

Docking firm wins offshore contract

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DOCKING firm Tidal Transit is celebrating clinching an important contract in the offshore servicing industry for its state-of-the-art support vessel Ginny Louise, just weeks after she arrived in Norfolk waters from a Spanish boat-builders' yard.

The firm, which has evolved from a fishing charter company and has plans to develop a multi-million pound fleet, has won its first contract from Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Ltd, which is developing the 140-turbine Greater Gabbard offshore wind farm off the Suffolk coast.

During the five-month contract which started this week, the Ginny Louise will be used as a support vessel to transport construction workers and maintenance crew involved in the project.

This could be the first of many contracts for Tidal Transit, which recognised the potential for this kind of work with around 4,000 offshore wind turbines either being built or awaiting planning consent in the southern North Sea.

Commercial director for Tidal Transit, Leo Hambro, said: "Ginny Louise was the first of our vessels to arrive in the UK, and has been demonstrating her outstanding qualities up and down the UK's east coast. We are delighted to have won the first contract for Ginny Louise with GGOWL."

The company's achievements have also attracted the interest of the East of England Energy Group, a non-profit making business-led group committed to the sustained development of the energy section in Eastern England.

Tidal Transit has reached the final of EEEGR's 2012 Energy Innovation Award programme, the winner of which will be announced next week.

Leo said: "We are proud to be receiving growing recognition of our achievements. Ginny Louise, and her sister ship, Eden Rose, which we are expecting to be delivered within the next eight weeks, are outstanding vessels that will out-perform other vessels, especially in the short, steep seas off the UK's eastern coast and invaluable tools for a challenging working environment.

"The nomination for EEEGR's Innovation Award is the icing on the cake."