

## Sudelac

AFRC supports development of innovative oil well decommissioning tool

### Background

Sudelac is an Aberdeen based upstream oil and gas service sector business. It provides products and services for oil well construction through to abandonment.

Based on its vast experience of oil well decommissioning, the firm devised an innovative product that could save the sector significant time, money and manpower during the costly well abandonment process.

### Customer challenge

Looking to validate its product design, Sudelac approached the Oil and Gas Technology Centre (OGTC) for further advice and support.

The OGTC works with organisations to develop technologies that solve key industry challenges. It provided access to funding and identified the AFRC as the ideal innovation partner for the project.

Key to overcoming the customer challenge was supporting Sudelac with the relevant expertise to help it progress through the technology readiness levels so that it can take its product to market.

### How did the AFRC help?

At the AFRC we understand the challenges of delivering an innovative new product. We also benefit from access to great networks within the oil and gas industry, including our relationship with the OGTC.

Sudelac had developed a product prototype and required support to determine its operational parameters and product design, making use of our materials and process modelling expertise.

We used our finite element analysis (FEA) capability to develop a process model. This provided us with key data indicating how the finished product would operate under certain real life conditions.

### Business impact

**Sudelac can use the data generated from the project to refine its product and perform validation tests as part of the next phase of development. This data will also help the company to make key decisions as it continues on its route to market.**

**When Sudelac approached us, its product was at technology readiness level three, proof of concept. The work we performed will enable Sudelac to progress quickly to technology readiness level number five, meaning validation in a relevant environment, with only four more stages to go until the final operational phase.**

### Customer Feedback

**"Working with the AFRC provided us with vital data about our product that will help us take the project forward with better understanding and further confidence in our offering.**

**The combination of both OGTC and AFRC support was incredibly helpful as both quickly grasped what we're trying to achieve and helped us get there."**

**Paul Howlett, Managing Director and Founder, Sudelac**



**"The AFRC's work provided clear validation that the proposed concept has merit. This will enable the developer to proceed with further function testing and accelerate development of the product."**

**Malcolm Banks, OGTC**