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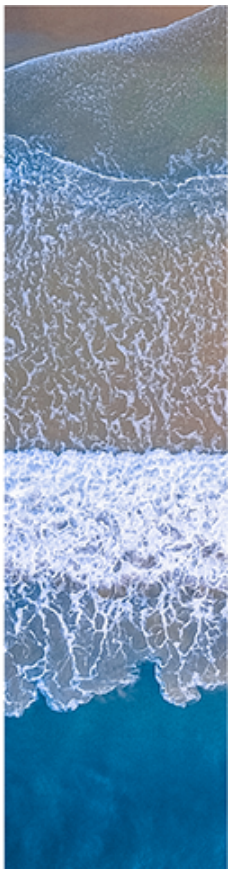

QUE$TOR

# Release Notes
# QUE$TOR

2025 Q1 Release

May 2025

# Contents

# Introduction

We are pleased to provide the 2025 Q1 release of the QUE$TOR cost estimating software. The install files and supporting documentation for the QUE$TOR 2025 Q1 release are available for download here.

All cost databases have been reviewed and updated to incorporate current unit rates, exchange rates and man hour costs for all regions to reflect first quarter (Q1) 2025 prices.

The technical enhancements made to QUE$TOR 2025 Q1 are outlined below. These changes have been made at the request of users and through internal review. We strongly encourage user feedback to enhance the program's functionality, accuracy, and ease of use.

If you are new to QUE$TOR, please read the installation procedure and licensing section in this document prior to installation of the program.

# General upgrades in QUE$TOR 2025 Q1

In response to user feedback, the following features have been implemented in QUE$TOR 2025 Q1.

- High-density polyethylene pipe
- Steel lazy wave risers
- Pipeline and subsea bend stiffeners and restrictors
- Offshore power cable protection
- Marine transport enhancements
- Topsides power form enhancement

# High-density polyethylene pipe

High-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe is now available as a material option in the onshore pipeline component. Users can select this material type in the Onshore pipeline input form, as shown in Figure 1.

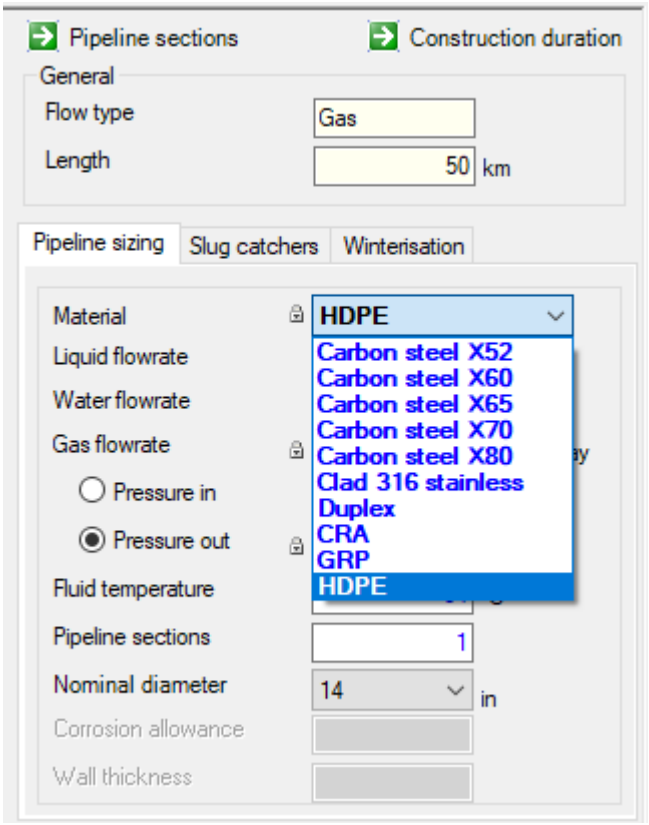


**Figure 1 -** HDPE Material option in the Pipeline input form

HDPE is a thermoplastic polymer produced from monomer ethylene. It is light, easy to install and flexible.

HDPE is commonly utilized in low-pressure gas gathering systems due to its favourable properties and cost-effectiveness. Given the extensive lengths often involved in these systems, opting for HDPE over traditional carbon steel can lead to significant cost savings.

One of the key advantages of HDPE compared to Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) is its lower permeability. This characteristic not only minimizes the risk of gas permeating into the environment but also enhances the overall safety and integrity of the gas gathering infrastructure. By choosing HDPE, users can benefit from reduced

maintenance costs and a longer lifespan for their gas gathering systems, making it a strategic choice for sustainable and efficient operations.

Due to its corrosion-free property, corrosion allowance and coating are not required for HDPE. The standard dimension ratio (SDR) is used to calculate the wall thickness of HDPE pipes. SDR is the ratio between the pipeline's outer diameter and the wall thickness. Each SDR value corresponds to a specific design pressure between 3.8 bara to 20.2 bara. More information can be found in the Help topic. The temperature limitation for HDPE is between –20°C and 60°C.

The SDR calculation considers the fluid type, fluid temperature, and operating pressure. A margin of 25% has been factored in for the pressure to account for surges. SDR values will affect the linepipe material unit rate, as shown in Figure 2.

| MATERIALS | | | Procured from: S. E. Asia |
|---|---|---|---|
| | QUANTITY | UNIT RATE | COST |
| Linepipe (D = 14 in, HDPE) | 50.00 km | 87,800 | 4,390,000 |
| Fittings | 10.00% | | 439,000 |
| Coating | 0.00 km | 0 | 0 |
| Insulation | 0.00 km | 0 | 0 |
| Crossings | | | 0 |
| Civils materials | | | 248,000 |
| Sub Total | | | 5,077,000 |
| Freight | 9.00% | | 457,000 |
| Total Materials | | $ | **5,534,000** |

**Figure 2 -** Onshore pipeline cost sheet with selected HDPE material

## Steel lazy wave risers

Steel lazy wave risers (SLWR) have been introduced in Subsea and Offshore pipeline as they are low-cost alternatives to flexible risers while providing a better strength and fatigue performance than steel catenary configurations due to the installation of distributed buoyancy modules. Users can select this type of riser both in the Subsea Riser / tie-in properties form, as shown in Figure 3, and in the Offshore pipeline input form, within the Export or Receiving end tabs.

SLWR are designed to accommodate dynamic conditions in deepwater environments, providing a robust solution for transporting hydrocarbons and minimizing risks.

When selected, SLWR employ a unique design that incorporates a lazy wave bend, supported by distributed buoyancy modules, which helps decrease top tension, spread the stresses along the riser and reduce the potential for fatigue. The system design is optimized for various water depths and can be tailored to meet specific project requirements.

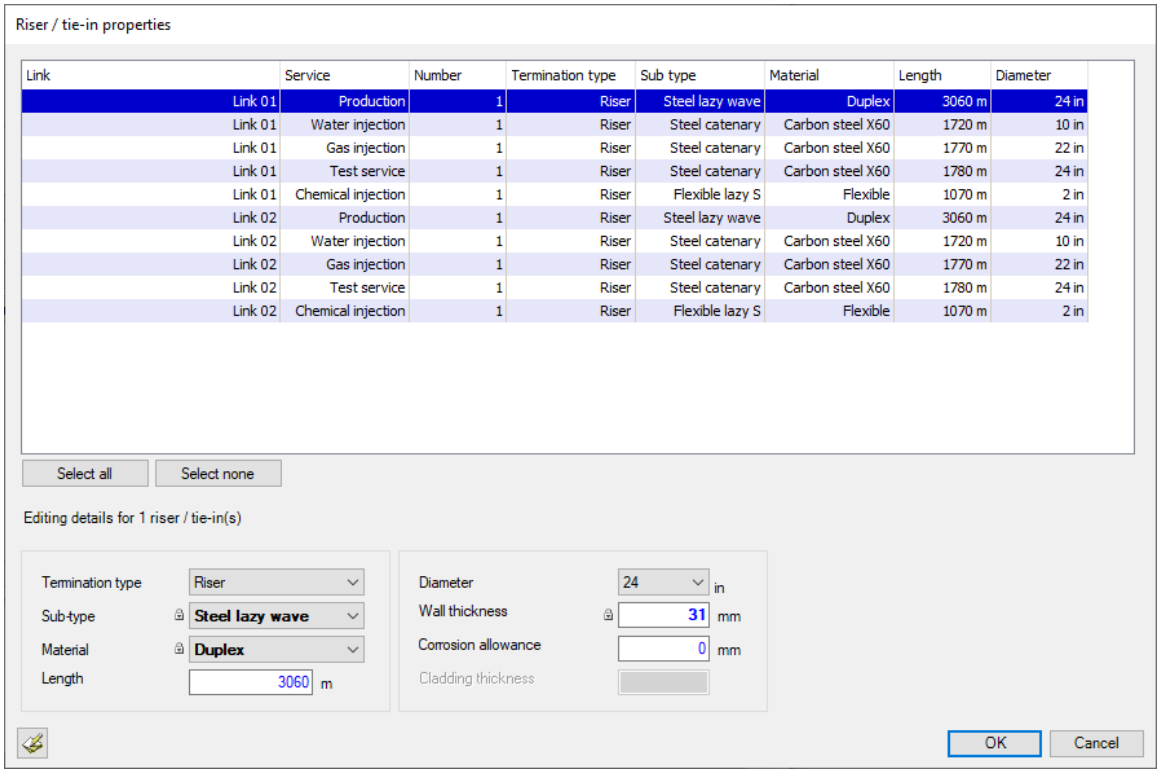


**Figure 3 -** Subsea riser tie-in properties form

The riser length and number of buoyancy modules are calculated based on water depth, diameter, insulation type and properties of the pipeline internal fluid. The SLWR riser length, the number and the size of distributed buoyancy modules are displayed in the Materials sections of the Offshore pipeline and Subsea cost sheets, as shown in Figure 4.

| FLOWLINE RISERS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | QUANTITY | UNIT RATE | COST |
| **Production - Steel lazy wave** | | | |
| **1 x** | | | |
| Riser linepipe (D = 24 in, t = 31 mm, Duplex) | 3,062 m | 5,925 | 18,142,000 |
| Coating | 3,062 m | 77 | 236,000 |
| Insulation | 3,062 m | 0 | 0 |
| Anodes | 0.0 te | 13,400 | 0 |
| Strakes | 400 m | 1,540 | 616,000 |
| Distributed buoyancy modules (OD = 1.52 m x L = 3 m) | 130 | 34,400 | 4,472,000 |
| Flex-joint | 1 | 2,895,000 | 2,895,000 |
| Spools, flanges & fittings | 1 | 3,330,400 | 3,330,000 |
| Subsea emergency shutdown valve system | 1 | 10,350,000 | 10,350,000 |

**Figure 4 -** Subsea cost sheet with SLWR riser

The installation of SLWR risers includes the additional time required to install the distributed buoyancy modules along the length of supported riser to achieve the typical lazy wave shape.

The introduction of the SLWR provides users with the option to select a cutting-edge solution that enhances the reliability and efficiency of offshore pipeline operations, while also contributing to the safety and sustainability of deepwater projects.

## Pipeline and subsea bend stiffeners and restrictors

Increasing replacement costs due to damaged flexible flowlines and risers when installed, has led to an increased requirement to protect flexibles. When flexibles are connected to fixed points such as topsides, manifolds, pipeline end terminations (PLETs), or other subsea equipment they move during operation which can lead to damage and require replacement. Based on user feedback we have added bend stiffeners and bend restrictors to offshore pipelines and subsea. Their costs are shown in the materials cost sections of these components.

### Bend stiffeners

If flexible material type is selected for any subsea flowline or offshore pipeline on the subsea link properties or pipelines forms, then a default quantity of bend stiffener is calculated and added to the cost sheet as shown in Figure 5. The quantity changes based on the termination type with a length of 12 m provided for risers and 6 m for shore approach.

The unit cost is based on the nominal diameter of the flexible. Bend stiffeners are preinstalled and so the inclusion does not affect installation durations.

Bend restrictors are included after bend stiffeners to provide additional protection during the installation process and in operation. By default, no quantity is calculated but can be edited as needed.

| PRODUCTION FLOWLINE | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | QUANTITY | UNIT RATE | COST |
| Linepipe - 1 x (D = 6 in, Flexible) | 2.50 km | 1,149,300 | 2,873,000 |
| Subsea crossings | 0 | 960,000 | 0 |
| Bend stiffener | 12 m | 34,082 | 409,000 |
| Bend restrictor | 0 m | 5,548 | 0 |
| PLETs | 2 | | 3,208,000 |
| Total Production flowline | | $ | **6,490,000** |

**Figure 5 -** Subsea flowline material cost sheet with bend stiffener and restrictor

## Bend restrictors

Bend restrictors are added to the subsea and pipeline PLET sub cost sheets when flexible jumper type is selected for either well end and/or tie-back end termination types for both subsea and pipelines as shown in Figure 6 for subsea.

If flexible jumper type is selected for either the well end or tie-back end termination for subsea or pipeline jumpers, then a default quantity of 10 m is calculated for each PLET end with the unit cost based on the jumper diameter. Bend restrictors and stiffeners are preinstalled and so their inclusion does not affect installation durations.

| TOTAL COST | US Dollars | 2,620,000 |
|---|---|---|

| EXPORT END PLET | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | QUANTITY | UNIT RATE | COST |
| Structure | 7 te | 39,200 | 274,000 |
| Valve | 1 | 148,000 | 148,000 |
| Protection structure | 4 te | 12,400 | 50,000 |
| Mudmat | 14 te | 3,380 | 47,000 |
| Jumper (Flexible) | 80 m | 2,690 | 215,000 |
| Jumper connectors | 2 | 260,200 | 520,000 |
| Bend restrictors | 10 m | 5,550 | 56,000 |
| Total Export end PLET | | $ | **1,310,000** |

| RECEIVING END PLET | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | QUANTITY | UNIT RATE | COST |
| Structure | 7 te | 39,200 | 274,000 |
| Valve | 1 | 148,000 | 148,000 |
| Protection structure | 4 te | 12,400 | 50,000 |
| Mudmat | 14 te | 3,380 | 47,000 |
| Jumper (Flexible) | 80 m | 2,690 | 215,000 |
| Jumper connectors | 2 | 260,200 | 520,000 |
| Bend restrictors | 10 m | 5,550 | 56,000 |
| Total Receiving end PLET | | $ | **1,310,000** |

**Figure 6 -** Subsea PLET material cost sheet with bend restrictors

### Pipeline risers

If flexible lazy S sub-type riser is selected, then the bend stiffener and bend restrictor line items are shown on the riser materials cost sheet. The Bend stiffener is calculated to be 12 m for risers and 6 m for shore approach for the export and receiving end terminations as shown in Figure 7. Bend restrictors have no default quantity but can be edited.

| Export end termination (Flexible lazy S) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Riser linepipe (D = 6 in) | 268 m | 1,823 | 489,000 |
| Riser arch buoy systems | 1 | 280,053 | 280,000 |
| Spools, flanges & fittings | 1 | 83,223 | 83,000 |
| Bend stiffener | 12 m | 34,082 | 409,000 |
| Bend restrictor | 0 m | 5,548 | 0 |
| Subsea emergency shutdown valve system | 0 | 594,452 | 0 |

**Figure 7 -** Flexible lazy S riser material cost sheet with bend stiffener and bend restrictor

### Subsea umbilicals

Bend stiffener and bend restrictor cost line items have been added beneath umbilical UTA on the materials sub cost sheet for all umbilical types as shown in Figure 8. If umbilical is selected, then a default quantity of 12 m is calculated. The unit rate is based on an umbilical nominal diameter of 8 inches.

| UMBILICALS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | QUANTITY | UNIT RATE | COST |
| **Control tubes** | | | |
| 4 x (D = 22.2 mm) | 10.00 km | 104,360 | 1,044,000 |
| **Chemical tubes** | | | |
| 4 x (D = 19 mm) | 10.00 km | 100,400 | 1,004,000 |
| **Electrical signal cables** | | | |
| 4 x (XSA = 2.5 mm²) | 10.00 km | 12,950 | 130,000 |
| **Power cables** | | | |
| Standard - 2 x (XSA = 25 mm²) | 5.00 km | 122,860 | 614,000 |
| UTA | 1 | 521,797 | 522,000 |
| Bend stiffener | 12 m | 37,913 | 455,000 |
| Bend restrictor | 0 m | 5,945 | 0 |
| Total Umbilicals | | $ | **3,769,000** |

**Figure 8 -** Subsea Umbilical material cost sheet with bend stiffener and bend restrictor

## Offshore power cable protection

Incorrect installation and handling of subsea power cables are cited as the causes of around half of all offshore power cable failures. Over-bending and cable-pulling are frequently identified as leading causes of damage, coupled with issues in monitoring power cables as they leave

the installation vessel. In response to user feedback, we have added bend stiffeners, bend restrictors and cable sleeves to the materials section of the offshore power cable cost sheet as shown in Figure 9.

| MATERIALS | | | Procured from: N. North Sea (U.K.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | QUANTITY | UNIT RATE | COST |
| AC power cable (3 x 35 mm2) | 13 km | 133,950 | 1,741,000 |
| Bend stiffener | 24 m | 26,552 | 637,000 |
| Bend restrictor | 0 m | 4,624 | 0 |
| Cable sleeve | 300 m | 254 | 76,000 |
| Gravel (rock installation) | 0 te | 22 | 0 |
| Export end riser | 173 m | 188 | 33,000 |
| Export end connection system (Riser) | 1 | 31,440 | 31,000 |
| Receiving end riser | 173 m | 188 | 33,000 |
| Receiving end connection system (Riser) | 1 | 31,440 | 31,000 |
| Landfall system | | | 0 |
| Sub Total | | | 2,582,000 |
| Freight | 5.00% | | 129,000 |
| Total Materials | | $ | **2,711,000** |

**Figure 9 -** Offshore power cable cost sheet with bend stiffeners, bend restrictors and cable sleeves

Bend stiffeners and restrictors provide offshore power cable protection during installation and once installed. For bend stiffeners the default quantity is based on the termination type with 12 m provided for risers and 6 m for shore approach. The unit rate is based on the nominal diameter of the power cable. Bend stiffeners are preinstalled and so the inclusion will not affect offshore power cable installation durations.

Bend restrictors are not included by default but can be added on the cost sheet if required. The unit rate is based on the nominal diameter of the power cable. Bend restrictors are typically preinstalled and so any inclusion will not affect installation durations.

Cable sleeves are used when it is not practical to bury power cables or to provide dropped object and seabed scour protection once the power cable has been installed. A default quantity of 150 m for risers and 75 m for shore approach is calculated when the power cable is not buried. When the power cable is buried, the cable sleeve length is 50 m. Users can also add cable sleeve length manually to the cost sheet if additional cable protection is required.

# Marine transport enhancements

In offshore installation, the delivery of substructures and topsides from fabrication yards to assembly or supply bases represents a significant cost. To address the complexities and improve the user experience, we have enhanced clarity in marine transport calculations. This feature is particularly beneficial for users managing the logistics of marine transport as it improves the way costs and durations are assessed.

One of the key enhancements is the breakout of mobilization (mob) and demobilization (demob) costs in the cost sheets of several offshore components, as shown in Figure 10 for the Jacket component.

| INSTALLATION | | | Location: Gulf of Mexico |
|---|---|---|---|
| | QUANTITY | UNIT RATE | COST |
| Transport from fabrication yard | 65 day | 132,900 | 8,639,000 |
| Transport from fabrication yard mob / demob | 20 day | 132,900 | 2,658,000 |
| Barge | 60 day | 10,200 | 612,000 |
| Barge mob / demob | 8 day | 10,200 | 82,000 |
| Large AHTS vessel | 60 day | 38,000 | 2,280,000 |
| Large AHTS vessel mob / demob | 24 day | 38,000 | 912,000 |
| Medium AHTS vessel | 0 day | 26,500 | 0 |
| Medium AHTS vessel mob / demob | 0 day | 26,500 | 0 |
| Heavy lift vessel | 12 day | 825,000 | 9,900,000 |
| Heavy lift vessel mob / demob | 8 day | 825,000 | 6,600,000 |
| Total Installation | | $ | **31,683,000** |

**Figure 10 -** Split of mob/demob for Transport from fabrication yard

By splitting the duration and associated costs for mob/demob from the marine transport duration, users can track and manage the transit times separately. This transparency allows for more accurate budgeting and forecasting, aligning marine transport costs with other installation cost items.

As part of this feature, the "Flat-deck HTV" option has been renamed "Semi-sub HTV" to better reflect the current classification in the offshore industry for this type of vessel. This transport method has been selected as the default option for the Semi-submersible component, replacing the "Wet tow" that is more frequently deployed for short and medium distances. The Semi-sub HTV option has also been added to the list of marine transport methods available to the Tanker component and to the storage tanker in the Offshore loading

component. This way, users will have access to a broader range of choices, enabling them to tailor their transport strategies to the unique requirements of each project.

The updated Transport from fabrication yard duration now includes any necessary stops for refuelling during long-distance ocean journeys. The refuelling stops for each method are estimated based on an assumed fuel tank capacity and an average fuel consumption. The time required for loading, securing the large structures at sea, de-fastening and unloading the cargo at the delivery location is assumed to be part of the mob/demob duration.

## Topsides power form enhancement

The topsides Power form now includes a hyperlink to a new Power requirement form. The Power requirement form contains the individual power requirements which were previously located on the main Power form. The updated Topsides Power form with the hyperlink to the Power requirement form can be seen in Figure 11.

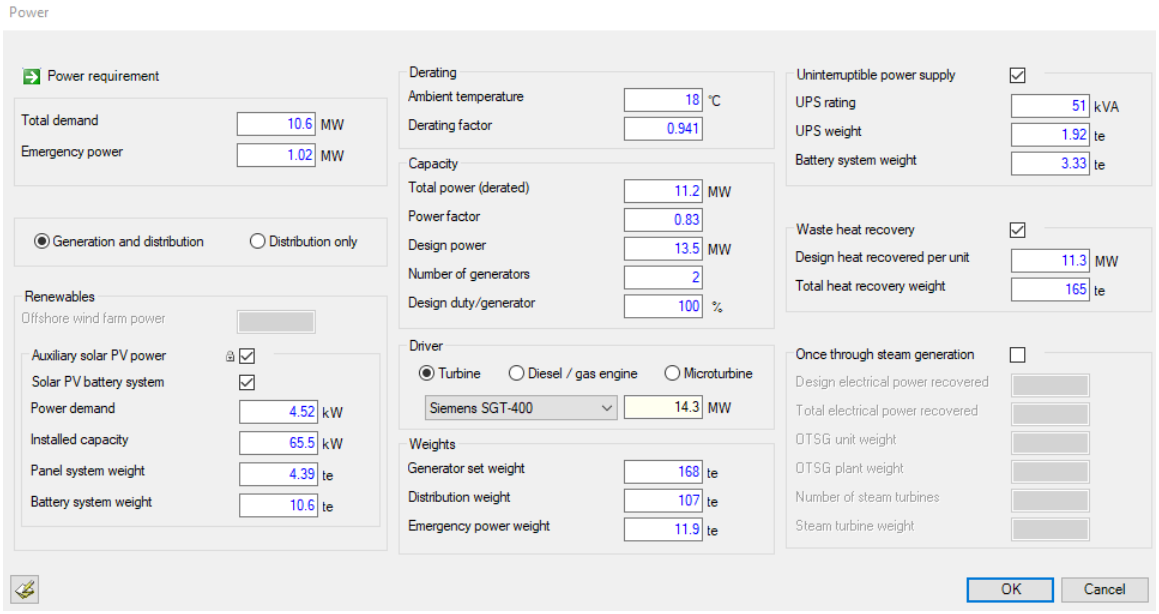


**Figure 11 -** Topsides Power form with Power requirement form hyperlink

In addition to the newly created Power requirement form, the Power form now contains an editable Total demand. The Total demand item is the summation of the power requirements on the hyperlinked Power requirement form.

This new functionality provides users with the ability to edit the total power requirement on the main Power form without adjusting individual power requirements. However, it should be noted that values for individual system power requirements are used in modeling OPEX and so should still be adjusted when they are known. The Power requirement form shown in Figure 12 below contains all the power requirements previously located on the main Power form.

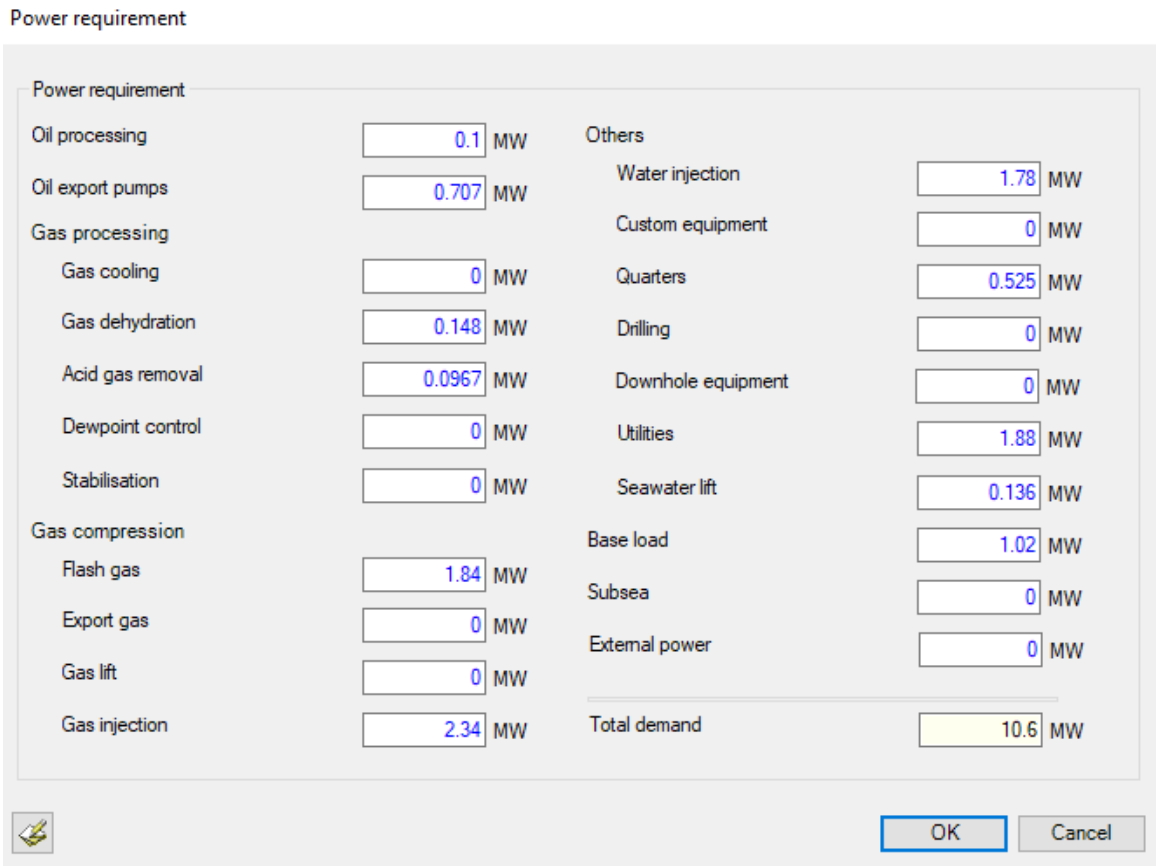


**Figure 12 -** Topsides Power requirement form

The enhancements made to the Power form will not affect previously saved power form values, with locked values being retained from previous versions in the latest version.

# Cost data sources and accuracy

The QUE$TOR cost databases available within the program are regional, and together, in total, provide worldwide coverage. Each regional cost database contains a full set of cost data for that region, from equipment costs to labor rates and operating assumptions. When a new procurement strategy is created, the most appropriate regional database for each cost centre can be selected from the available list.

The costs within each cost database are updated on a six-month basis, with the Spring release representing costs from the first quarter (Q1) and the Autumn release representing costs from the third quarter (Q3) of the year.

# Cost data sources

A dedicated team of costs analysts research cost data throughout the year from a large variety of sources.

- A main source of information is regular interaction with vendors, suppliers, manufacturers and contractors. A solid network of equipment manufacturers and service providers has been established to constantly gather Free on Board (FOB) quotations and market trends.
- Up-to-date information and data are provided quarterly by the S&P Global Economics and Country Risk Research and Analysis, S&P Global Petrodata Product Suite and S&P Global Cost & Technology teams. These teams are responsible for quarterly reports and indices of the main oil and gas market sectors – such as Offshore Rigs, Offshore Installation Vessels, Land Rigs, Engineering and Project Management, Steel, Yards and Fabrication, Equipment, Bulk Materials, and Labor.
- Information exchange with current users is also crucial to the completeness and accuracy of QUE$TOR cost data. The number of cost estimators and field development engineers who are willing to share cost data and industry insights with the QUE$TOR team is increasing every year. Sharing information ultimately means making QUE$TOR a better tool for project estimates.

- Publications and technical literature are used alongside other information as a guide to understand the latest trends of the different upstream market segments.
- Government statistics.
- Cost indices, e.g. the S&P Global Upstream Capital Costs Service Index (UCCI) and the S&P Global Economics and Country Risk Price Index. These are more aggregate and so are not used directly but can provide valuable insights into the general market direction as perceived by other industry analysts.
- In-house cost models for more QUE$TOR specific items, e.g. secondary steel and tanker turrets. Models are also used to track the cost movements of the market demand for other items, e.g. pressure vessels and heat exchangers.

QUE$TOR cost databases currently have more than 100,000 data points, an amount that is always increasing as new technologies are continuously added to the software. Given the significant number of inputs to be updated every release, budgetary quotations on specific equipment and services are usually gathered periodically and as needed, but then cost data are adjusted on a six-month basis based on market analysis.

## Accuracy

QUE$TOR provides an estimate based on the costs within the markets today. No allowance for inflation or deflation of costs is made over the project life.

All costs within QUE$TOR are specific to a particular point in time (depending on the version). No tax, inflation or discounting is applied to the estimate to costs incurred over the project life.

QUE$TOR is designed for use early in the project cycle. Therefore, the accuracy level that can be attained by using the program is typically within the range of +/- 25% to 40%. This corresponds to AACE International Class 5/4.

# Cost database update

Substantial effort has gone into reviewing all cost databases to bring them in line with first quarter 2025 costs. The following sections, outlining the market trends seen over the past six months, are the result of S&P Global research, analysis, and insight. QUE$TOR cost databases aim to provide accurate and reliable data that is representative of current market conditions.

Note: When saving a project, the QUE$TOR 2025 Q1 cost estimates will overwrite earlier costs except where those costs are 'locked' on the cost sheet or in the database. Therefore, if you wish to retain a copy of your original estimate you should first create a duplicate of the project before opening and saving it in QUE$TOR 2025 Q1.

QUE$TOR takes a considered view and tries to avoid any transient cost variations with the aim of providing accurate cost data to be used for cost estimation purposes. Therefore, you may see some differences in trends, especially for commodity prices as compared with the latest available data. Further detail relating to the impacts on the cost database are provided in the Benchmarking Report, available via the download site.

# General

The ongoing war in Ukraine and the recent trade tariffs enacted in the United States by the Trump administration have intensified geopolitical tensions and are reshaping global trade policies. The implications for global trade are profound, as the escalating tensions have led several countries to consider retaliatory measures that could further destabilize markets.

These tariffs pose substantial risks to the availability of imported materials and equipment, resulting in increased uncertainty regarding their costs and the pricing of domestically produced goods around the world. Companies that typically export to the US may choose to redirect their goods to countries with lower tariffs or reduce their prices to maintain demand, either of which could have significant implications for the supply and demand balance in international markets.

We would like to remind users that our cost databases have been updated to reflect the cost levels for the first quarter of the year. As

global trade enters a tumultuous phase with unpredictable consequences, this release captures the initial impact of the first steel tariffs while updates from subsequent tariffs are not included.

In addition, access to reliable cost data in Russia remains limited. The enduring conflict with Ukraine and the sanctions imposed by Western countries continue to impact our ability to collect accurate cost data. We have updated our Russian costs by applying our best-informed judgment, derived from global market price analysis and documented changes.

Given the exceptional situation and competing global forces at play, it is crucial to remain vigilant and well-informed. Upstream oil and gas operators must closely monitor cost trends and assess the broader economic landscape to make strategic, data-driven decisions in this highly uncertain market.

## Oil and gas price trend

Since the third quarter of 2024, crude oil prices have been on a downward trajectory, with West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent crude reaching lows of $67 USD and $70 USD per barrel, respectively, as illustrated in Figure 13. The price has been oscillating between $67 USD to $85 USD since September 2024. Despite OPEC+'s best effort in cutting oil output and the ongoing geopolitical tension, sluggish demand and relatively high supply outside of OPEC+ countries kept the crude oil prices down. The market outlook for 2025 remains uncertain.


**Figure 13 -** WTI and Brent crude oil prices

Eight OPEC+ countries have announced plans to increase oil output by 411,000 barrels per day (bpd) starting in May 2025, marking a gradual unwinding of their earlier production cut of 2.2 million bpd. The aim of this move is to alleviate concerns over potential disruptions to Iranian supply as the Trump administration reinstates maximum pressure on Tehran, an OPEC member. The group also plans to gradually increase oil production in the months following May, although these plans may be adjusted based on prevailing market conditions.

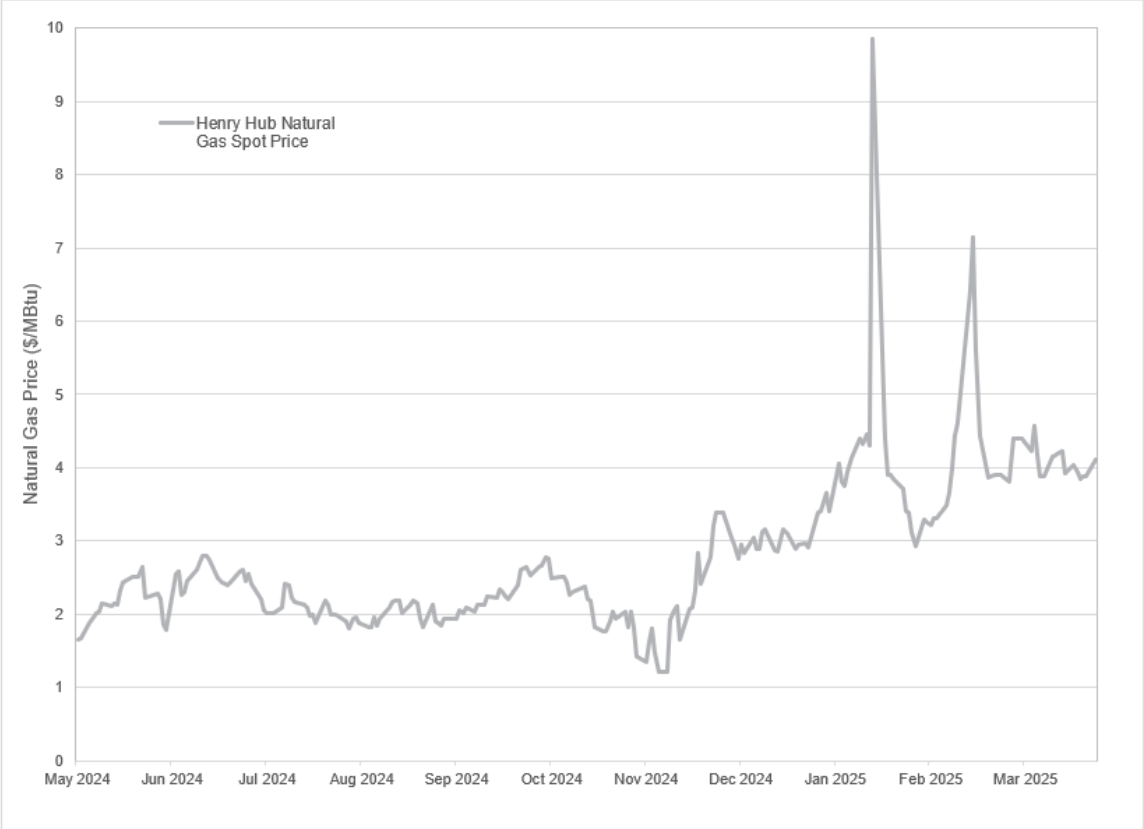


**Figure 14 -** Henry Hub natural gas price

The Henry Hub natural gas price has doubled since the third quarter of 2024. As illustrated in Figure 14, there was a brief spike in mid-January 2025 and another one in mid-February 2025. The spike in January can be attributed to heightened heating demand resulting from sub-freezing temperatures, while the February spike was driven by stronger demand projections coupled with reduced production in Texas.

The price hike has prompted a significant ramp-up in production for several large-scale liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects, including the Plaquemines LNG project in the United States, which is poised to elevate its production capacity from 20 million tons per annum (MTPA) to an impressive 45 MTPA. As a result, LNG production is expected to experience a significant increase this year compared to the newly commissioned capacity in 2024.

## Currency market

In the first quarter (Q1) of 2025, the US dollar (USD) has demonstrated a strengthening trend against most foreign currencies, as indicated by the positive percentage variations in their exchange

rates in Table 1. This depreciation of foreign currencies against the USD is driven by a combination of economic conditions, interest rate adjustments, and geopolitical developments.

The Canadian dollar (CAD) has depreciated against the USD. This movement is primarily attributed to the Bank of Canada's cautious monetary policy stance, which has resulted in a widening interest rate gap with the US. Despite the recent decline, the CAD remains sensitive to fluctuations in oil prices, which play a crucial role in the Canadian economy. The CAD's depreciation reflects broader economic uncertainties and challenges within Canada’s economic landscape.

In Europe, both the euro (EUR) and the British pound (GBP) have also weakened against the USD. The eurozone is facing economic challenges, including elevated inflation rates and slow recovery from recent downturns, which have negatively impacted the EUR. Similarly, the GBP has faced pressures from ongoing economic uncertainties in the UK, leading to its depreciation against the USD.

In the Asia- Pacific region, all tracked currencies have weakened against the USD. The Japanese economy continues to grapple with sluggish growth and persistent inflation, contributing to the yen (JPY)'s depreciation. In South Korea, geopolitical tensions and a slowdown in export growth have similarly affected the won (KRW), resulting in its weakening against the USD. The Australian dollar (AUD) has seen a significant depreciation against the USD. This decline is influenced by the Reserve Bank of Australia's cautious monetary policy and ongoing volatility in commodity prices. The AUD's performance reflects broader uncertainties in the global market, leading to a decline in investor confidence.

In Africa, the currency landscape has shown mixed trends. The Nigerian naira (NGN) has strengthened against the USD, reflecting improvements in the local economic environment and recent reforms aimed at stabilizing the currency. The NGN's appreciation is indicative of the government's efforts to address inflation and enhance foreign exchange liquidity. The Angolan kwanza (AOA) has also appreciated, although to a lesser extent. In contrast, the South African rand (ZAR) has depreciated against the USD due to ongoing economic challenges and inflationary pressures.

In Latin America, several currencies have depreciated against the USD, with the Argentine peso (ARS) and the Brazilian real (BRL)

experiencing notable declines. Economic instability, high inflation rates, and political uncertainties have driven investors away from these currencies, leading to their weakening against the USD.

In Russia, the ruble (RUB) has demonstrated strength against the USD, primarily due to high oil prices and the resilience of the Russian economy despite ongoing geopolitical tensions and economic sanctions. The RUB's appreciation reflects the country’s ability to maintain a degree of economic stability in the face of external challenges, supported by strong commodity exports.

In Q1 2025, the currency market demonstrates a clear trend of various foreign currencies depreciating against the USD. The interplay of economic fundamentals, geopolitical factors, and central bank policies will continue to shape the dynamics of the global currency market.

Table 1 shows the exchange rates of the major local currencies, expressed as equivalent to 1 USD, and the percentage change between Q1 2025 and Q3 2024. The exchange rates have been averaged over the last full month of the quarter to mitigate the volatility caused by the significant uncertainty present in the international financial markets.

| Region | Country | Local Currency | Q3 2024 | Q1 2025 | Percentage change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North America | Canada | CAD | 1.354 | 1.436 | 6.06% |
| South & Central America | Argentina | ARS | 960.10 | 1067.03 | 11.14% |
| | Brazil | BRL | 5.541 | 5.779 | 4.30% |
| | Chile | CLP | 926 | 935 | 0.97% |
| | Colombia | COP | 4,180 | 4,136 | -1.05% |
| | Mexico | MXN | 19.595 | 20.242 | 3.30% |
| | Peru | PEN | 3.745 | 3.634 | -2.96% |
| West Europe | Eurozone | EUR | 0.900 | 0.927 | 3.00% |
| | Norway | NOK | 10.606 | 10.708 | 0.96% |
| | UK | GBP | 0.757 | 0.776 | 2.51% |
| East Europe | Czech Republic | CZK | 22.586 | 23.166 | 2.57% |
| | Kazakhstan | KZT | 479 | 497 | 3.76% |
| | Poland | PLN | 3.849 | 3.875 | 0.68% |
| | Russia | RUB | 91.301 | 86.167 | -5.62% |
| | Turkey | TRY | 34.043 | 37.095 | 8.97% |
| | Ukraine | UAH | 41.021 | 41.229 | 0.51% |
| Asia | Australia | AUD | 1.477 | 1.589 | 7.58% |
| | China | CNY | 7.073 | 7.250 | 2.50% |
| | India | INR | 83.8 | 86.6 | 3.34% |
| | Indonesia | IDR | 15,308 | 16,451 | 7.47% |
| | Japan | JPY | 143 | 149 | 4.20% |
| | South Korea | KRW | 1,329 | 1,458 | 9.71% |
| | Malaysia | MYR | 4.257 | 4.432 | 4.11% |
| | Singapore | SGD | 1.296 | 1.336 | 3.09% |
| | Taiwan | TWD | 31.940 | 32.970 | 3.22% |
| | Thailand | THB | 33.260 | 33.810 | 1.65% |
| | Vietnam | VND | 24,625 | 25,533 | 3.69% |
| Africa | Algeria | DZD | 131.59 | 133.20 | 1.22% |
| | Nigeria | NGN | 1632 | 1526 | -6.49% |
| | Angola | AOA | 924.67 | 912.44 | -1.32% |
| | South Africa | ZAR | 17.590 | 18.290 | 3.98% |
| Middle East | Saudi Arabia | SAR | 3.750 | 3.748 | -0.05% |
| | UAE | AED | 3.673 | 3.672 | -0.03% |

**Table 1 -** Exchange rates and fluctuations of major local currencies since Q3 2024

## Steel

The global steel market is currently navigating a complex landscape shaped by a strong differentiation in regional pricing and demand fluctuations. While global steel prices have generally experienced a

decline, the United States stands out as an exception.

In North America, prices for pipeline and Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) have risen significantly since the third quarter of 2024. However, this increase is not indicative of genuine consumption growth; rather, it reflects the rising costs of raw materials and scrap. To safeguard their profit margins, businesses have resorted to price hikes. The Trump administration has confirmed a 25% tariff on steel import in mid-March 2025. Since then, the steel market has been soft from low buying interest as most buyers have built their inventories prior to the announcement.

In Europe, hot-rolled coil prices are stagnating, primarily due to a lack of buying interest. On March 10, 2025, the European Union proposed several adjustments to its steel safeguard measures considering the bleak global steel market outlook. These adjustments included a reduction in the liberalization rate, a decrease in quotas for key exporters such as India and Turkey, and the removal of the "carry-over" mechanism that previously allowed the transfer of unused quotas to subsequent quarters. The prevailing sentiment is that these measures are insufficient to significantly influence domestic steel prices.

In Asia, China has enacted measures to attract foreign investment and prepare for potential external shocks. These briefly boosted hot-rolled coil prices, though the increase was short-lived due to persistently weak overall sentiment driven by low export demand. Additionally, antidumping measures and the tariffs from the US on China have contributed to a cautious market atmosphere.

In Latin America, the steel market remains sluggish, with a notable decline in demand, particularly from the automotive sector. Automakers are scaling back production in response to rising interest rates aimed at curbing inflation in Brazil. The market is witnessing a lack of significant transactions, and an oversupply of steel is anticipated in the coming months, further compounded by concerns over potential US tariffs.

A global weakening in oil and gas activities has led to a decrease in OCTG prices, reflecting the recent drop in crude oil prices, with the U.S. being an exception. The US is experiencing robust domestic mill order books and a strong annual rig count. The blanket 25% tariff on all steel product imports is likely to affect further OCTG pricing, as many manufacturers rely on imported steel.

In general, the predominant trend in global steel prices has been downward, with North America being the notable exception. The interplay of the US tariffs and the global response will be crucial in shaping the steel industry's trajectory in the months ahead.

## Equipment

Equipment costs saw a slight increase in the first quarter of 2025, primarily due to sustained high demand, despite some declines in labor and material costs. Suppliers are hesitant to pass on savings from reduced material costs to buyers, focusing instead on maintaining profitability in a volatile market influenced by geopolitical uncertainties. Inflationary pressures have eased leading manufacturers to adopt advanced technologies and explore new revenue streams, although the profitability of these ventures remains inconsistent.

Tariff policies in the US may have significant implications for equipment. Increased tariffs on imported materials and equipment may lead to higher costs for manufacturers, which may be passed on to consumers in the form of elevated equipment prices. This situation is exacerbated by the already high demand for equipment, as suppliers seek to maintain their profit margins amidst rising input costs. Additionally, tariff policies can create uncertainty in the market, influencing investment decisions and potentially slowing down project development. As companies adapt to these changes, they may also seek to diversify their supply chains or shift production to mitigate the impact of tariffs, which could lead to further adjustments in pricing structures. Overall, the interplay between tariff policies and equipment prices is complex, with ongoing geopolitical factors and market dynamics further influencing the situation in the upstream oil and gas sector.

Heat exchanger prices showed slight increases. Lower input costs, particularly from declining material expenses, are contributing to a softer pricing environment, however manufacturers are hesitant to fully pass on these savings to buyers. The ongoing trend toward simpler, off-the-shelf equipment continues to suppress prices across various segments of the heat exchanger market.

Tanks and pressure vessel costs have seen a slight increase, with indicators suggesting gradual production growth in 2025 and steady demand for pressure vessels over the coming years. The power generation sector is a key driver for spending on pressure vessels, particularly due to the reliance on thermal energy sources like coal,

natural gas, oil, and nuclear power. In the US, pressure vessel prices are expected to decline in 2025 after a significant rise the previous year, with initial drops anticipated in the first half before stabilizing later, factoring in potential tariff increases. Input costs for plate prices may rise due to increased protectionism from the new US administration, which could influence domestic pricing dynamics. In Asia, plate price declines have already affected pressure vessels, while prices in Europe are expected to stabilize after reaching a low early in 2025.

Turbine costs saw a slight increase, attributed to tight supply following a decrease in industrial production of engines and turbines, although improvements are beginning to emerge. While easing pricing pressures from lower material costs and slower demand in traditional upstream segments are present, this is being offset by rising demand from clean energy sectors. Notable projects are progressing in regions such as Asia, the Middle East, and North America.

Costs for pumps and compressors are rising due to high demand, even as material costs decline. Manufacturers are focusing on standard-sized compressors to manage cost inflation and reduce lead times, with significant activity in LNG projects in the Middle East and North America, as well as gas pipeline and carbon transport initiatives in Europe. Despite a slowdown in energy transition projects influenced by new US administration policies, the increase in oil and gas projects is expected to drive suppliers to enhance their research and development efforts toward more efficient processes and technologies like hydrogen and carbon capture.

Continued price growth is expected, albeit at a slow rate, due to restrained input costs and moderate demand momentum. The trend towards simpler, efficient solutions and shifting production to lower-cost bases is expected to temper price fluctuations. However, short-term risks to this forecast include trade policies from the new US administration, escalating trade tensions with China and other partners, as well as geopolitical uncertainties related to the war in Ukraine and instability in the Middle East, which may disrupt supply chains.

## Bulks

The bulk materials market has seen a challenging environment shaped by various economic, geopolitical, and regulatory factors. There has been some moderate growth in infrastructure spending particularly in

the energy transition and sustainability areas. Activity in oil and gas has also boosted demand for some market specific bulk materials.

There is a diversity of supply, demand, and price in the bulk materials market, but overall prices have mostly increased in local currency terms due to rising inflation and labor costs, plus ongoing supply chain issues. A tighter competition for skilled labor especially is driving wages upward, raising major concerns for some labor- intensive bulks suppliers as this is resulting in increased production expenses forcing higher prices.

Demand for concrete, asphalt, and insulation remained steady, supported by ongoing infrastructure projects, urban development initiatives focused on energy efficiency, and general construction activities. Demand for electrical bulk materials increased more significantly due to the focus on renewable energy solutions and a more electrically driven world. An increase in demand for communication equipment, along with wire and cables was similarly driven by investments in electrification projects and grid modernization.

Supply dynamics within the market are challenged by regulatory issues, trade tensions, and supply constraints. Many electrical-related bulk suppliers are struggling to meet the rising demand due to constraints in materials availability and fabrication facilities, leading to increased prices and extended lead times for various items. While some bulk materials supply have been steady or have been successfully scaled to meet demand, the potential introduction of new tariffs by the Trump administration could further complicate supply chains and drive up costs.

The outlook for the bulk materials market is cautiously positive, with growth driven by infrastructure investments and the shift toward renewable energy sources. However, the sector faces several challenges that could impact its growth and stability, including the need for sustainable practices, rising labor costs, and the effects of tariffs. As the industry tries to adapt to the changing market conditions, trade policies and international relations will continue to influence market dynamics and investment decisions around the world.

## Offshore rigs

Since Q3 2024, the offshore rig market has encountered significant challenges, characterised by varying demand and utilization rate across several regions. The market situation reflects a combination of

resilience and vulnerability, evident in the inconsistent performance of both floater and jackup segments. Rig contractors are faced with the necessity to adapt to these evolving market conditions.

In Southeast Asia, the floater and jackup segments have encountered significant challenges, with a notable decrease in utilization. The region is facing an oversupply of rigs and limited new contract awards, leading to downward pressure on day rates. The jackup market has been most notably impacted by the recent suspension of contracts from major operators like Petronas Carigali. As a result, many rig contractors are struggling to secure long-term contracts and are accepting lower day rates to maintain activity and avoid idle time.

In Australia, the floater market has maintained a stable position, although seeing a slight decline in utilization. The jackup segment has remained steady, showing resilience in the face of broader market challenges. Rig contractors are optimistic about future demand as new projects are anticipated, which could increase utilization rates going forward.

In Africa, the floater segment has experienced a slight decline in utilization, whereas the jackup segment has faced more significant reductions. This is largely driven by the higher competition from increased availability in the global market. Despite this downturn, a steady interest remains in exploration activities, particularly in Angola and Nigeria, where ongoing investments in infrastructure and technology could provide market recovery in the near future.

In the Middle East, the jackup market has faced notable challenges in recent months, characterized by a decline in utilization rates. This reduction is primarily driven by a combination of contract suspensions and increased competition from both regional and international contractors. National Oil Companies (NOCs), particularly Saudi Aramco and ADNOC, are reassessing their drilling programs, leading to fewer new contract awards for jackup rigs and an oversupply situation. This has caused day rates to decrease as rig contractors compete for a limited number of available opportunities.

In Latin America, the floater market has shown a slight decline in utilization, yet it remains relatively stable compared to other regions. The ongoing projects led by Petrobras continue to drive demand for floaters, ensuring a steady flow of activity. However, the jackup segment has faced more significant challenges, with rigs experiencing a drop in utilization as competition increases and budget constraints come into play.

In North America, the floater segment is experiencing a positive trend characterized by increased utilization, particularly for new generation floaters. This growth is driven by a resurgence in exploration activities and robust demand for high-specification floaters. Operators are actively pursuing new opportunities, creating a favorable environment for rig contractors. This uptick interest in deepwater projects reflects a growing confidence in the market, despite the ongoing concerns about potential oversupply. However, the jackup segment has faced a decline, reflecting a slowdown in new contracts.

The North Sea region has encountered significant declines in the floater market, with limited activity and no new demand. The arrival of additional floaters from West Africa and the Mediterranean has not resulted in new contracts, creating more challenging environment for rig contractors. Meanwhile, the floater market in Norway is currently steady but faces challenges due to a lack of outstanding demand. Operators are primarily focused on maintaining production levels, with new projects not expected to emerge in the near term, leading to a cautious approach toward securing new contracts.

The spider diagram in Figure 15 shows the percent changes for the offshore rig day rates implemented in QUE$TOR 2025 Q1. Day rates in QUE$TOR are based on our best understanding of the market at the time, and it is often hard to identify the most representative day rate for every offshore rig class in the current commercial market.

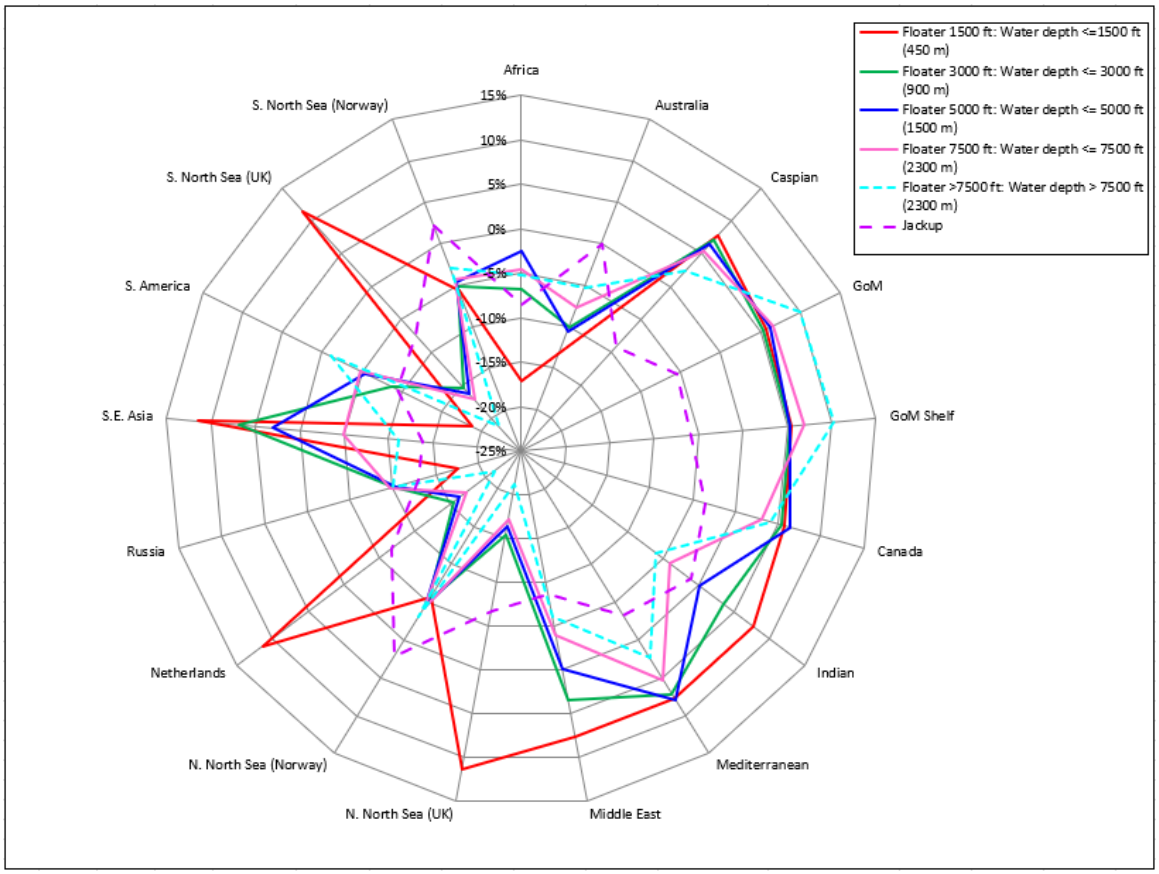


**Figure 15 -** Regional offshore rig day rate changes since Q1 2024

## Offshore vessels

The global offshore vessel market has undergone significant changes, marked by fluctuating vessel counts and varying utilization rates across regions. Despite these variations, the market has shown resilience with positive investment announcements signalling a cautious recovery amid ongoing challenges related to oil prices and regulations.

In the North Sea, long-term fixture activity was limited during the last two months of 2024 due to the seasonal slowdown. At the start of 2025, there was a notable increase in term fixture agreements. However, the spot market remained soft, with declining rates for Anchor Handling Tug Supply (AHTS) vessels and Platform Supply Vessels (PSVs) in Norway and the UK, where there was ample tonnage, particularly for medium and small units. Market activity picked up again towards the end of the quarter, leading to rising rates.

In West Africa, countries like Nigeria and Angola are attracting renewed interest from international oil companies due to favourable investment climates and significant discoveries, increasing demand for support vessels. However, piracy remains a concern, prompting increased security measures that affect vessel demand and rates.

The US Gulf of Mexico remains a crucial hub for offshore drilling, focusing on deepwater projects and enhanced production from existing fields. The AHTS and PSV markets remained stable, with resilient day rates driven by consistent demand from ongoing projects in the region and work in Brazil and Guyana.

In the Asia-Pacific region, strong utilization rates for AHTS vessels characterize the offshore vessel market, supported by a substantial supply of AHTS vessels. While demand for PSVs remains stable despite oil price fluctuations, challenges include an aging fleet and limited newbuild orders. The market is expected to continue gaining momentum with upcoming drilling campaigns and construction projects, while governments in Australia and Tasmania are focusing on offshore wind projects to enhance clean energy production.

South America, especially Brazil, has experienced significant offshore activity, with major operators like Petrobras increasing their projects. The focus on decommissioning activities has driven ongoing demand for support services, including PSVs and AHTS vessels. With new tenders expected to begin by late 2025, the market outlook remains optimistic for offshore support vessels. In contrast, activity in Mexico has declined due to the suspension of jackup rigs, although Pemex awarded several term contracts for small PSVs.

In The Middle East, after a seasonal slowdown at the beginning of the quarter, offshore support vessel term activity rebounded significantly. An increase in offshore activity in the region led to early project mobilizations as various work programs began for the year. However, term demand experienced a slight decline in March, driven by the completion of several charters in Saudi Arabia and the departure of multiple vessels from the market.

The global construction vessel market has also shown some positive trends, supported by an increased offshore construction activity. Demand for these vessels is expected to stay strong, particularly in areas with ongoing developments, as operators invest in enhancing their capabilities to meet the rising energy resource demand.

The global offshore support vessel market, vital for oil and gas exploration, has undergone significant transformations in the past decade. Vessel owners are increasingly pursuing mergers to seize growth opportunities amidst fluctuating oil prices and regulatory changes. This trend towards consolidation has been seen also in related industries such as offshore rigs, where there has been significant M&A activity.

## Subsea equipment

The subsea equipment market has shown moderate growth through the end of 2024 and the start of 2025. Although the number of contracts awarded last year was lower than projected, their substantial sizes helped the market hold its ground. Global demand was led by projects across South America, Africa, and Europe and this trend is expected to continue over the next five years.

In 2024, the Americas dominated the subsea equipment market, becoming a focal point for subsea projects, with significant investments into new developments. The offshore Whiptail project development in Guyana awarded the most significant subsea tree contract last year with 48 subsea Xmas trees, this was followed by another significant award of 19 trees by Petrobras for Brazilian offshore projects.

After a period of subdued subsea activity in North America since 2020, with little activity recorded in 2021 and 2022, demand has increased over the past two years. This surge has been driven by ongoing projects and new developments in the Gulf of Mexico such as the Kaskida development. Subsea activity is expected to further increase from 2025 to 2029, primarily because of Shell’s Whale project in the Alaminos Canyon field, BP’s developments in the Mad Dog South fields and the Phase 3 Silvertip subsea development.

Europe has shown resilience in the subsea sector, with substantial growth reported in the UK and Norway, particularly in gas projects. However, concerns about project timelines have emerged, as many projects face delays because of various factors, including regulatory hurdles and supply chain constraints.

In Asia-Pacific, subsea equipment demand has declined substantially, with just one contract awarded in 2024 for a project in the Philippines involving two subsea trees. Despite the slowdown in subsea development and the pandemic's impact, activity in the region has remained stable due to ongoing LNG-related projects that require continued brownfield development to meet domestic gas needs.

Demand for subsea equipment has remained soft since 2018 in the Russian and Caspian Region. Financial sanctions from the Russia-Ukraine conflict have led many oil and gas companies to exit the market, further reducing demand. Despite the region's significant unexplored potential, logistical challenges impede the export of resources from the Caspian Sea.

Costs in the subsea equipment sector have shown upward trends, because of rising raw material and labor costs. Control systems have experienced the highest cost increase due to high demand driven by oil and gas and renewable applications, strained supply chains, and escalating trade tensions.

Subsea tree and umbilical costs have experienced an upward trend, because of robust demand linked to ongoing projects, particularly in regions such as Guyana and Brazil. The demand for subsea trees is expected to remain strong, leading to further price increases over the upcoming years. The ongoing exploration activities in Africa, particularly in Namibia, have increased demand, indicating a growing interest in subsea capabilities.

The manifold market has exhibited a similar pattern. While there have been some fluctuations in material costs, external factors such as tariffs and elevated labor costs have resulted in sustained high prices across various subsea components. Flexible flowlines and risers have also seen price increases, mainly due to demand from expanding offshore presalt fields in Brazil.

The subsea equipment market has seen moderate growth heading into 2025, driven by substantial contract sizes and strong demand in regions such as South America, Europe and Africa. However, rising costs of raw materials and labor have resulted in increased prices for key components. Despite this growth, challenges related to project timelines and supply chain constraints remain. To sustain this upward trajectory, a focus on technological advancements and strategic partnerships will be crucial in the coming years.

## Labor

Global labor markets have demonstrated resilience amidst ongoing challenges, influenced by economic recovery, inflationary pressures, and regional disparities. Globally, the demand for skilled labor continues to rise, particularly in sectors related to energy and technology. This has led to increased wage pressures as companies

compete for a limited pool of skilled workers. Informal employment and working poverty remain significant issues, especially in developing economies, where structural weaknesses in labor markets persist.

In North America, the labor market is in line with the global trend, with strong hiring activity despite signs of economic moderation. The US has seen a steady increase in wages, driven by high demand in the tech and energy sectors. Canada, is experiencing some economic slowdown, which may result in a softer job market. However, over the last six months, the growth in labor rates in Canada has only marginally reduced when compared to that of the US.

Europe is witnessing a gradual easing of inflation pressures, which should temper wage growth, but the hangover of high inflation has driven rates marginally higher than the global average since Q3 2024. Nonetheless, the demand for skilled workers remains high in the United Kingdom and Germany, where technological advancements and energy transitions are driving employment opportunities. The labor market in Norway continues to be competitive, maintaining upward pressure on wages despite broader economic challenges.

In the Asia-Pacific region, economic recovery efforts are supporting labor market stability. Australia has shown resilience with low unemployment rates and a high labor force participation rate, although the construction sector faces challenges due to fiscal constraints. In dollar terms, currency movements have offset this growth, resulting in a modest apparent decline in the labor rate. In China, economic expansion is driving demand for skilled labor, particularly in the infrastructure and manufacturing sectors, contributing to wage growth aligned with global trends.

Latin America is experiencing acute skills shortages, notably in Brazil and Mexico, where local labor rates are rising. The region's economic dynamics are influenced by ongoing political and economic reforms aimed at boosting productivity and employment. In US dollar terms, the growth in labor rate in Brazil and Mexico looks marginal as the US dollar has strengthened against these currencies.

The Commonwealth of Independent States region remains subdued due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and its economic repercussions. Kazakhstan shows some positive developments for long term growth with new fiscal terms incentivizing projects resulting in a modest growth in the labor rate. Russia's economic outlook may be more mixed as it is currently being boosted by a wartime budget and a shortage of skilled labor resulting in a higher increase in the labor rate.

Structural transformation and productivity remain critical issues globally, with technological advancements not significantly lifting productivity growth. While skilled workers are in high demand, wage growth is being seen in most countries but masked by fluctuations in the currency exchange rate when compared to the US dollar.

## Land rigs

In the first quarter of 2025, the global land rig market has been characterized by dynamic regional developments and strategic investments, shaping the broader trajectory of the energy sector. As land drilling activities unfold across various regions, a mixed landscape of growth and strategic evolution emerges.

The Asia-Pacific region stands at the forefront, anticipated to lead global rig demand in the near term. China, firmly positioned as the largest country for rig demand within the region, with a surge in demand reflecting it's strategic focus on energy security and economic development, as the country continues to prioritize investments in advanced drilling technologies and infrastructure expansion. However, the demand has also led to a slight decrease in prices, as the market adjusts to the rapid influx of new contracts and competitive pressures.

North America, while ranking third in global rig demand, remains a vital region defined by significant operational momentum and technological advancements. Within the United States, key projects such as extended lateral drilling in the Paradox region highlight a strategic focus on optimizing production capabilities. The deployment of high-powered rigs exemplifies North America's commitment to harnessing sophisticated technology to retain a competitive edge in the energy market.

Latin America is prepared for significant growth in onshore oil and gas activities, primarily driven by Argentina's Vaca Muerta shale formation, Mexico's natural gas initiatives, and supported by various projects across Colombia, Bolivia, Argentina, and Ecuador indicating a robust outlook for the region's energy sector in this year. The ongoing investments in unconventional projects are also driving demand for advanced drilling technologies and high-powered rigs.

Europe is also experiencing an upturn in onshore drilling activities, especially in Germany and Poland, prioritizing gas development wells while diversifying objectives with geothermal and lithium projects. This

shift towards alternative energy sources aligns with broader trends in energy transition and sustainability, as operators strive to balance renewable resources with traditional hydrocarbon extraction.

In the Middle East and North Africa, the drilling campaigns planned position the region as a significant player, focusing on gas discoveries and enhanced oil recovery projects. Driven by government initiatives to increase domestic energy production and achieve self-sufficiency, these efforts highlight the strategic importance of the region in the global energy landscape.

Overall, in early 2025 the land rigs sector shows a mesh of traditional resource extraction and emerging energy initiatives across different regions. The global distribution of rig demand reflects diverse priorities.

The emphasis on advanced rig technology and diversified drilling strategies will be pivotal in shaping the future of land drilling on the global stage.

# Version compatibility

Projects created in QUE$TOR v8.0 and later are compatible with QUE$TOR 2025 Q1. However, projects created or saved in QUE$TOR 2025 Q1 cannot be opened in earlier versions.

Opening a project created in an earlier version of QUE$TOR will result in the costs and technical calculations automatically being updated, except where unit rates or results have been 'locked' when creating the original project. Changes will be made permanent when the project is saved and the case will no longer open in the earlier version. It is therefore advisable to make a copy of your project file before opening it in the new version.

QUE$TOR allows multiple versions of the program to be installed side by side in order to view projects created using earlier databases.

In order to run the latest version of QUE$TOR alongside older versions that use the previous licensing system, both the new and previous licensing systems will have to be setup on the machine running QUE$TOR.

## System requirements

| QUE$TOR 2025 Q1 | |
|---|---|
| Operating system | Windows 10 [v1607] / Windows 11[1] |
| Application disk space | 375 MB |
| Disk space / project | ~1 MB |
| Disk space / procurement strategy | ~4 MB |
| Minimum monitor resolution | 1024 x 768 |

[1] The 32-bit (x86) and 64-bit (x64) versions of these operating systems are supported.

# Installation procedure

**Note:** You need administrator privileges to install the QUE$TOR software.

1. Download the install files from the QUE$TOR download site (https://www.spglobal.com/commodityinsights/en/ci/Info/0316/questor-software-resources.html).
2. The setup program automatically detects if you have the required Microsoft .NET Framework version already installed and provides a warning if you do not. You can download the correct version from Microsoft's website by selecting **Yes**. You can also download the required .NET Framework files from the QUE$TOR download site.
3. If not already installed, run the VC_redist.x86.exe file, which is also available on the download site. This installs the elements of MS Visual C++ required for QUE$TOR to run.
4. To install QUE$TOR 2025 Q1, first unzip the downloaded QUE$TOR install files and then run the setup.exe file.
5. The installer places an icon for QUE$TOR 2025 Q1 on your desktop and creates a group on the start menu under All Programs\S&P Global\ containing QUE$TOR 2025 Q1 shortcuts for the Database editor, the Project editor, the Project viewer, the main QUE$TOR application, and the Unit editor.
6. If you get any warnings during the installation, please contact the QUE$TOR support desk, ci.support@spglobal.com.

**Note:** A valid license is not required to install the software but is required to run the software. You or someone in your organization will receive an email from S&P Global Customer Care containing an Entitlement ID for activating your QUE$TOR licenses.

## Application execution

- Windows 10

  To run the software click the **Start** menu and browse the program list to find **S&P Global > QUE$TOR 2025 Q1** or double-click the **QUE$TOR 2025 Q1** icon created on your desktop.

- Windows 11

- To run the software click the **Start** menu and follow **All Apps > S&P Global > QUE$TOR 2025 Q1 > QUE$TOR 2025 Q1** or double- click the **QUE$TOR 2025 Q1** icon created on your desktop.

## Licensing system

In order to run QUE$TOR a valid license will be required. Depending upon the license type that has been purchased this can either be in a standalone or a network configuration. For standalone configurations users will have to obtain a license by using the standalone online activation tool, whilst for a network configuration locate the license server within their own network. Obtaining the license is described in the following sections. For more information about setting up the network server please refer to the licensing guide that is available from the download site as well as in the help file.

## Activating standalone licenses

To activate a standalone license you will need to have QUE$TOR installed and you will need to have your Entitlement Id (EID). This EID will be emailed to the primary license contact at each company.

When QUE$TOR is run and a feature is selected, without access to a valid license, as would typically be the case when QUE$TOR is first installed, an error will be shown that is similar to the one shown below (Figure 16).

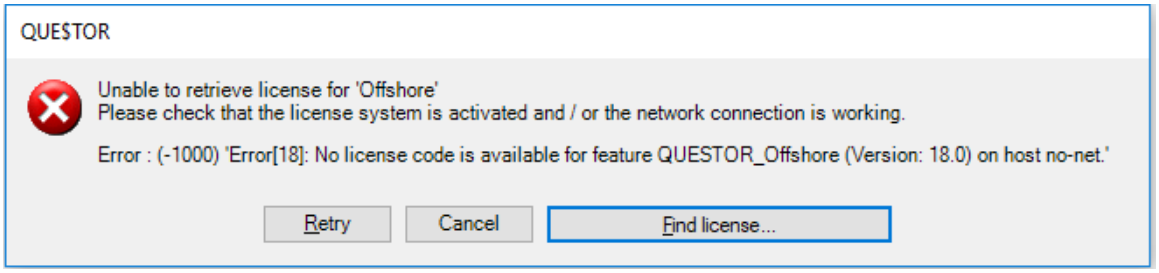


**Figure 16 -** Unable to retrieve license

To activate a standalone license click on the Find license… button.

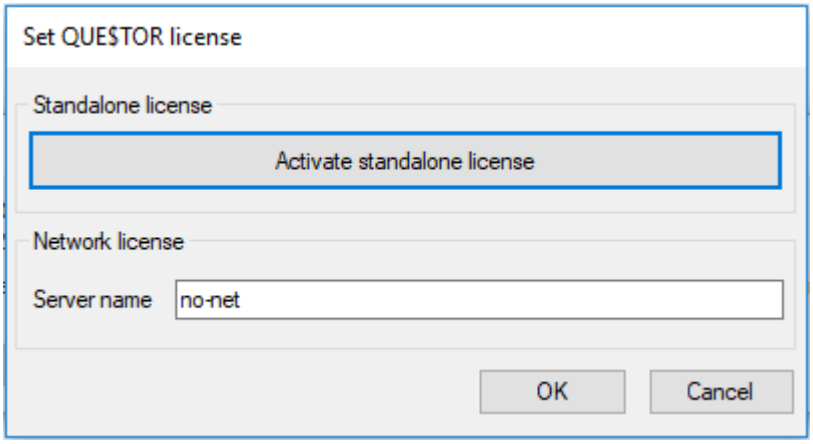


**Figure 17 -** Set QUE$TOR license

When the Set QUE$TOR license form (Figure 17) appears click on the Activate standalone license button. This will open the Standalone Online Activation tool.

First, you will need to copy / paste or type your EID into the Entitlement Id input at the top of the form (Figure 18) and click Connect.

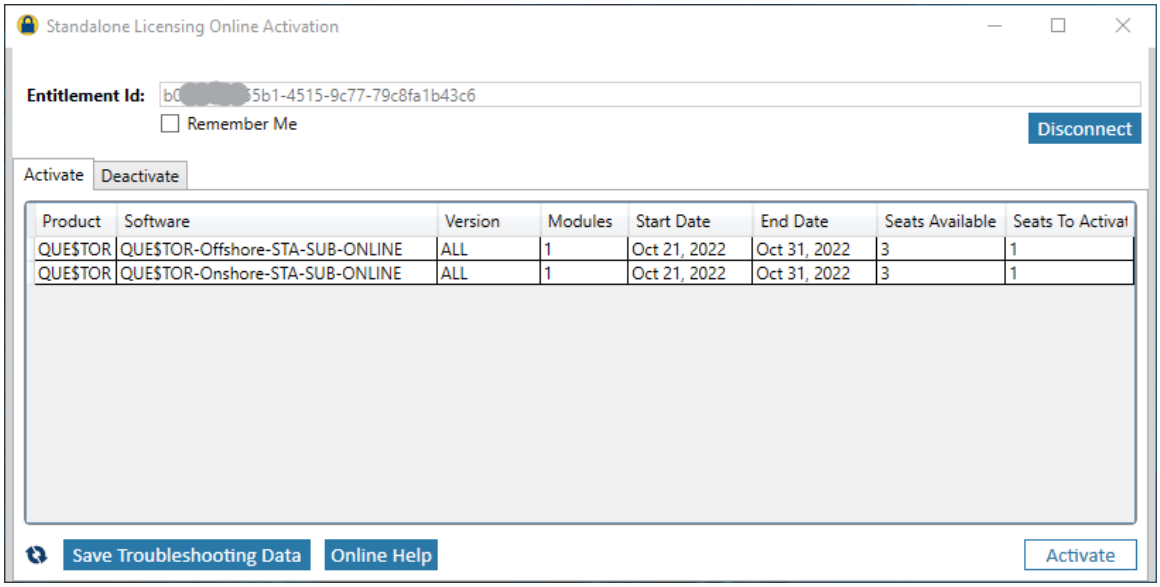


**Figure 18 -** Standalone Online Activation

Next select the product(s) you would like to activate. Holding the Ctrl key while selecting will allow selection of multiple products. Then click on the Activate button.

Once complete the Standalone Online Activation tool can be closed and OK can be clicked on the Set QUE$TOR license form. QUE$TOR will now run the feature licensed.

Standalone licenses will not allow QUE$TOR to work in a shared use environment such as Remote desktop or Citrix. Shared use environments require network licenses.

## Setting network license location

To connect a client machine to a network license service you will need to have QUE$TOR installed, you will also need to have the location of the QUE$TOR license service on your internal network.

When QUE$TOR is run and a feature is selected, without access to a valid license, as would typically be the case when QUE$TOR is first installed, an error will be shown similar to the one shown below (Figure 19).

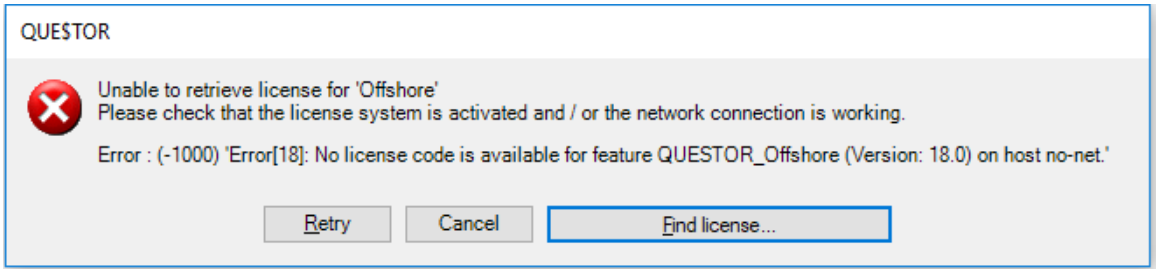


**Figure 19 -** Unable to retrieve license

To connect to a License Service click on the Find license… button.

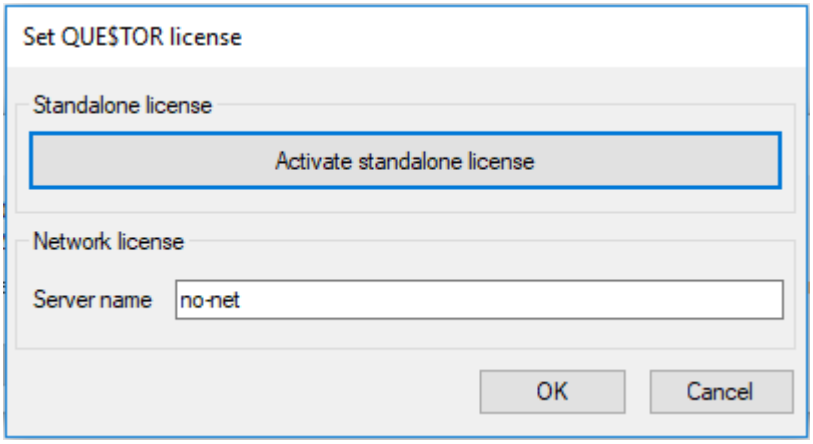


**Figure 20 -** Set QUE$TOR license

When the Set QUE$TOR license form appears (Figure 20), type the license server name in the Server name input box, then click the OK button.

Once complete, QUE$TOR will be able to run the feature(s) available on the license server if a valid license is available.

# Contacting customer support

Requests for support related to the QUE$TOR application should be directed to ci.support@spglobal.com.

Requests can also be submitted through our website.

Or by phone
Americas: +1 800 447 2273
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