

# Dolphin Drilling rolls out best practice industry solutions with IFS Oil & Gas Drilling Accelerator



Since May 2021, Dolphin Drilling has been using IFS to reduce offshore manual work through digitalization, improve workflow, support global finance including intercompany and consolidation processes, improve operational visibility and provide employees with the best user experience. The solution is standard, with only one customization, and the software is kept up to date automatically (evergreen).

Based on the IFS best practice Oil & Gas Industry Accelerator, Dolphin Drilling selected the IFS solution in July 2020. IFS is now deployed across onshore sites in Brazil, Nigeria, Norway, Mexico, and Scotland and a fleet of three offshore rigs.

## Digital backbone

Svein Bjørnstad, Chief Information Officer at Dolphin Drilling AS explains, “Our IFS ERP system is quite simply the backbone of our business. As an offshore drilling company operating multiple mobile units, we face some of the most technically challenging conditions in the industry. We need a system that ensures we can always manage and maintain visibility of operations effectively, including very robust data replication capabilities for periods when assets go offline due to conditions or maneuvers.”

IFS capabilities currently in use include global finance; projects; maintenance; supply chain; health, safety environment & quality (HSEQ); human capital management (HCM); rental management; human resources (HR); and customer relationship management (CRM). The solution also provides replication and data synchronization between onshore sites and offshore vessels; site move; and transport order (offshore logistics). The solution serves 500 IFS users.

## Replication and synchronization

Replication is a complex challenge for any ERP and involves orchestrating many business rules. Bjørnstad observes, “It’s important to ensure the onshore and offshore setup is correct at the outset. We’ve been running with IFS replication capabilities since May 2021, and so far we’ve been able to operate

## About Dolphin Drilling

A leading harsh environment drilling contractor for the oil & gas industry, Dolphin Drilling owns and operates a fleet of three 5th and 6th generation Enhanced Aker H3 drilling rigs from onshore sites in Norway, UK and Nigeria.



seamlessly when assets go offline and subsequently resynchronize. It's entirely automated. Our staff are essentially unaware of any connectivity loss and continue their daily tasks as normal. We had originally expected to require IFS to support replication, but in fact the framework and tools provided are so good that we have been able to deal with any minor issues ourselves."

### Inherently intuitive

Whilst it's too early to talk about specific performance improvement metrics or savings, Bjørnstad highlights one of the biggest benefits as the ease with which staff can start working with IFS. "80% of our Dolphin Drilling workforce are offshore on rotation. IFS and the application screens are inherently intuitive and super-easy to navigate. The info style schemas are already in place to build whatever is needed. The search function explains any functionality query and takes a user straight to relevant data tables and help."

The same is true of IFS Lobbies. "We've quickly embraced the concept of creating task and role-specific screens with IFS Lobbies and see it as a real business benefit," says Bjørnstad. "Down the line we can also see the potential for using Aurena, the web-based client, on mobile devices in the field, and look forward to seeing the full capability integrated into the Oil & Gas Drilling Accelerator."

### Digitalization and monitoring

"One of the big challenges faced by drilling companies like Dolphin Drilling is implementing and managing condition-based monitoring. Traditionally, rigs would undergo periodic time-based maintenance," says Bjørnstad. "Now, providing we can accurately evidence the condition of an asset to regulators, we can move to condition-based monitoring."

"We are currently in the process of setting up the IFS IoT connector with our digital analytics platform (DNV GL Veracity) to integrate with IFS. Data from offshore sensors will stream to the analytics platform to then allow IFS to review machine health analytics and manage a predictive maintenance regime."

---

**"Offshore drilling is complex, and IFS ensures we prioritize safety across our offshore operations and optimize accredited assets and equipment to minimize or negate our environmental impact."**

Svein Bjørnstad, Chief Information Officer,  
Dolphin Drilling Offshore AS



Another important area for digitalization is document management. “The beauty of document management within IFS is that it’s intrinsically linked to the process”, says Bjørnstad. “That’s really helpful, for instance, for offshore workers needing to find documents to complete work orders quickly, or for specific inventory purchasing tasks. We’re currently still using ProArc, a dedicated document management solution we’ve had for several years, but we’re discussing the possibility of introducing IFS document management for rigs and operations.”

In addition, Bjørnstad also sees the opportunity to digitize many HSEQ workflows on rigs, which are currently manual or paper-based, into IFS. “The module means that if an engineer notices something awry on a rig job, they can instantly capture and share an observation into the system. We’re looking forward to maximizing value from it.”

### Solus modification

When Dolphin Drilling debated moving to IFS it found there were more than 1000+ modifications in our former SAP system to address. Bjørnstad explains, “By challenging each of these through a steering committee, we were able to identify only one area – HR – where a modification was really justified. In the case of IFS, with only one customization, the standard release could deliver all the functionality we would need and remain up-to-date automatically.”

### Implementation advice

What advice would Bjørnstad offer to other oil drilling companies considering an IFS implementation? “In our own case, our implementation project was completed within 9 months and came in on budget. What I would say is invest in proper planning before you start the project. and ensure you align the migration strategy with your domain experts. Stay away from any modifications if not deemed mandatory.”

“Know your implementation team and get the right resources; it’s essential that the consultants understand the industry and how the IFS application can provide a solution to fulfill offshore industry requirements spanning mobile assets, supply chain and workforce.”

### Moment Of Service™

When it comes to how IFS supports the company’s operational delivery, Bjørnstad is clear the moment of service centers around compliance. “We have several stakeholders and, rightly, are under constant regulatory scrutiny. Offshore drilling is complex, and IFS ensures we prioritize safety across our offshore operations and optimize accredited assets and equipment to minimize or negate our environmental impact,” he says.

### Benefits seen using IFS

- Increased visibility
- Less manual processing
- Always up-to-date platform(evergreen)
- Robust automated replication and synchronization
- Enables condition-based maintenance
- Mobile-ready
- Global solution
- Just one HR customization

### Find out more

Further information, e-mail [info@ifs.com](mailto:info@ifs.com), contact your local IFS office or visit our web site, [ifs.com](http://ifs.com)

