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A continued high attention to cost is required to stay competitive

Break-even prices on the NCS are currently competitive compared to other oil provinces (Figure 32). As Figure 33 indicates, this is mainly due to low operational costs, which again is caused by a cost-efficient infrastructure well suited for development of new resources in the fields or near-field tied back to hubs.

Although exploration costs (Expex) and capital costs (Capex) for new projects have come down considerably since 2014, Figure 33 clearly shows that Expex and Capex on the NCS are relatively high compared to the competition.

Figure 32. Break-even prices for oil fields sanctioned since 2018 (Rystad Energy, 2021)

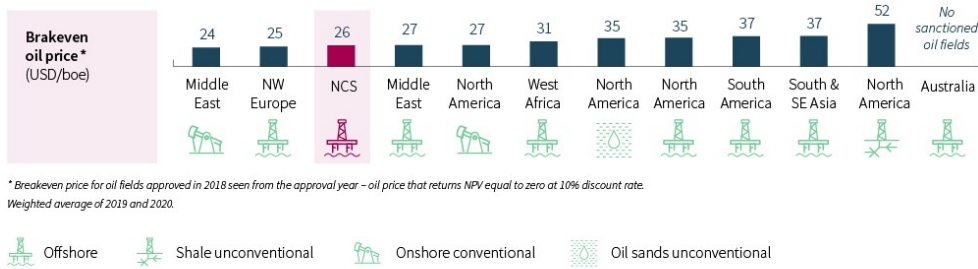
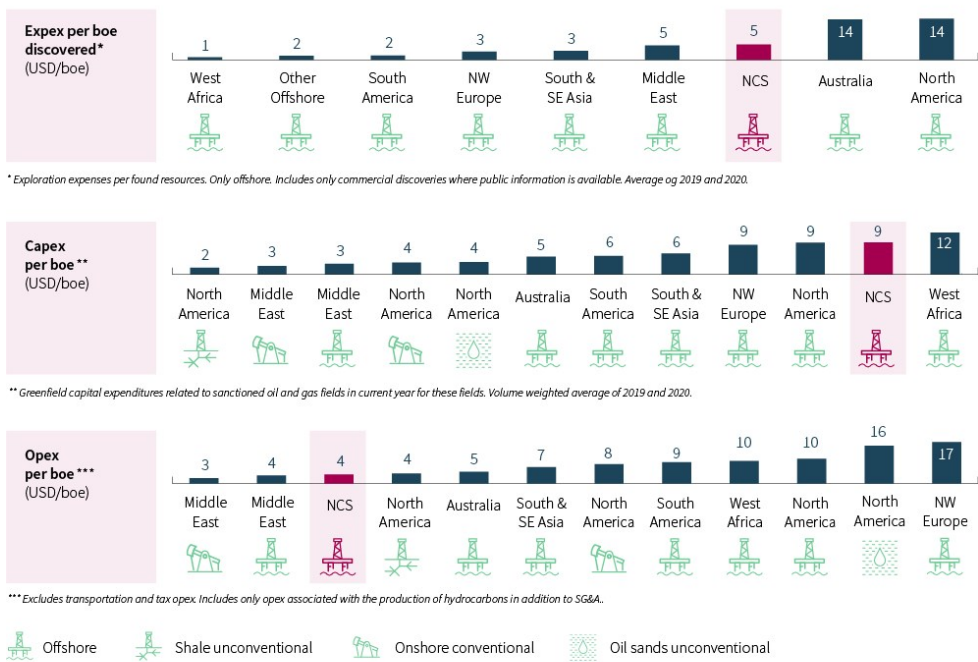
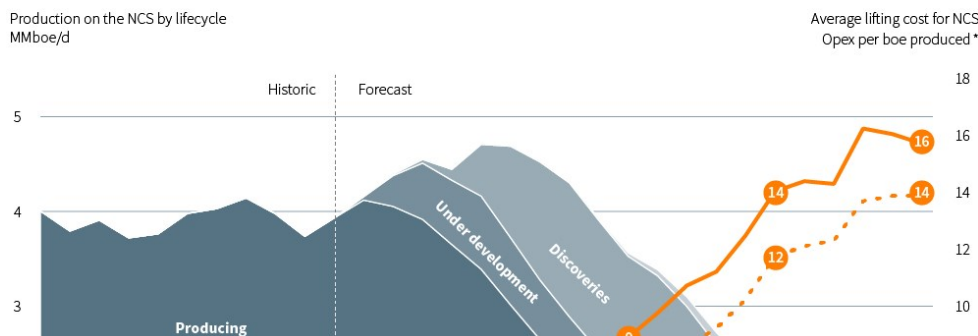


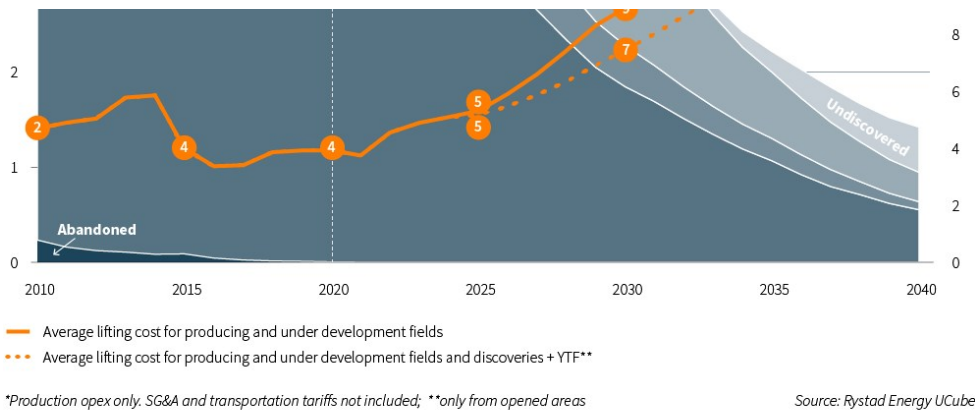
Figure 33. Expex, capex and opex on the NCS (Rystad Energy, 2021)



To further underline the generic cost challenge, the currently favorable Opex level on the NCS contributing to the low break-even price, cannot be taken for granted. Operational costs remain largely at the same absolute level for an installation throughout its lifetime, and as the production from a field declines, the average lifting costs per barrel increase. Figure 34 illustrates this on an aggregated level for the NCS.

Figure 34. Average lifting costs as the NCS matures (Rystad Energy, 2021)

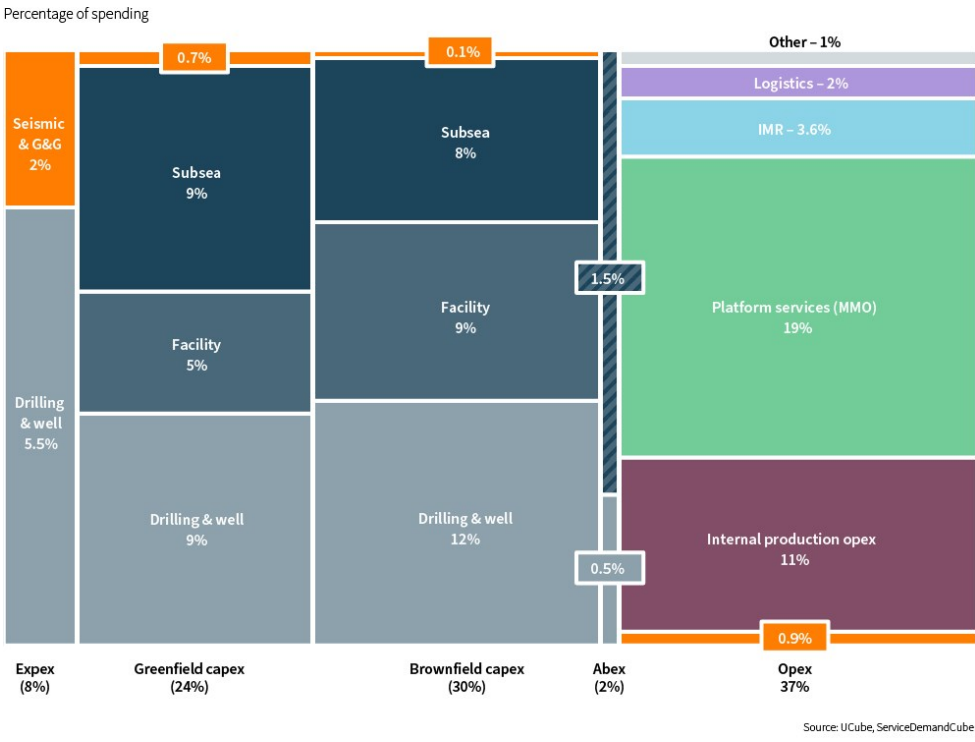




As Figure 35 illustrates, we expect four main cost areas over the next two decades:

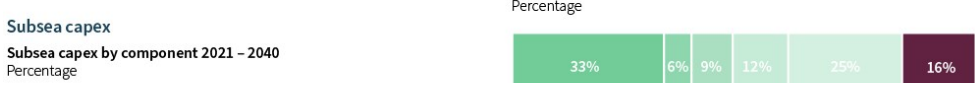
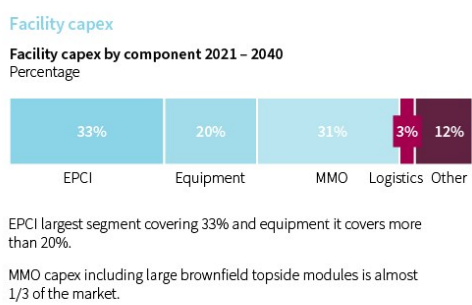
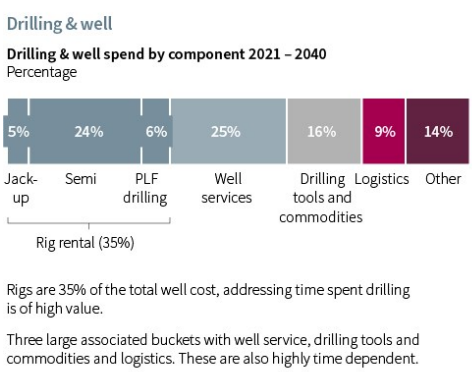
- Drilling and well (28%)
- Facility capex (14%)
- Platform service and maintenance (19%)
- Subsea capex (17%)

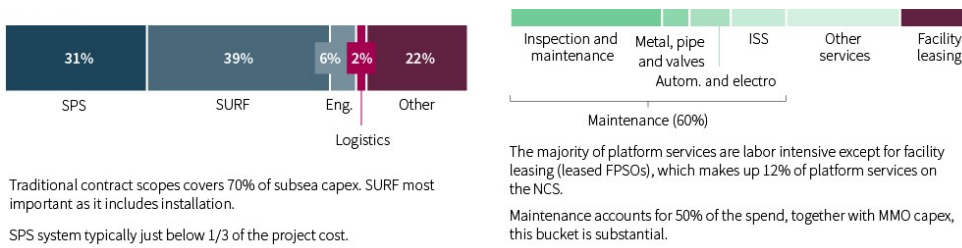
Figure 35. Expected main cost areas for the NCS year 2021–2040 (Rystad Energy, 2021)



A deeper dive into the expected four main cost areas is shown in Figure 36.

Figure 36. Four main cost areas for the NCS 2021-2040 broken down into cost elements (Rystad Energy, 2021)



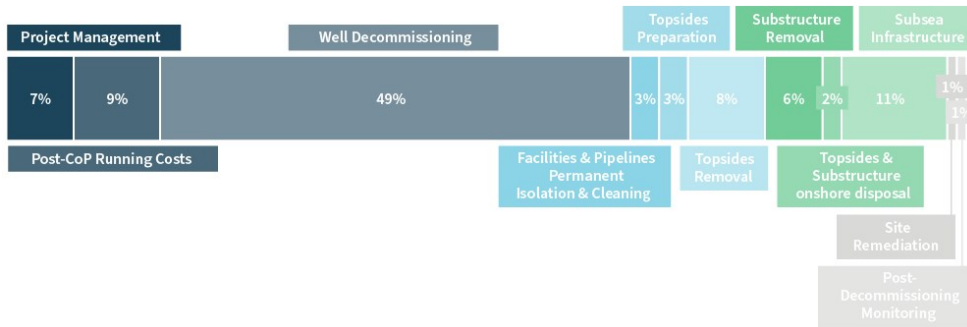


Source: Rystad Energy UCube; ServiceDemandCube

De-commissioning costs is a growing concern on the NCS. Many fields approach the end-of-life, and wells will have to be plugged and facilities removed. UK numbers suggest that plugging and abandonment of wells (P&A) contribute with 49% of de-commissioning costs, whereas removal of facilities, site remediation and monitoring combined contribute with around 34% of the costs.

**Figure 37. Break-down of expected de-commissioning costs in the UK over the next decade**  
(Rystad Energy, 2021, based on numbers from UK Oil and Gas)

**UKCS Decommissioning Work Breakdown Structure – Ten-Year Expenditure Forecast**



Source: UK Oil & Gas Decommissioning Insight 2020

More than 3000 wells are going to be plugged and abandoned safely on the NCS over the next decades. A typical P&A operation on the NCS takes 35 days with the use of a mobile drilling unit. This is longer than P&A operations in other offshore petroleum provinces and it drives costs. More efficient P&A methods in addition to methods that would allow lighter vessels to be used for P&A, would have the potential to reduce costs considerably.

**Figure 38 P&A durations and costs on the NCS compared with other basins** (Rystad Energy, 2021)



Utilizing and extending the life of existing infrastructure contributes to cost-efficient development of new fields in the vicinity. This has a positive effect on NPV as some de-commissioning costs are moved into the future. An alternative use of facilities when the field approaches late-life or even after production has shut down, could have the same effects.

The cost challenge on the NCS remains high in all phases: exploration, field development, production and operations, and de-commissioning including P&A. Bringing costs down is an important driver behind the development and implementation of new technology for all these phases, as the discussion of OG21's technology priorities in Section 4 shows.

→Forrige side

→Neste side

Meldinger ved utskriftstidspunkt 9. juni 2026, kl. 02.01 CEST

Det ble ikke vist noen globale meldinger eller andre viktige meldinger da dette dokumentet ble skrevet ut.