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02 - 11 - 2012

Faroe oil boss protecting Norwegian interests

He has never made a fuss of himself in the Faroes and he has never profiled himself. All this in spite of holding several very important board member posts in some of the largest and most important companies in the Faroes, for example Bank Nordic, Vónini, Tjaldri and Bakkafrost. Apart from this he must be the man who has had the greatest influence on the oil industry environment in the Faroe for many years. He has however not been equally successful in avoiding the foreign press or media outside of the Faroes. He has been much quoted in the Norwegian media lately. He has cautiously approached the top of the large international oil company Statoil - which is the largest company in all of the Nordic countries. Today he represents part of the management team of this company. He is particularly responsible for the Arctic area and this is one of the reasons why he currently commands such an interest in the international media. Arctic and oil production in the arctic region is a very much discussed topic today. Some weeks ago politicians in Brussels and Great Britain recommended a cessation of drilling activities in the arctic region. On the other hand Norwegians are particularly interested in exploiting oil in the arctic area and both the Energy, Foreign Ministers together with the PM, Mr Jens Stoltenberg have widely discussed this issue. At the centre of this melee is the Faroese Mr Rúni M. Hansen, who has been appointed to protect the interests of Statoil in this region. This has not gone unnoticed by the Norwegian media and the Norwegian weekly magazine Teknisk Ugeblad (Technical Weekly) has run a profile on this Faroese man. This magazine is widely read, is published in approx. 360,000 copies and is also much quoted by other Norwegian media. The previous person profiled by the magazine was the Norwegian Defence Minister. Clean Faroe environment The magazine is quite interested in reporting that Mr Hansen

comes from a very clean environment in the Faroes, now he has been appointed to head Statoil activities in the arctic regions, where there is considerable resistance against exploiting the area, exactly because of pollution dangers. To hold a high post in the Statoil concern is a very large responsibility. Statoil, by its 670 billion Norwegian kroner turnover, is not just the largest company of the Nordic countries, but it is no. 41 on the Forbes list of the worlds largest companies. For comparison the Danish A.P. Møller Mærsk Company is no. 152 on the same list. Statoil is also by far the most active oil company in the Faroes. They are currently involved in drilling a well in Faroe waters and the result is expected within a few weeks.