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OGTC project approved for James Fisher Asset Information Services

Aberdeen-based James Fisher Asset Information Services (JF AIS), part of James Fisher and Sons plc, is to develop a game-changing enabler to offshore automation, poised to deliver unprecedented efficiency gains and savings across oil and gas.

Securing a significant funding award from the Oil & Gas Technology Centre (OGTC), JF AIS has kickstarted development of its visual positioning system, R2S VPS. The project is the largest to have been approved to date by the OGTC's Digital Solutions Centre.

Addressing industry drivers, successful delivery of the R2S VPS will propel automation, improve offshore HSE and deliver efficiency gains measured in hundreds of millions of pounds. R2S VPS will tackle key challenges in the automation of offshore oil and gas, allowing people and machines to identify their location on complex offshore assets via data captured from mobile device or body worn cameras.

The project brings together an incredibly strong and innovative team that includes JF AIS's own development team, BP as long-running user of R2S technology and industry partner, technical support from Microsoft and a coterie of pioneering expertise in software developers Codify, AR for enterprise specialist Mozenix and leading cloud consultants Pulsant.

JF AIS's managing director commented that:

'Our research across oil and gas has returned a universal need for and interest in a solution to the challenge of knowing accurately where people and autonomous vehicles are on the platform. R2S VPS will deliver this without the need for the installation of additional hardware such as RFID tags or QR barcodes. We are confident that R2S VPS will deliver sizable and tangible benefits to oil and gas. "We are delighted to have won the support of the OGTC to bring our R2S VPS concept to life. We have a longstanding relationship with BP which is also our largest client in terms of volume; this, combined with its commitment to digitalisation and the North Sea made it the obvious choice to approach with R2S VPS. "This project has also caught the imagination of our sister companies across James Fisher and Sons plc, and with collective operations across industries as diverse as nuclear and infrastructure we already see considerable transfer application.'

Stephen Ashley, Digital Transformation Solution Centre Manager said:

'We are delighted to be supporting JF AIS with this automation project, which aims to deliver a step change in offshore safety and delivery efficiencies. Offshore automation is the future of our industry and ties in perfectly with our 'Smart Facilities' theme, which allows us to provide greater operational insight and knowledge to support future facilities and asset management. Smart facilities have the opportunity to revolutionise our industry.'

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James Fisher Asset Information Services Ltd

James Fisher Asset Information Services (AIS) enables asset owners and operators to enhance business performance through informed decision-making – providing transparent, value-added digital solutions that deliver results and drive safe and effective asset management.

With the identification, integration, and interrogation of collected data, AIS provides comprehensive digital asset management solutions that unlock new ways for customers to be more efficient, productive and to reduce costs. The suite of field-proven digital products and professional solutions we offer includes, machine control, visual asset management, real-time tracking, remote safety management, weighing and measurement, decision support, operational modelling, condition monitoring, IoT platforms, control of work, and other highly specialised systems.

We support customers to harness the value of information they have by intelligently linking data together which empowers them to make effective and efficient decisions in real-time.

AIS owns and operates industry-leading digital solutions that are deployed in a diverse range of global markets, including nuclear, defence, oil and gas, mining, offshore renewable energy, marine, transport and infrastructure, and construction. For more information visit www.jf-ais.com

James Fisher and Sons plc is a leading provider of specialised services to the marine, oil and gas and other high assurance industries worldwide. As an innovative and fast-growing organisation, our highly skilled team and over 170 year heritage enables us to deliver solutions to the most demanding operational and technical challenges faced by our customers. By leveraging our global reach, deep operational understanding, breadth of capability and the enthusiasm and commitment of our staff, James Fisher has become a trusted partner of major corporations, government agencies and other valued customers around the world. For more information visit www.james-fisher.com