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## **ALE COMPLETES OFFSHORE SCOPE IN THE CASPIAN**



ALE has completed the offshore and marine operations they are undertaking as part of a major offshore platform project in Azerbaijan.

ALE was contracted for a complex scope of work, involving the load-out of two jackets, weighing and jack-up of the topsides, strand jack skidding load-outs, ballasting and mooring as well as the offshore floatovers for two topsides.

The global heavy lifting contractor commenced the first stage of operations in July 2016 with the ballasting load-outs of the Production and Riser (PR) and the Living Quarters and Utilities (QU) platform jackets, weighing 13,977t and 12,369t respectively.

ALE was contracted by the jacket constructor BOS Shelf to provide the full external ballast system and engineering, as well as the ballast system design and calculations. The jackets were loaded-out onto the same STB-1 launch barge, measuring 153m x 45m x 12m, using the client's push/pull skidding system.

The next phase involved the weighing and jack-up of the QU topside for a separate client using the Mega Jack system. Load cells were used to weigh the deck at 12,789t and the Mega Jack was deployed to jack-up the topside 14.5m.

The load-out frame was transferred under the topside, before performing the skidding load-out of the QU deck, now at 14,200t, with the use of 900t strand jacks and ballasting the barge. ALE also supplied a large spread of mooring winches ranging in capacity from 20t to 85t.

More recently, ALE completed the floatover of the QU topside using their own ballast system and mooring winches

Matthew Hodgson, Engineering Manager for ALE - Offshore Services, said; “This is a great project for ALE to be working on. We are involved in multiple, complex scopes of work with multiple clients and dedicated experts from different ALE branches and divisions – each with their own specialisms being deployed.

“Our Offshore-Services team, who are also contracted for the engineering and ballasting for the load-out and floatover operations, have designed and fabricated bespoke ballast piping to fit around pre-existing pipework on the barge, which will serve for all ballasting requirements for the entire project thus saving our clients time and money. As a result, we are developing good working relationships with our clients, who are also praising our safety standards and performance throughout every stage.”

The final phase involved the load-in of the load-out frame, followed by the weighing, jack-up, load-out and finally floatover operations of the PR topside.

## **ENDS**

***For more information or images, please contact Sarah Maia on 01889 272 545  
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**[Image 1: ALE jack-up the QU platform 14.5m using the Mega Jack system.](#)**

### **Notes to editors:**

ALE provides a highly tailored, end-to-end service covering every aspect of the handling, transportation and installation of heavy, indivisible loads, including lifting, transporting, installing, ballasting, jacking and weighing.

ALE delivers strategic heavy-lift services to a wide range of sectors, including civil, oil and gas, energy, nuclear, offshore, renewables, petrochemical, ports, marine, minerals and metals and mining.

ALE has more than 30 offices across Europe, the Far East, Africa, America, South America, the Middle East and Australia. It is fully compliant with international standards of safety and excellence, including Quality standard ISO 9001:2015, Environmental standard ISO 14001:2015, and Health and Safety Standard OHSAS 18001:2007. Further information can be found on the ALE website at [www.ale-heavylift.com](http://www.ale-heavylift.com).