

# New contract is exciting new development for Docking firm Tidal Transit

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**The WaveCraft vessel which will be operated by Tidal Transit, of Docking. ANL-151019-130043001**

Docking's Tidal Transit, which specialises in the transfer of crew to service the offshore wind farm industry, is taking steps to develop its successful business even further. It has entered into a contract to be the UK operator of a "next generation" offshore service vessel manufactured by Norwegian shipbuilding company Umoe Mandal. The vessel, the Umoe Firmus, is the second WaveCraft vessel of its kind and is considered to be an industry game changer.

The WaveCraft is a surface effect ship which uses an air cushion between its catamara hulls to lift 80 per cent of the vessel out of the water. The small draught this creates provides the vessel easy access to ports and allows it to travel at high speeds while maintaining a low fuel consumption.

Tidal Transit's commercial director Leo Hambro said: "This is an exceptionally well designed and engineered vessel, and our skippers and their crews are greatly looking forward to their vessel induction and training programmes which will take place over the coming months.

"A number of UK offshore wind farm developers and operators have already expressed interest in the WaveCraft, and we now know that Umoe Firmus will arrive in the UK by mid-February 2016."

Having finalised the contract for the Umoe Firmus, Tidal Transit has entered into a charter agreement with Statkraft for an initial six-month period, with a longer term extension option.

Leo said: "By the time Umoe Firmus goes into service in February, the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm will have been fully operational for over three years.

"During that time it has used a variety of vessels operating from Wells-next-the-Sea to access the wind farm field, including our own personnel transfer vessels, so Statkraft will be able to compare the WaveCraft's performance with its considerable vessel data and experience to date."

Tidal Transit recently received a highly commended Work Force New Anglia Award for updating employees' IT training and qualifications during a training course run over three months.

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