



Netherlands have oil firm riding high

The Times

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30 March 2019

Rising production in the Netherlands has lifted Parkmead Group into profit as it makes progress on two North Sea projects.

Parkmead's pre-tax profit for the six months to the end of December last year was £3.8 million, compared with a £4.1 million loss in the comparable period of 2017. Revenue rose by 95 per cent to £5.3 million.

Parkmead, based in Aberdeen, floated on London's junior Aim exchange in 2000 as an oil advisory and consultancy group. In 2010 Tom Cross, an oil industry veteran, became its executive chairman having sold Dana Petroleum to Korea National Oil Corporation for £1.87 billion. Mr Cross, 58, has been steadily building up Parkmead's operational presence and it has minority stakes in four onshore gasfields in the Netherlands.

The rise in revenue was driven by the Diever West gasfield, where gross output increased by 54 per cent to the equivalent of almost 8,300 barrels of oil a day. Mr Cross said that the company was looking at exploration prospects in the Netherlands and ways to produce more from its present fields.

He added that the company hoped to finalise a field development plan for the Platypus site in the North Sea this year and the first gas could be produced in 2021. It is estimated that the field could produce 9,000 barrels of oil a day and may tie into the nearby Possum site.

Parkmead is also considering options to bring several interests in the Greater Dolphin Area into production. Discussions are taking place about tying wells into nearby infrastructure at the Scott field or the use of a floating production, storage and offloading vessel.

Mr Cross said: "Our target is to have the project sanctioned by the end of the year. There are several pools of oil there which we own 100 per cent of. The advantage of [a vessel] is you can move it. So if you do a phased development you can move [the vessel]."

Mr Cross confirmed that Parkmead was talking to potential partners who could provide capital to move the Dolphin plans forward. Parkmead received £6.2 million from a stake in Faroe Petroleum which was taken over by DNO this year.

Mr Cross said that Parkmead had about £30 million of cash available and no debt.