



Rory Henderson enjoys 'the buzz' of operations

Going global

27-year-old Rory Henderson, a drilling engineer with Zenith Energy, gives **P&J Recruitment** an insight into his workload on and offshore

ABERDEEN OFFICE

Zenith Energy provides a range of services to the oil and gas sector within the UK and internationally through its Aberdeen headquarters. The firm also has offices in Abu Dhabi and Perth, Australia. When based in the Aberdeen office I could be working on a number of different tasks. If I'm not busy with any project-related work I could be assisting the management team with writing and reviewing policies and procedures or pieces of engineering work for existing clients and new tenders. If I am busy with a project then as the drilling engineer, it is my responsibility to perform the initial well planning right through to the detailed design phase. The well planning usually involves a time and cost estimate, casing design and a basis of design document. As we get into the detailed design phase I will be in charge of generating the AFE, drilling programme and anything else I'm tasked with by my line manager. It's a very satisfying job to have when you plan and design the well right from the beginning and then see how it all comes together during operations to achieve, hopefully, a positive final result.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

If I'm based in one of our client's international offices then I'm usually working in the detailed design or operational phases. It's impor-

tant to have an in-country presence during planning as it gives me a chance to meet with all the service companies, get to know the local team and make sure that we are on track to meet our deadlines. It's also very important to be there during operations as I'm involved with the running of the project so I need to be able to communicate directly with the rig or the service companies to ensure we have all the equipment we need and it's clear to everyone what the plan is. Operations can be pretty full on as we work seven days a week for four weeks at a time and we're on call 24 hours a day. I do enjoy the buzz of operations though as it keeps me busy and it's always a challenge to try to overcome any issues we may face.

OFFSHORE

Part of my job does involve some offshore trips but this is probably my favourite part about my job. Being able to see the operations first hand is brilliant and I really enjoy working together with everyone as a team. Usually when I'm offshore I'm the wellsite drilling engineer but I also work as a night drilling supervisor. A typical day would involve getting up just before my shift to review all the reports before submitting to the onshore team. There would then be a morning call with the onshore team to discuss the previous day's operations and after that I'll either head

outside to keep an eye on what's going on or I'll be planning ahead for the upcoming operations. I like to spend as much of my time as possible outside on the drill floor to gain as much experience as possible while I'm there. This gives me a better understanding of how all the operations work therefore making it possible for me to plan more efficiently in the future.

WHAT I ENJOY AT WORK

Variety: This is one of the best things about my job, I get to travel all over the world working in

different locations on different projects so there's always something new and exciting to see or do.

Rotation: When working away I love being on a rotation. It means I can spend that time away purely focusing on work and then when I'm home I get loads of free time to relax and spend with my family. Also I'm not a fan of the morning commute so a plane or helicopter to and from work every two to four weeks I can just about handle.

Our Team: I've known a lot of the people here at Zenith for quite some time now so we're all good friends, which makes work far more enjoyable. It's also great working away meeting new people and working within different teams. I've made some good friends from the people I've worked with all over the world.

Pressure: With my job comes a lot of pressure especially if things aren't going to plan. Problem solving is something I relish and I definitely work best under pressure. It's always satisfying to contribute to solving problems and potentially save millions of pounds. **Results:** After months, and sometimes years of planning it's always rewarding to see your plans put into place and the results at the end of it. Offshore when you've worked something out and then you see it work right in front of you it definitely gives you some job satisfaction.