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Automated rig in Taranaki

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By: [Jenee Tibshraeny](#) | [New Zealand News](#) | Monday May 13 2013 18:14

Cutting edge technology is seeing oil and gas experts drill several kilometres beneath the sea floor, from the comfort of their New Plymouth office.

A new automated rig acquired by Shell Todd Oil Services, means operators can now use electronic equipment to drill wells, rather than physically work on site themselves.

The company's general manager, Rob Jager, says the German-made rig is being used to tap into pockets of natural gas off the sides of existing Maui A wells, off the coast of Taranaki.

"The technology change in this case is to enhance the safety by reducing the number of folk on the drill floor."

Shell Todd says this kind of technology is a New Zealand first, and the face of modern drilling.

Photo: Maui A well / rig off the coast of Taranaki (Shell Todd Oil Services)

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