

Naming ceremony Seafox 5 in Singapore

New generation, self-propelled multi-purpose vessel



The Seafox 5 is one of the world's largest vessels of its kind.

The Seafox Group, leading providers of offshore accommodation and multi-support service jack-ups, has increased its working interest in the new generation multi-purpose offshore installation jack-up vessel Seafox 5. The Dutch player now owns 51% of the four-legged, self-propelled jack-up vessel, with Keppel Fels from Singapore holding the remaining 49%. The Seafox 5 will be managed and operated by Workfox BV, a member of the Seafox Group.



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twelve 3.6 MW turbines, three jackets or four tripods at a time, the Seafox 5 improves the efficiency of offshore wind farm construction.

This offshore, multi-purpose vessel has a heavy-lift pedestal crane on board, capable of hoisting 1,200 metric tonnes, a free deck area of 3,750 m² and a variable deck load of 7,000 metric tonnes. In addition, the vessel can be elevated above sea level on its four legs, providing 30 metres of clearance between the legs and crane, for easy cargo access. The enhanced jacking and moving criteria (Hs 2.0m by 6-8/sec period) of the vessel offer operators substantial added value in terms of efficient utilisation throughout the year, also because this vessel requires shorter weather windows to complete the job at hand. As compared with other jack-ups, the Seafox 5 can carry out offshore installation projects with 30% less weather downtimes.

On 18 August 2012, the Seafox 5 was named by Lady Sponsor Mrs Marlies Cordia Roeloffs at the Keppel Fels Shipyard in Singapore. The Seafox 5 is one of the world's largest vessels of its kind in its market, and was built according to Keppel's new proprietary Multi-Purpose Self-Elevating Platform (MPSEP) design, developed by Keppel's R&D division, the Offshore Technology Department, and was selected by the Dutch leading fleet owner and operator, Seafox Group, in July 2010. This design is an innovative concept for a variety of offshore applications,

offering significant advantages in terms of safety, operations, time and costs, for operators working in harsh environments.

Offshore wind

The Keppel Fels MPSEP design has distinctive advantages over existing vessel designs for the installation and maintenance of heavy wind turbine foundations, for example jacket and tripod type systems, with its particular capacity for operating in water depths of up to 65 metres, as compared with the standard 45 metres. With the carrying capacity to handle up to

Keesjan Cordia, MD of the Seafox Group commented: "By overcoming the typical limitations of the existing offshore wind fleet on the market, Seafox 5 redefines the way in which offshore wind farms are installed and maintained, across the world. In the future, offshore wind farms are expected to move further offshore and into harsher environments such as the Central North Sea, where wind speeds are higher and more constant, but where at the same time more robust solutions are required. There is also a growing trend towards wind turbines with larger capacities, which are automatically heavier in terms of weight."

This new-built jack-up will start work as early as November this year with Aarsleff Bilfinger Berger in the German sector of the North Sea. The first assignment will consist of installing 80 offshore wind foundations in the 288 MW Dan Tysk wind farm, over a nine-month period, with further options for an extension of up to 90 days.

Keesjan Cordia went on: "Developers and operators of offshore wind farms place a clear emphasis on the reliability of delivery and operations. As such, the collective strengths and track records of the Seafox-Keppel alliance, augmented by an outstanding vessel concept, have pushed us forward in sealing the charter contract with ABJV DanTysk. The ability of the Seafox 5 to withstand harsh offshore environmental conditions all year round will be advantageous in this first charter, where we are expected to work through winter in the North Sea. Our engineers have designed a jack-up which is self-propelled. In designing other units, the underlying principle was for a vessel also capable of being jacked up on legs. This vessel represents a completely different



philosophy. With the Seafox, we can cope with conditions that in all probability would be too much for our competitors, and even if they were to continue operations, the risk of damage would be relatively high. The concept of the Seafox 5 is based on the fact that a jack-up when offshore must always be able to survive, even with full equipment, even in a force 12 gale. To be able to guarantee safety, other units are often forced to head for port to shelter and to avoid damage to the deck loads. Although the Seafox 5 may be slower in covering the short distances relevant for these operations, this fact should represent no problem. For us, the decisive factor is the capability of the Seafox 5 to be deployed in even the severest of weather conditions - that ability is the critical path. Performance and delivery are the key words in projects of this kind. What we now need to do is prove how reliable we are in project execution; therein lies the key."

Oil and gas

In addition to being well-suited for servicing offshore wind farms,

the Seafox 5 also meets all the stringent operating regulations of the offshore oil & gas industry, and is able to support a wide range of related activities such as accommodation, hook-up, commissioning, well intervention, maintenance, construction, installation of monopods and small platforms, and decommissioning, in and outside the North Sea region. The Seafox 5 has for example been built to accommodate up to 150 crew in two-person cabins, in compliance with Norwegian standards, but these facilities can easily be modified to fit up to 300 staff on operations elsewhere in the world.

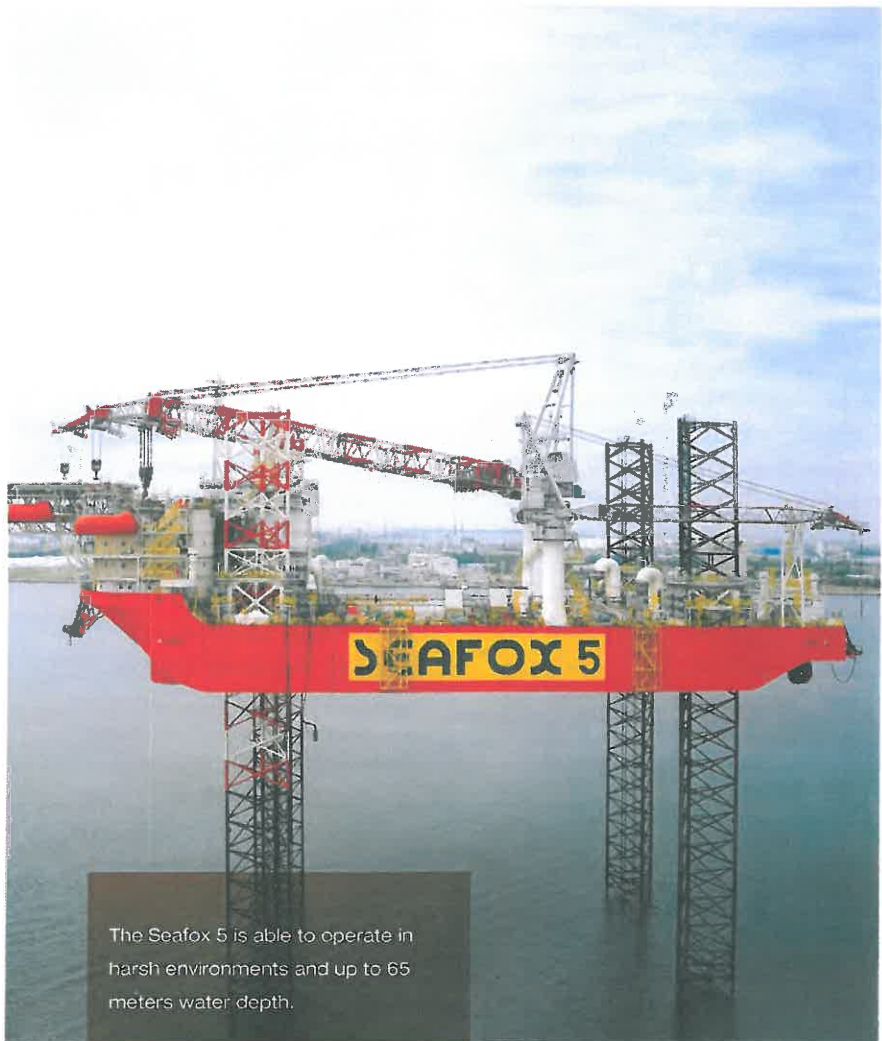
The Seafox 5 is expected to give larger state-of-the-art crane vessels such as the Stanislav Yudin and the Oleg Strashnov a run for their money, in delivering projects at half their going rates but within the same time frame. "If we are able to achieve the same delivery and project track record, we will be more competitive, and that is precisely the challenge facing us," explained Cordia. He conceded that demand for offshore wind installation in the North Sea has



Seafox 5 standing on her 'legs' in the harbour of Singapore.



been slow in picking up, a fact that explains the current focus of the Seafox on short-term work in the oil and gas sector, prior to the expected upswing in the wind market. Cordia attributed the delays in North Sea wind developments to the challenges faced in raising the multi-billion euro project financing and the lack of the necessary network infrastructure for connecting new offshore wind farms to the existing grids in Germany and the UK. "I estimate that offshore wind installation in the North Sea will build up momentum by mid-2015, and will really take off in 2016," he suggested to Offshore Holland, adding: "That is why we have proposed use of the jack-up for offshore installation work on several oil and gas projects in the Middle East that need to be executed in 2014. We are of course also looking forward to the advent of the decommissioning market, for the removal of platforms on the basis of a lump sum agreement. At present we are preparing our organisation to offer this type of activity to our customers – the same customers, in fact, to whom we have traditionally provided our other Seafox work vessels."



The Seafox 5 is able to operate in harsh environments and up to 65 meters water depth.