

Riding the *W*aves



Workships
Contractors
is a Dutch
ship and
project management company
in the offshore oil & gas and
renewables sectors. Throughout
its 24-year history it has grown
from operating the DP II diving

support semi-submersible
Amethyst to participating in niche,
complex contracts around the
world. Its experience is rooted in
the oil and gas industry, where it
continues to have a strong market,
but has recently gained ground
in the offshore wind power sector
through a combination of native

skill and acquired knowledge.

Workships Contractors' wind
energy subsidiary, Offshore
Wind Services B.V. (OWS),
purchased Offshore Wind Power
Marine Services Ltd. (OWPMS)
during March 2012 in order to
strengthen its position on the
market. Operations manager



levels of onboard comfort.

Also mentioned in the previous article on Workships Contractors was the expected arrival of an accommodation barge. Whilst this vessel remains in construction, expected for delivery in 2014, a huge amount of progression has been made within its schedule and the final contract with Damen Shipyards is about to be signed. When this multi-purpose vessel is delivered, it will offer high quality quarters and amenities, reliable gangway for vessel transfer, DP/II system for position holding and deck space to fit containers, cranes and transfer systems. It stands for a truly multi-purpose vessel not only for the offshore wind, but also oil and gas industry.

Workships Contractors is a niche player. Not looking to become a mass-market crew transfer company with a fleet of 40 vessels, it is looking to target specific clients with a wide range of management and chartering services that provide meaningful support to its clients' projects. This complete solution approach - where accommodation, transfer, jack-up and data equipment complement each other - allows the provision of an integrated service.

At the moment Workships

Contractors is working with seismic survey company Polarcus, for example, to provide ice management for its survey vessels operating off the coast of Upernavik on the north west coast of Greenland. On the side of the wind market, recently OWS and FRISIA Offshore have gone into a co-operation agreement, which is managed by Workships Contractors. The intention is to invest together in new Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs) through a joint venture in the coming months. This joint venture will serve as growth platform for the German and Dutch market. Workships Contractors, the sole ship manager of OWS' fleet, and FRISIA Offshore will be working together in operational matters.

"It came about because one of our shareholders, the Doeksen family from the Netherlands that runs ferries in the north of the country, has close connections with German ferry operators including FRISIA Offshore," says Philip. "They have been operating the Windforce 1, the first purpose-built CTV in the German offshore renewables sector, on the Alpha Ventus wind farm. After working together with them on the same IMO committee, looking at the rules and regulations for offshore

wind farms, and through the Doeksen connection, it seemed a logical progression to combine our forces. For Workships Contractors it will be an important first step into Germany, strengthening its name as a workboats operator across northern Europe and forming an important part of its future objectives; for FRISIA Offshore it means a strong partner outside of Germany.

"Over the next few years our strategy is to develop strong ties with shipbuilders," Philip explains. "We are now in the process of vetting the latest designs to decide where OWS' next investments will be, working with BMO Offshore in testing vessel data equipment, in discussions with renewables companies to supply maintenance and intervention jackups, and even looking at adding additional mobile offshore production units (MOPUs) to our management portfolio in Southeast Asia. Our objective is to be the service provider of choice for all the industries we are in." ♦

**Workships
Contractors**
www.workships.nl

- Two new crew transfer boats
- Acquired new subsidiary
- Growing north European presence