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SHEFA cable could spark development in Orkney

-The Shefa cable, which comes ashore in the Orkneys, can no doubt create a basis for a future development between Faroe Tele and the oil industry in Orkney, says the FT Net CEO, Mr Páll Vesturbú, after returning from a visit to the Orkneys. Mr Vesturbú says the objective of this visit was first and foremost to discuss security issues around the Shefa cable in the Orkneys. In some places the cable is not submerged underground and it has occurred that fishermen operating in the area have not thought about this and have disturbed the cable. -We have discussed this with the port authorities, as they are in close contact with the fishermen and have a good relationship with them. We have explained the importance of the fishermen being aware of where the cable lies so they can take the necessary precautionary measures when fishing. Mr Vesturbú was otherwise satisfied with developments to date and hopes that such visits can assist in preventing damage to the cable in the future. Upon the question why the cable has been brought ashore both in the Orkneys and Shetland, instead of going straight to Scotland, Mr Vesturbú says that due to the technology involved with this cable, it is very important to have a short distance between cable stations. He adds that while they were in the Orkneys they also discussed the possibilities of the authorities, industry and not least the oil industry, to utilise the exceptional tele communications the Shefa cable has to offer. Mr Johan Mortensen, who participated in this visit and acts as a consultant for Faroe Tele told oljan.fo that when they visited such places they of course discussed the opportunities for a cooperation between Orkney and the Faroes and to tie bonds between the two island groups. Personally he is of the opinion that Faroe companies ought to be looking at cooperation opportunities with our neighbours to the south of us. It is also part of his job, as a consultant for

several Faroe companies, to try and open doors to other markets. Through his extensive experience as a representative for foreign oil companies and as the former British Consul to the Faroes he has excellent qualifications for such a task. The largest paper in the Orkneys, The Orcadian, has published this Faroe visit on their front page and the paper writes that the Faroe representatives have come to investigate cooperation business opportunities and tie close bonds. The message was that the two island groups are so very similar in many ways that a cooperation could be very fruitful for both parties. Mr Mortensen told the paper that a cooperation could be on existing energy, oil, gas and fishing. The Faroe representatives were shown several of the latest projects currently underway in the Orkneys, for example the expansion of the Hatston harbour and the Copland dock in Stromness. Both parties agreed that the travel connections between the two countries was very poor and ought to be improved. You can fly via Copenhagen, Stavanger, London or Aberdeen and then on to the Orkneys. Satisfied Orkney PM The PM in the Orkneys was very pleased to meet the Faroe guests - -We were very pleased to meet Mr Johan Mortensen again, who has done much to develop cooperation between the Faroes and Orkney and also Mr Páll Vesturbú the CEO for FT Net. It is six years since the Shefa cable came ashore in Orkney and we are willing to listen to any good advice from Faroe Tele on how we can fully exploit the advantages this cable presents us with, said Mr Steven Heddle the Orkney PM. Mr Heddle has no doubts that the cable can create the basis for new and improved business opportunities in the islands. The Orkneys have not yet utilised the cable opportunities to the same extent as Shetland has, but most likely it is just a question of time before this happens.