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Jarðfeingi will be hampered by merger

All Jarðfeingi activities will surely be hampered in the event they are merged with the Inspection and Control authorities. Their oil exploration division will be less effective, as a controlling function and research function are in no way compatible. This is what Jarðfeingi said on the radio when asked about this intention by the Trade & Industry department to merge these two divisions. The intention is to merge Jarðfeingi with Inspection & Control- and the Registration authorities, already this year. According to the radio Jarðfeingi is strongly opposed to these plans. The Jarðfeingi CEO, Mr Petur Joensen told the radio that the merging to two so radically different cultures cannot be optimal and the merging of two completely different vocations cannot bode well if the intention is to increase effectivity of these functions. - We realised some years ago that our budget would be cut and this is somewhat acceptable. We therefore endeavoured to create our own income through research, which to a large extent was funded from abroad. The basis for enabling this is that our research must be unattached. If we are to promote research in conjunction with several other institutions, the picture will become quite unclear. Therefore we believe it is important to bear in mind that if the intention is to effectivise and induce growth, the best thing for research is that it is completely unattached, says Mr Joensen. Upon the question if oil exploration in the Faroes could become hampered by this, Mr Joensen says not directly - -Activity levels at the institution in general terms will be hampered, but not to the extent that oil companies will lose interest for the Faroes, but all the institutions activities will become less effective, says Mr Joensen. He adds however, that they do support an overall effectivisation. Mr Joensen is of the opinion, that it is possible to effectivise without merging and also without making staff redundant - -We would rather

prefer to look at how we can grow and thereby shift the focus compared to what we have done to date. Our strategy is, how do we utilise the Faroe geology, which is very interesting for foreign institutions around us. We are inundated with requests for our participation in various research projects and we can say that we could maybe focus differently by using our staff differently. By so doing we can use our staff to create growth instead of making them redundant. Jarðfeingi has already, over the past two to three years, been working to attract foreign money for research projects in the Faroes and this work is going well, says Mr Joensen. Today Jarðfeingi employs 22 people.