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Seismic vessel using Faroes as base

The growing oil industry activity in the neighbourhood, both to the south, north and east of the Faroes, has placed the Faroes on the map as interesting as a supply base for seismic- and other supply vessels. Several supply vessels, operating close to the Faroe border have already decided to use Faroe ports for bunkering, change of crews and to shelter from poor weather. As oil industry activities are speeding up further north, for example around the Jan Mayen area, the Faroes are once again in focus. The Norwegian seismic company PGS, which has been awarded a huge contract from the Norwegian Government, to conduct seismic surveys around the Jan Mayen area over the coming three months, has decided to use the Faroes as their supply base. Their Nordic Explorer, which will lead the surveys, arrived in port in Tórshavn yesterday, (30/5) to begin their operational activities in the area. Two Faroese offshore vessels will also be part of the project. These are the standby vessel the Thor Assister and the guard vessel the Thor Guardian. These two vessels have come all the way from Madagascar and will over the coming three months work for PGS around the Jan Mayen area. An Icelandic vessel the Valberg from the Vestmann islands, will also function as a guard vessel. That the Faroes are becoming a supply hub for PGS means that all three vessels will bunker, take provisions and change crews in the Faroes. Mr Gunnbjørn Joensen, the Thor CEO told oljan.fo that it is satisfying to see a large seismic company like PGS, apart from using Faroe offshore vessels, also will use the Faroes as their base for their activities. The Thor shipping company will be the PGS agents in the Faroes.