Modulift has manufactured two custom subsea spreader beams for one of the world's leading Subsea Construction Company's who are currently conducting a large-scale engineering, procurement, installation and construction contract for EnQuest's Kraken Development. The Kraken Development, is one of the largest subsea heavy-oil field projects under development in the UK sector of the North Sea. The below-the-hook equipment manufacturer delivered the 303t capacity, 6.8m span spreaders to their customers on site, where the scope of work includes template and manifold installation at three drill centres. Modulift's spreaders will be used to lift the manifolds into position on stage one of the project, before going into storage for six to 12 months before being reused on later stages.

Chris Schwab Sales Manager at Modulift, said: “This is a landmark project on which to showcase the engineering behind our new range of spreaders for subsea use. The range incorporates our drop link design to ensure the beam doesn’t have any bending force through it—other than due to self-weight—thus reducing the overall size and weight of the beam, creating a more efficient design.”

Schwab added that the design features an open section to ensure that there are no issues with pressure equalisation, and that all surfaces can be covered with a high build epoxy paint suitable for subsea environments.

Prior to delivery, each item of equipment used on the Kraken Development was required to be sent to DNV GL AS, formerly known as Det Norske Veritas AS, a global provider of knowledge for managing risk, for inspection.

Modulift timed the launch of its new subsea modular spreader beams to follow publication of a revised offshore standard from DNV—titled DNV-OS-H206—that references the use of spreader bars. The manufacturer took the concept behind the unique modular elements of its standard and heavy spreader beam ranges to produce a versatile and efficient collection for deep water lifting, features demonstrated in the custom subsea spreader beams for the Kraken Development.