



Windea Leibniz – courtesy of Ulstein Group (Per-Eide Studio)

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ULSTEIN DELIVERS SECOND SIEMENS SOV



Ulstein Verft has delivered the second Service Operations Vessel (SOV) to Bernhard Schulte Offshore and ICBC Leasing. The vessel was christened *Windea Leibniz* at a ceremony in Ulsteinvik, Norway. Starting from April, the vessel will begin its work at the *Sandbank* wind farm in the German Bight under a long-term charter with Siemens Wind Power to service the 72 SWT-4.0-130 turbines on site. It has been designed to act as a platform to accommodate and transport technicians during maintenance operations at the site. The vessel has the X-STERN and X-BOW hull shape which is positioned with the stern faced towards the weather instead of the bow only. Ulstein claim that this improves the ability of the vessel to stay positioned with little movement, paramount for the safe transfer of technicians to the turbines. The first SOV, *Windea la cour*, carries the same design and was delivered to Siemens in August 2016. It began service on the *Gemini* wind farm on the 1st September 2016.

BEATRICE PREPARATIONS BEGIN



Offshore works at the 588MW *Beatrice* offshore wind farm are underway in preparation for installation activities which are due to begin in April 2017. Siem Offshore's *Siem Ruby* is being used to prepare the array cables routes utilising an Ecosse Subsea Systems' 15m SCAR plough whilst the *Siem N-Sea* deploys a remotely operated underwater vehicle to locate and remove boulders from the foundation locations. Siem Offshore will use the *Siem Aimery* and *Siem Maxie* to install array cables at the site later this year. Cable will be picked up directly from JDR's Hartlepool facility and is expected to be completely installed by the end of Q3 2018. Installation of the piles and jacket foundations is expected to kick off in April 2017 and will be carried out by SHL's *Stanislav Yudin* and *Oleg Strashnov*. *Beatrice* is located in the Outer Moray Firth of Scotland and will consist of 84 Siemens 7MW turbines.

GEO AND NCT PRESENT WIND FARM DRILL VESSEL



Engineering consultancy Geo and NCT Offshore have launched a new vessel as part of a new strategic collaboration. The *Freja* is a S-Class ROV Support DP2 vessel and has been equipped with a drilling set-up designed to provide heave compensated drilling. The set-up is designed to operate in water depths characteristic of offshore wind projects (15-45m), and is optimised for geotechnical and core drilling (GeoBor-S). Geo explained that the drilling methods ensure much higher sample quality than with traditional drill ship solutions, which apply the so called 'piggy back' approach. The vessel can undertake a range of technical services including geotechnical drilling in soil and rock using the Geobor-S system, cone penetration tests and vibrocoreing. Additionally, the vessel is equipped for a geophysical spread including side scan sonar, sub bottom profiler, magnetometer and hull mounted multi-beam echo sounder.

UMOE FIRMUS STARTS ON GEMINI



Umoefirmus's wave Craft vessel *Umoefirmus* has started work on the *Gemini* offshore wind farm. The project consists of 150 wind turbines and was constructed in the Dutch North Sea across two sites in close proximity. The vessel was brought in to replace a SWATH vessel with a gearbox issue. Leo Hambro, MD of Tidal Transit and operator of *Umoefirmus*, reported that the vessel is performing exceptionally well on the site, cutting the transit times from three hours to one and half. "The vessel uses more fuel per hour than conventional CTV but the high speed means that the net effect is the same fuel consumption for the distance. But with a three hour saving of time per day for 12 passengers, site productivity is greatly enhanced." The next WaveCraft vessel that is upgraded for 24 passengers is due to be delivered on 15th May and will be on show at the Sea Work exhibition in June in Southampton, UK.

MPI DISCOVERY INSTALLS FIRST RAMPION TURBINE



MPI Offshore's jack-up installation vessel *MPI Discovery* has installed the first of 116 wind turbines at the *Rampion* offshore wind farm. The vessel is transporting the components for eight turbines in each trip from Esbjerg, Denmark to the *Rampion* site, off the Sussex coast. Carrying the 80m towers, nacelles and 24 turbine blades, the vessel will install each turbine in turn. First each tower, weighing approximately 200 tonnes, is lifted, positioned and bolted on to each turbine foundation. Next the nacelle, which houses the generator and gearbox, is lifted and fitted on to the tower, and finally the three blades, each measuring 55m in length, are hoisted and connected one at a time. Weather dependent, each turbine will take around 24 hours to install from initial positioning at each turbine location including jacking of the vessel. Installation is set to continue throughout 2017. A second vessel, the *MPI Adventure*, will support the installation from June onwards.

During spring offshore cabling work will continue and is to be executed by Fugro's subsea construction vessels *Fugro Symphony* and *Fugro Saltire*. Last year the two vessels completed the installation of 60 cables, three more than the 57 cables originally planned. The vessels will install the remaining 62 cables equipped with Fugro's full cable installation and equipment spread, including the Q1400 subsea trencher. The offshore substation, that transforms the electricity up to 150 kilovolts before transporting it to shore, is also due to be lifted into position on its foundation later in the spring. The installation will be carried out using the heavy lift vessel *Rambiz* which was previously used to install the project's jacket foundation and associated piles.

UPDATES

STANISLAV YUDIN (UK)

The *Stanislav Yudin* has been outfitted with a pile installation frame ahead of its work on the *Beatrice* offshore wind farm in April.



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