

# **New state-of-the-art crew transfer vessel joins fleet of Docking firm**



*Tia Elizabeth the new vessel to join Tidal Transit's fleet*

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Docking firm Tidal Transit has boosted its fleet with the arrival of another state-of-the-art personnel transfer vessel which has gone straight into service in the North Sea.

The crew of the new purpose-built vessel, the Tia Elizabeth, flew out to the shipyard in Spain last month to sail the boat from the Mediterranean to Grimsby. Now she is already at work on a short contract for RES Offshore, working on the maintenance of the Hornsea met mast.

She joins Tidal Transit's two existing personnel transfer vessels, Ginny Louise and Eden Rose; which are currently in service with Scira Offshore Energy on the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm.

Both these two vessels have been in constant use by the offshore wind industry since their arrival in 2011 and 2012 respectively, and have achieved 100 per cent safety rate on their first 10,000 transfers.

Tidal Transit was set up by Leo Hambro, co-director, and Adam Wright, operations director, to provide boats for the transfer of crews to the offshore wind farms, a fast growing industry worth billions. The Ginny Louise and the Eden Rose, both named after Adam's daughters, each cost £1.5

million pounds and were built by Spanish boat builder Mercurio Plastics.

Mr Hambro said: “We are delighted to welcome Tia Elizabeth to our fleet. Tia is named after Adam’s youngest daughter so any more we build will be firstly named after my two girls. They can’t wait!

“Tia represents a major upgrade from the previous boats and allows greater comfort for passengers to stay out overnight – and longer – at the far offshore projects.

“This addition to our fleet has already created two new jobs with another to follow shortly. We have moved from being a deliverer of an innovative product to become a well-recognised operator in the offshore logistics industry.

“The future for us is very exciting and there is lots of potential out there with the development of massive wind farms off the east coast of England. There is a fantastic opportunity for expansion in this industry and it’s all happening on our doorstep in Norfolk, so we are well placed to benefit from this.”

The firm’s significant achievements, from a two-man team to one which now employs 14 people and has a projected turnover this year of £2 million, won recognition with a shortlisting in the Mayor’s Awards for Business 2012.