

Customised safety

Mariecke Siezen, Director at Technoship bv, met up with PES to tell us about the importance of safety on and offshore. We learn about the latest advances in protection systems, the customisation of certain products and the training factor.

PES: Welcome to PES magazine. Thanks for talking with us. Would you like to begin by explaining a little about the background of your organisation and how you currently serve the offshore industry?

Mariecke Siezen: Technoship bv has been a technology supplier to the maritime sector since 1969. Products include specialist K. Chr. Steen GmbH deck machinery, such as anchoring and mooring gear, Ultra Fog high pressure watermist fire suppression systems, GT under deck sliding davit systems as well as Technoship bronze chain rollers.

PES: Is offshore energy a growing business area for Technoship? How are you capitalising on this growth?

MS: Offshore energy projects are expanding and particularly those for the wind energy sector. We are experiencing an

increased demand in protection for offshore transformer wind platforms, requiring accommodation and machinery space protection, as well as for expensive high voltage transformer systems. Given the importance of continued operations, high pressure watermist provides a state of the art cost effective means to safeguard and suppress fires using very limited amounts of water.

High-pressure watermist provides a safe and good alternative for gas-systems in terms of safety, maintenance and life-cycle costs.

Offshore wind projects have initiated a growing demand for different types of offshore supply and service vessels, for which Technoship can supply anchoring and mooring systems of up to 78mm U2 chain diameter and towing winches up to 80 tons.



PES: We see that safety is at the heart of your work, how important is it to customise the offer to the client? What are the cost implications?

MS: Our clients are only offered customised high pressure watermist firefighting systems and deck machinery. Each system is designed according to the client's specifications and applicable Class regulations. The systems and techniques are continually being improved and optimised in order to achieve more protection for less lifetime cost of ownership.

PES: What sort of training do you offer? Is this to both your employees and customers?

MS: We offer operational training based on FMEA, as well as basic maintenance training for ships' crews.



PES: Are there precautions that could be taken by companies to avoid emergency situations, but aren't? Why do you think this is?

MS: Important precautions with respect to systems for fire safety and anchor handling are crew training, maintenance and regular testing of the systems. Lack of priority, money and knowledge jeopardise the safety of such systems. Once on an offshore platform or on board a ship on the ocean, there are not many alternatives for escape.

PES: Would you like to tell us about Technoship's latest projects?

MS: We recently completed the Global Tech1 offshore transformer platform where accommodation and machinery spaces are protected by Ultra Fog High Pressure Watermist Systems. Technoship not only supplied the high pressure watermist system, but took care of all high pressure





installation work, including testing and commissioning. The feedback has been very positive and enormously encouraging for repeat projects.

We also supplied the entire new fleet of the Royal Dutch Navy, including joint logistic support ship HMS Karel Doorman, the largest vessel the Navy ever built, special ships, river cruisers and mega-yachts.

PES: What exactly do you mean when you say certified repairs?

MS: Any repair and or maintenance are done exclusively by trained personnel. These are offshore engineers and are trained by design engineers to operate, maintain and update the systems whenever and wherever and available at short notice.

PES: Technology is evolving all the time, what advances have you seen in your business?

MS: Systems are constantly being improved in order to gain higher efficiency and safety, longer life-cycle use against lower costs. We are receiving more

requests for the automation of the systems, possibilities for interaction with platform management systems and analysis of system failures via an internet log-in.

There seems to be greater awareness of safety issues for crew handling the systems and this results in stricter procedures, more demands for service and maintenance and re-evaluation the design of the system.

PES: Which aspect of the industry provides the most satisfaction for you right now?

MS: As in any other technological project those that stand out, demand increased ingenuity and creativity to come up with innovative, optimal solutions for unique situations. Providing unique designs and solutions is what makes us tick.

Fully redundant high-pressure watermist systems, with special features for control and monitoring, plus customised solutions for anchoring gear for the largest mega-yachts, special purpose and polar vessels not only improves safety on board but is very satisfactory for us as well.

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PES: And conversely, what presents you with the biggest challenges?

MS: Experience has demonstrated that maintenance of wind farms is a high risk adventure. Fire can break out in the smallest of spaces. But once the maintenance crew is on top of a windmill, there is no escape in the event of fire. We have seen horrible accidents.

Nonetheless it is challenging to persuade wind farm designers and owners of the importance of cost effective fire prevention solutions. Another challenge are the class regulations for wind farm platforms and coming to terms with the question whether systems should be approved according to sea (IMO) or land regulations.

Developing class testing systems for gas turbines and LNG are other challenges. And for both the fire suppression and the deck equipment suppliers, monitoring cost effectiveness is ever challenging.

PES: What are your thoughts about prospects for the last quarter of 2016,

moving forward to 2017, with regard to your organisation, and the wind industry in general?

MS: Our organisation is ready for the future, being ISO 9001 certified and with a vast experience and profound knowledge of the systems we've been supplying respectively since 1969 and 1991.

For the wind industry in general, there's an increasing awareness of climate change and the need for green energy solutions. The economy is quickly moving towards sustainable solutions such as wind energy and offshore wind farms in particular. For example, the Dutch government following earlier developments in Germany, has recently decided to commence with the construction of multiple wind farm projects.

Due to global climate change governments demand more of such solutions. Hence we can only conclude that what we see today is only the beginning of the offshore wind energy sector. ■

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