This track record comes from the first ever Tension Leg Platform (TLP), the Hutton. It was built by ConocoPhillips at Highland Fabricators in 1982. Chris Jordan, Coatings Specialist for ConocoPhillips during construction of the Hutton and with more than 40 years experience of surveying in the North Sea commented:

“It is clear that after nearly 30 years in service the high loaded glass flake epoxy applied on the tubular splashzone sections of the Hutton TLP hull is performing very well. Even areas subjected to abrasion from topside equipment such as pumps, ropes and chains are in excellent condition considering the lifetime.”

The story of the Hutton didn’t stop after decommissioning. In fact the decision was taken to re-cycle the topsides for a new drilling platform for the Arctic waters of the Russian Prirazlomnoye oil field. Discovered back in 1989 the field is located in the Pechora Sea 60km offshore deep into the Arctic circle. It is estimated that 72 million tonnes of oil reserves exist in the field. J.SC. Sevmash built the ice-resistant oil platform for operator Gazprom. The decision was taken to use the Hutton topsides with a concrete caisson which will be capable of storing 900,000 barrels of oil to be offloaded by shuttle tankers. The topsides module was refurbished using a surface tolerant epoxy primer which could provide long term anti-corrosion performance. Interplus™ 356 was the primer selected for its ability to offer both low temperature cure and excellent brush workability on pitted steel. This provided a good sealed surface onto which Interzone™ 954 was applied to give a coating scheme that will provide long term abrasion and corrosion resistance. In addition, over 40,000m² of Chartek™ 7 was applied to give epoxy passive fire protection. A mixture of H-30, 60 and 120 fire ratings were required for external bulkheads and columns. Ease of application and proven long term performance in harsh conditions, for example in Norway and the Sakhalin region of East Russia, contributed to Chartek being selected.

Overall, the Hutton and Prirazlomnoye platforms clearly demonstrate that International Paint provides coatings with a proven long term track record in some of the world’s harshest environments.