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**A bold oil history**

Bjørn Vidar Lerøen, special adviser in corporate communication, has followed Norwegian oil history for decades. Now he has written his sixth book.

Entitled 34/10 with the subtitle Oil the Norwegian Way – a History of Boldness, the book is being published only days after the news of a merger recommendation between Statoil and Hydro's oil and gas division broke.

I've written the story of Statoil, says Mr Lerøen.

This history is important ballast to carry over to the new company which in the future will write new and important chapters in Norwegian industrial history. In many ways this book marks the end of Statoil's history.

He has over 20 years' experience as an oil and business journalist with Norwegian newspapers Bergens Tidende and Aftenposten.

It is 20 years ago this year since the Gullfaks field in the North Sea commenced production, the first field Statoil became operator for. This laid an important foundation for the group's further work.

The story of Gullfaks is a common thread in the book, but I've not written about the history of a field, says Mr Lerøen.

Gullfaks is part of the big picture.

Thirty-thousand Norwegian copies of the book have been published, with an English version to follow. All Statoil employees will receive a copy of the book.