



WindEnergy

NETWORK

COMMUNICATION HUB FOR THE WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY

ECOLOGY MITIGATION FOR BIRDS

Spotlight on Blyth

TRAINING -
CONFINED SPACES

MONEY MATTERS

Bolting & Fastenings



SUPPORT STEPS UP FOR SHERINGHAM SHOAL

Tidal Transit, the company that transports technicians to and from the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm (SSOWF) located between 17 and 23 miles off the coast of Norfolk in the North Sea, is playing an additional role in support of SSOWF's health and safety initiatives.

The company is now providing a medical first responder on its personnel transfer vessels (PTVs).

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

SSOWF is fully committed to meeting its responsibility for safety and complies closely with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999.

ADVANCED MEDICAL CARE

Since the wind farm became operational, the company has become increasingly aware that there would be a significant risk of being unable to administer advanced medical care in the face of injury, due to the remote location of the wind farm.

Anticipated response times would be 40 minutes to 1½ hours from local life boats and SAR helicopters.

COMPANY'S ROLE

Leo Hambro from Tidal Transit explains his company's role in SSOWF's enhanced safety procedures.

"All three of Tidal Transit's passenger transfer vessels are under contract to SSOWF, sailing to the wind farm on most days from either Wells-next-the-Sea or Great Yarmouth to transfer wind farm maintenance technicians and their tools."

"Having reached the conclusion that the First Aid at Work qualification – the industry standard required of all wind farm personnel – was inadequate for the best chance of survival in the event of major trauma, SSOWF has chosen to employ medics in the field with a minimum of FPOS intermediate level training and experience in similar arenas."

PROVEN BENEFITS

"This practice has brought proven benefits to safety procedures, and when SSOWF decided to expand the employment of suitably qualified medical staff, Tidal Transit was happy to support this important safety initiative. Tidal Transit now provides first responders as part of its regular crews, which affords an even faster medical response, and will provide SSOWF with a long term and sustainable solution to Health and Safety."

TIDAL TRANSIT VESSELS

The specification of these vessels greatly exceeds the current fleet being used for the same purpose in the UK. The vessels MCA Cat 1 coding and 10,000 litre fuel tanks allow them to work up to 150 miles offshore, well within the range of the UK's forthcoming Round 3 offshore wind farms. Each vessel provides four crew members and twelve passengers with comfortable beds, bathrooms, galley, internet access and entertainment facilities, allowing wind farm engineers and support technicians to live and work offshore for up to several days at a time.

RUGGED GRP CONSTRUCTION

Being of rugged GRP construction enables Tidal Transit's vessels to operate in rough seas – a major advantage when working in the North Sea. Twin V12 MAN engines facilitate speeds of up to 27 knots when carrying twelve passengers, the crew, and their on-board cargo.

Tidal Transit Limited



20,000 SAFE PASSENGER TRANSFERS



On 10th December 2013 Tidal Transit celebrated the completion of 20,000 safe passenger transfers from its three personnel transfer vessels [PTVs] to wind turbines situated in the North Sea.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Announcing this notable achievement, Tidal Transit Commercial Director Leo Hambro said: *"I suspect that very few*

people realise the scale of offshore wind farm operations that now takes place off the shores of East Anglia every day. This sector of the renewable energy industry is growing at a phenomenal rate. Our vessels - Ginny Louise, Eden Rose and Tia Elizabeth - sail to the wind farms on most days from either Wells-next-the-Sea or Great Yarmouth to transfer wind farm maintenance technicians and their tools."

EAST ANGLIAN COAST

He added: *"Anyone who is familiar with the often unfriendly weather conditions our remarkable vessels face in the waters off the East Anglian coast will appreciate this achievement."*

Even in calm seas, transferring personnel from vessel to turbine is one of the most potentially hazardous processes faced by those working in the young offshore wind energy industry. It is a tribute to the design of Tidal Transit's vessels, and the Health and Safety procedures of both Tidal Transit and the offshore wind energy companies to which it charters its vessels, that 20,000 transfers have been carried out with a 100% safety record.

GROWING FLEET

Ginny Louise and Eden Rose have been in use on both the construction and operational phases of offshore wind farms since their arrival in the UK in 2012, and Tia Elizabeth joined them in September 2013. In April next year they will be joined by a fourth vessel, Kitty Petra.

SPECIFICATIONS

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Being of rugged GRP construction enables Tidal Transit's vessels to operate in rough seas - a major advantage when working in the North Sea. Twin V12 MAN engines facilitate speeds of up to 27 knots when carrying twelve passengers, the crew, and their on-board cargo. Massive cargo decks fore and aft can accommodate up to 10,000kg of tools, equipment and spares, and the Guerra crane on the fore deck has a lifting capacity of 1,025kg at 6.9m, which caters for long reach loading and unloading. Cranes can also be deployed for camera surveys and grab sampling.

Tidal Transit

