The Ormen Lange development includes a subsea system at 850 meters water depth with up to 24 subsea wells tied directly back to shore through two 30" multiphase pipelines over a distance of 120 km to the Nyhamna onshore terminal on the west coast of Norway. At the onshore facility the gas is cleaned, dried and compressed before exported through the 1200 km pipeline to Easington in England, which is the world longest subsea pipeline.

The reservoir is located 3000 meters below sea surface and has an extension of approximately 40 times 10 kilometers. The recoverable reserves are estimated to be approximately 400 billion Sm³ dry gas and 30 million m³ of condensate. The field is designed for a gas production up to 70 million Sm³ per day.

Hydro is the operator for the development phase with 18% ownership, whilst Norske Shell will be the operator for the production phase. Production start is scheduled for autumn 2007.