



## OCA consultative ballot – Unite members vote to accept the OCA offer

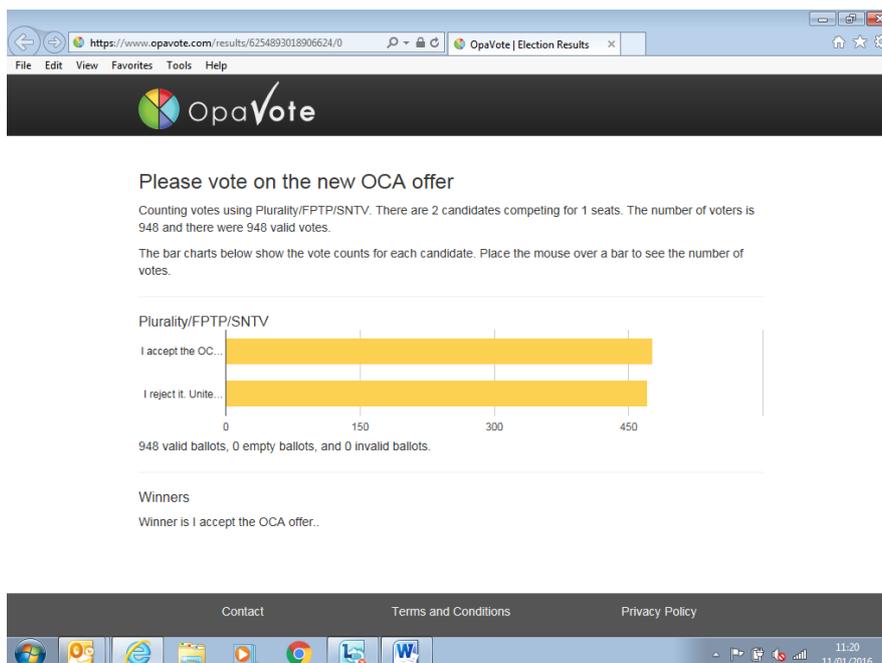
Unite would like to thank all members who took the time to vote in the consultative digital ballot. The ballot was run by **OPAVote** which specialises in independent, secure and democratic online balloting services.

Unite had written to all our members who we had identified as working within the areas and companies covered by the OCA agreement. This letter included details of the offer and a unique identification code which allowed members to use their vote. This was also sent to members personal emails addresses that Unite had been notified of.

The ballot result is as follows :

- The % of Unite members who voted to **accept** the offer was 50.31% (477 votes)
- The % of Unite members who voted to **reject** the offer was 49.69% (471 votes)
- The difference is 0.62% (6 votes)

Therefore the majority of unite members taking part in the ballot voted to accept the offer.



The result can be viewed on line <https://www.opavote.com/results/6254893018906624/0>

## **Majority democratic decision taken by Unite members**

The democratic decision of Unite members is to accept the OCA offer however we do recognise the concerns of those members who voted to reject the offer.

Like the previous decision taken in July 2015 in which members voted to reject the offer, Unite is bound by the democratic decision of its members. On the back of the rejection of the original offer in July 2015, Unite entered into discussions with the OCA which included ACAS. This resulted in an improved offer being tabled by the OCA.

The offer was recommended by Unite regional officers and Unite shop stewards as it was determined to be the best offer that could be achieved by negotiations and contained improvements from the original offer.

This ballot that members took part in made it clear in the rejection question that the next stage would have been the preparation of a legal industrial action ballot. The offer was accepted by the members.

Feedback received from our members shows a mistrust of the OCA and companies and concerns around their willingness to fully implement this agreement.

We would call on our members who have taken part in the ballot whichever way you voted to now work with the offshore regional officers and existing offshore workplace reps/shop stewards to build the offshore branch. Unite now needs all our members to become active within Unite.

Any member who is interested in being an offshore workplace reps/shop steward or point of contact on their rig/installation please contact us [offshoreunite@gmail.com](mailto:offshoreunite@gmail.com). The more members we have taking an active role as reps and points of contact the more we can work together to build and grow Unite. This will put us in a stronger position for the challenging times that we will undoubtedly face as the economic situation continues to affect the offshore industry.

### **Next steps**

Unite regional officers and Unite offshore shop stewards will be meeting soon with ACAS and the OCA member companies. These discussions will be focused on the implementation of the new agreement in regards to holidays and the review and monitoring of the equal time rotations under the auspices of ACAS.

For salaried employees the accepted offer now means we can establish a joint working party to look into the concerns and differences of salaried staff working for OCA companies. How this working party will be set up will also be pursued by Unite at the upcoming meeting with the OCA.

Unite is calling on members to help inform and influence the discussions and will be setting up Unite offshore working parties for members of the Unite offshore branch to allow input and contribute their views and experience on the issues for salaried members and the review of the equal time rotations.

Further information on these working parties will be sent to all members once the meeting has taken place between Unite and ACAS.

Please continue to make Unite aware of any issues arising on your platform in relation to the agreement.

## Working with other offshore unions

Senior officers of Unite will also be working to build a strong working relationship with all offshore unions GMB, RMT, BALPA, Nautilus and the TUC/STUC to speak with one voice in addressing the very real problems offshore workers face and the crisis in the oil industry.

We also intend to continue to build strong union membership, set up strong communication structures with our offshore members and continue to build a strong working relationship with our union colleagues in the Norwegian sector.

## Unite Membership continues to grow offshore

Unite is the largest recognised trade union within the OCA representing thousands of members. The full members of the OCA are AMEC, Aker, Bilfinger Salamis, Cape, Hertel, Muehlhan, Petrofac, Sparrows, Stork and Woodgroup. If you are employed by one these companies then it's time to join Unite.

If you are not yet a Unite member Join today and have your say in your future at work. It's time to join now!

Join Unite today and be part of the biggest union in the North Sea.

[www.unitetheunion.org/join-us](http://www.unitetheunion.org/join-us)

**Enhanced membership £14.71 per month. Basic membership £14.06 per month.**

## Member gets Member

It is time for every Unite member to now ask their colleagues who are not members of Unite to join.

Every time you introduce a new member, you make Unite stronger and to recognise your help, we will give you a Love2shop card worth up to £25.

The offer is available when the person you are recruiting joins online and enters your surname and Unite membership number when asked.

The special application form can be found by following the link below. The value of the shopping card will depend upon the scale the member is paying and will be sent to you when the appropriate number of subscriptions has been paid: - See more at:

<http://www.unitetheunion.org/how-we-help/memberoffers/memberbenefits/membergetmember/#sthash.r3WgV0j2.dpuf>

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