



Ideally equipped for the heaviest loads

Offshore wind turbines are the giants of wind power and their construction is an impressive spectacle. Extremely heavy, massive components are moved on the water by even more powerful equipment.

Over the past decade, the German company Schmidbauer GmbH & Co. KG has established itself as a logistics partner for the offshore industry. This company has not only continuously expanded its fleet of crane vehicles to meet the needs of the industry, but also invested in the service know-how of its personnel.

New 6-axle Scheuerle SPMTs were purchased last year alone. So the crane and heavy-load expert is therefore in action at numerous European feeder ports and ports involved in the construction of offshore wind farms.

Heavy load logistics for the Merkur offshore wind farm

One of the current projects: the transshipment of transition pieces (TPs) for the Merkur offshore wind farm, at the Orange Blue Terminal in the Dutch port of Eemshaven.

66 'Haliade 150' GE-type wind turbines, which should achieve a standard capacity of approx. 1750Gwh per year, are currently being constructed in the North Sea, about 45 kilometres north of the island of Borkum.

The work for the construction of this wind farm started at the beginning of 2017 and it is expected to go into operation at the end of 2018.

Schmidbauer is responsible for the entire on-site handling of wind turbine components: for example, a 48 axle SPMT G4 with 2 x 8.40m spacers transport gigantic tower segments for pre-assembly, in the interim storage facility. There they can be vertically mounted on foundations with the help of an LR 11350 and LR 1600/2 crawler crane and then loaded onto the installation vessel.

They also lifted rotor blades extending up to 75m in length and other tower segments onto the installation vessels and brought the components from the feeder port to their destination at sea.

In addition to heavy load logistics in the feeder port of Eemshaven, Schmidbauer has already made an impressive name for itself in numerous other offshore projects, including providing heavy-duty transport in 2016, for the world's heaviest monopiles for the Veja Mate project – they weighed 1,300

tons. Or in the port of Belfast in 2017 for the construction of the world's largest offshore wind farm, the 'Walney Extension Project'.

The corporate group

More than 20 locations throughout Germany are united under the umbrella of the Schmidbauer Group. The headquarters of Schmidbauer GmbH & Co. KG are located in Gräfelfing, Germany, near Munich. Fricke-Schmidbauer Schwerlast GmbH has locations in the cities of Braunschweig, Hanover, and Aschersleben, with Rieger & Moser GmbH & Co. located in Ulm. Another company, Schmidbauer OÜ, is in Tallinn, Estonia. The Schmidbauer Group also has sales offices in Espoo, Finland and Haguenau, France.

The Group is a competent and reliable partner for providing crane technology and the corresponding equipment, in combination with specialized services and the execution of challenging installations, paired with the necessary know-how for project implementation. Schmidbauer is the German market leader in special transport, crane and installation work.

In the last decade Schmidbauer has succeeded in making a name for itself as an international partner in the wind power and offshore industry - on international level. The fleet is expanding constantly: In 2016 the company invested in new Demag CC 3800-1 lattice-boom crawler cranes.





Cranes of this series are specifically designed for the installation of wind turbines and represent a global innovation in the construction of wind turbines. The Group also has large cranes with a capacity up to 1,350 tons that are tailored to the offshore wind energy market.

This modern fleet has increased since 2017, with the addition of new Scheuerle 6-axle SPMTs (Self-Propelled Modular Transporter). The modular, self-propelled transporters are an ideal solution for moving heavy and high-dimensioned loads. Their polyfill-tyres allow axle loads up to 48t, protect from flat tyres and have integrated illumination. This provides much more security for night operations. The sophisticated control technology of the SPMTs enables a very precise positioning of heavy loads. Individual modular transporters can be coupled either mechanically or freely in an open composition.

While the synchronised control of all modular transporters, which are integrated in the coupling system, ensures that all kind of heavy loads can be transported, the electronic multiway steering enables absolute position accuracy.

In total, the Group has more than 350 mobile cranes and 150 heavy load units at present. The vehicle fleet reaches from high performance trucks with loading cranes over 5t compact mini cranes up to 1,350t

crawler cranes for extreme heavy loads.

System service provider on a high level

In addition to the widely diversified machine and vehicle products of the Schmidbauer Group, the Munich-based, long-established company places a special emphasis on comprehensive and qualified services. Managing Director Werner Schmidbauer explains: 'For us it is very important to offer our customers not only the latest equipment, but also comprehensive customer service. Technical refinements and impressive capabilities are just one aspect of our company. Technology must meet the needs of the customer's application – this is why individual consulting and personal dialogue, with the customer is so important. In our sales department, our employees are highly qualified on a technical level, which means they all able to address the needs of our customers and match them perfectly to the strengths of our fleet. We can only guarantee satisfaction when the right vehicle for the job is used. That's what Schmidbauer stands for: empowering solutions.'

As a modern system service provider and specialist for all kind of heavy-lifting demands, the core competencies encompass the entire value chain for lifting and moving:

- Consulting, engineering, and

implementation of technical concepts

- Providing mobile cranes for a widest range of requirements
- Multimodal logistics concepts for heavy transport
- Provision of mats and sheet metal plates to ensure accessibility and approachability
- Execution of challenging installations

Safety is another permanent core issue for the German company. The handling of heavy duty bears a lot of dangers. Therefore, the Schmidbauer personnel are not only trained regularly in special safety courses for the handling of heavy loads, the responsible project managers are obliged to carry out threat assessments and risk analyses for each project to minimize the dangers.

On a successful course for 85 years

In 2017 Schmidbauer celebrated its 85th company anniversary. Through all these decades there has been one constant factor which has remained: the courage and openness to change. Werner Schmidbauer believes that this, in combination with the experience of a traditional family company, is an important reason for their enduring success. And under his leadership the company will continue on this track in the future.

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