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Foreign offshore vessels change crews in the Faroes

As oil exploration, developments and production west of Shetland are moving ever closer to the Faroes, this has been a positive development for Faroe industry and the Faroes in general. More and more foreign shipping companies are electing to come to the Faroes for crew changes and supplies. This is mainly due to the shorter sailing distances involved, compared to Shetland or Scotland for offshore vessels operating close to the Faroe/UK border. Two offshore vessels dock in Torshavn The New Year had hardly begun before two foreign offshore vessels docked in Tórshavn for crew changes and supplies. These were the Vos Valiant and the Vos Endurance, both operating as support vessels for platforms west of Shetland. Oljan.fo visited the two vessels together with the Faroe agent, Mr Ólavur Jøkladal. The Vos Endurance has been here before and is currently operating on the North Uist prospect area close to the Faroe border, where BP together with Faroe Petroleum are drilling a deep-water well with the Stena Carron drilling vessel. The well was spudded on the 26th of March and it is understood that drilling will continue until the end of this month. This is the first deep-water well BP has drilled since the Gulf of Mexico disaster in 2010, and it is estimated this is one of the most expensive wells ever drilled. The captain of the Vos Valiant is Mr Liam Grey. He is Scottish and has previously worked on-board fishing vessels west of Shetland for many years. He likes the switch from fishing to offshore and says it is a good background to have worked on-board fishing vessels prior to coming on-board an offshore vessel. He says the Faroes are a good place to come too for crew changes and supplies, when you are working so close to the border. The Vos Valiant is the support vessel for the West Phoenix platform, which is currently chartered by Total, working on the Tormore gas prospect located app. halfway between Shetland

and the Faroes. Mr Grey has no doubts that the large-scale developments currently taking place close to the Faroe/UK border over the coming years, will be important for the Faroe companies prepared to offer supplies and services to the offshore industry west of Shetland. The sheer size of developments by the border, means the Faroes ought to be able to compete with ports in Shetland and Scotland. The two vessels docked in Tórshavn belong to the large offshore fleet owned by the Dutch company Vroon. Just in Aberdeen this company operates 50 various offshore vessels. There are 15 crew members per vessel, which means the hotels and taxies in Tórshavn have received trade, plus the airport.