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Preparing for a Faroe oil industry

We also accept tasks in a foreign oil industry, but we are preparing for a possible Faroe oil industry, says the MEST CEO, Mr Mouritz Mohr, who recently dispatched 16 Faroese skilled tradesmen to work in the Chinese oil industry. Norway the door opener As mentioned, 16 tradesmen have gone to China to complete a platform while it is underway to Norway. These tradesmen are employed by the Mest daughter company PAM Offshore, which is in charge of this aspect and in cooperation with the Norwegian shipyard Westcon. For almost 15 years PAM Offshore has been hiring out tradesmen to the Norwegian oil industry. This has now proved to be a door-opener to the wider world, i.e. all the way to China. Oljan.fo visited Mest while preparations were underway for the China excursion and Oljan.fo asked Mr Mohr what it means to MEST to be in a position to dispatch tradesmen all the way to China? This creates a much broader platform for us and it could lead to more. PAM is a part of MEST and this is the first time they are sending employees on a task to such a far-flung location as China. As something new, we have also succeeded in sending a project leader. Mr Mohr believes there will be much work over the coming years in the Norwegian oil industry - -At the moment we are seeing work at the engineering level, i.e. where projects are being prepared and actual floor-level activity will then begin in earnest in 2012-13. Door-opener We asked Mr Mohr to evaluate PAM Offshore developments over the years. He says that much energy goes into co-ordinating everything and this is also the case with the China project. Things have gone well in Norway over the years and you learn something new every day. I think we have arrived at our true position. We have something solid and good to continue building upon, so hopefully this China project will just be a door-opener for new and exciting challenges

around the world. Q What is so exciting about just hiring Faroese tradesmen to other countries? A Firstly this internationalises Faroese and the Faroes, which is very important, as everything is being globalised at an ever increasing rate. This includes communications and the transfer of people. The world is more than just the Faroese pond and we strive to go abroad and access new industrial venues, such as the oil industry. Hopefully this industry will one day come to the Faroes. The question is when. What we are doing today may hopefully prove to be a link in the preparations for a Faroese oil industry. Excellent recommendations Mr Mohr admits it is something special to send Faroese tradesmen all the way to China and to lead a project regarding an oil industry platform, but he believes this is a natural and positive spin-off effect from the cooperation PAM has built up over the years with Norwegian companies. He adds that it was not a problem to find tradesmen for this Chinese task, quite the contrary, there was considerable competition to become part of this project. On the question if there is anything which sets Faroese tradesmen apart from others, Mr Mohr says the feedback they are getting suggests there are no problems with Faroese tradesmen working abroad. They are stable and may not be too concerned with professional boundaries, which in many instances is welcomed. They are perfectly capable of crossing professional boundaries by possessing the required skills to complete a professional job. The feedback from Norway states - Nice amiable and capable people who do not make a fuss of themselves! Internationalisation Mr Mohr points out that as the situation stands today there is not much work in the Faroes and you cannot just sit idle waiting for some task to arrive. It is necessary to go and find other markets and this has been one of the tasks of PAM since they began operations in 1996. I think our experience shows that it is a good thing for the Faroes that we are able to send tradesmen abroad. This is of course very good for the tradesmen who go, as they develop professionally, but also we at home personally develop internationally. There are no limitations in the world today dictating what you can or cannot do. The Faroese shipyard CEO adds that they always have in mind a Faroese oil industry. "In that respect the large question is to what extent Faroese subcontractors can participate, as the operating companies leading drilling operations have their preferred subcontractors. We can become subcontractors to their subcontractors. I have no doubts that there are opportunities for us to join in. Should we have some positives or references to show, i.e. that we have worked in China on a platform for example, this could be a spring board to something more. We sincerely hope so in any case. Currently approx. 50 tradesmen are working in Norway. At the height of the activity, approx. 110 men were employed in Norway - -We continuously monitor what projects/tasks are underway, but everything returns to a demand and availability situation. All the indicators are however, that we will have to send many more tradesmen abroad over the coming years, says the daily CEO at PAM Offshore, Mrs Anja Jacobsen. Apart from PAM Offshore, there is another Faroese company hiring tradesmen to the Norwegian oil industry and this is; Faroese Offshore Service, operated by Hans

Jakup Jonannesen. They are located in the village of Skaia, on the island of Eysturoy. Picture - Mouritz Mohr, CEO and Anja Jacobsen, director