

Making waves in wind



Operating out of one of the largest and busiest ports in the world, Stemat bv has been leading the way in maritime services for over a quarter of a century. We find out what makes the company tick, courtesy of Commercial and Operational Manager, Robbert Jan van Zuiden.

PES: Welcome to PES magazine. Would you like to take this opportunity to explain a little about the company and how you serve the wind industry?

Robbert Jan van Zuiden: Stemat is a service chartering company for the maritime sector, based in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Stemat was founded in 1986 utilising two vessels and expanded to a current fleet of more than 50 vessels in 2014. The considerable experience gained in this time allows Stemat to offer expert advice to a large number of companies specialising in a wide field ranging from maritime construction to the dredging, offshore industry and the renewables sector.

In 2009 we launched the DP2 cable lay vessel "Stemat Spirit". With her six point mooring system and plough system and large free deck space she is very successful in laying and burial of export cables. After her last modification, installation of a twin deck, she is suitable for laying infield cables as well. Stemat Spirit recently completed her first infield lay project successfully.

In 2013 we extended our fleet with a 24 pax high speed crew tender Liz V, currently

working in offshore wind farms to transport technicians from shore to the turbines or vessels at 30 knots. In 2014 we launched the first DP2 Multi-purpose vessel in Europe, Anna B. With her Dynamic Positioning system Anna B is besides towing and anchor handling also employable for preparatory work (Pre Laying Grapnel Runs) in the construction phase of new and existing offshore wind farms.

Anna B was launched together with a 50ton bollard pull anchor handling tug Inge W which is suitable for towage, anchor handling and general assistance for our Multi-Purpose (Accommodation) barges Stemat 82, Stemat 89, Pontra Maris and Fetsy L. With their voluminous free deck space these barges are more than suitable for cable laying, cable jointing and cable reparations. We equipped our flattop barges Stemat 87, Stemat 91 and Stemat 92 with carousels for storage and transport of cables.

PES: Where in the world are you currently doing business? Have you identified any areas of possible future growth?

RJVZ: We are exceptionally flexible, we can serve our clients anywhere with our high qualified crew and our high standard equipment. Our MPV Yvonne W and AHT Lydia D are working in Australia at the moment. Suzanna D and Stemat 79 are working in Venezuela and our High speed crew tender Liz V is at a project in Sabetta. Sidi C and Rebecca S are working in the Middle East and we are also active in West Africa with our Naomi E, Tessa W and some flattop barges.

Aside for the wind energy industry, we are also active in the oil and gas industry, maritime construction, areas of coast and shore, dredging and offshore industry.

Due to the high demands in respect of safety and technical awareness nowadays, Stemat is more than ready to assist in building the future of renewables and offshore industry.

PES: We note that you've recently launched the Stemat app. How does this benefit your clients?

RJVZ: With this app we provide our customers with a full overview of our fleet and accompanying specifications. Always up to date, anytime and anywhere.

PES: We note that you'll be at the Offshore show in Amsterdam. What will be your prime focus there?

RJVZ: Our clients will be visiting the Offshore Energy fair on October 28 and 29 in Amsterdam. We are happy to welcome



our existing, as well as new clients on our stand and provide them with the latest information on the Stemat fleet and organisation.

PES: Can you tell us about a recent wind energy project that you've been involved with?

RJVZ: Stemat is currently working on various offshore wind farms. A few examples; our Stemat Spirit is laying infield cables on Butendiek OWF and she will continue her work on Humber Gateway OWF. Anna B, Fenna B and Nova K are assisting a Cable Lay Vessel on Luchterduinen OWF.

PES: What are the challenges you face when transferring crew and cargo? How do you meet these challenges?

RJVZ: The biggest challenge we encounter is maintaining the safety of our passengers and crew on board our vessels during all-weather circumstances. We meet those challenges with guaranteeing a high standard in quality and safety on board our vessels. Our vessels are all Dutch flagged and classed by Bureau Veritas.

The vessels operating in the wind industry are (voluntarily) certified according to the International Safety Management Code. A good example of high quality and safety on board our fleet is our crew tender Liz V.

This vessel can carry 24 passengers and is certified according to the High Speed Passenger Craft Code. Such a certification demands high quality in the technical standard of the vessel and the training requirements of the crew. The officers on board this vessel receive a ship specific and route specific training before they are allowed to work on board this vessel.

PES: And what measures do you take to ensure the safety of your clients?

RJVZ: We believe that the high quality of our equipment and a well-trained crew ensures the safety of our clients. During every project the personnel in the Stemat office and our crew on board are involved in executing each project safely and to the satisfaction of our customers.

PES: Can you explain how the process works with regards to initiating and



carrying through a project. What stages would a client expect you to complete?

RJVZ: We commit ourselves to a project by means of engineering and procurement, operational and technical guidance during a project phase is day-to-day business.

PES: You have a range of vessels in your fleet. How do they differ in what they deliver to your wind clients?

RJVZ: The advantage of Stemat is that we have high standard equipment including high qualified crew, therefore we are able to offer our clients a customised full service solution. For example, our accommodation barges are not only used for accommodation duties, but are adjustable for several kind of jobs for every client. Because of the extensive free deck space, these barges can be used for various purposes. The masters of our MPVs are familiar with our barges and therefore able to deliver fast and maintain high quality.

PES: To what extent do the changing seasons impact upon your business?

RJVZ: Stemat operates worldwide, which

means our fleet is operational for the biggest part of the year.

PES: Is security ever an issue in the parts of the world in which you operate?

RJVZ: We operate all over the world, even in remote and more challenging places such as Africa or South America. In these parts of the world security might be an issue we have to deal with, but due to our experience and expertise we are perfectly able to calculate and manage these risks and execute our projects successfully.

PES: What are your thoughts about prospects for the coming year with regard to your organisation, and the wind industry in general?

RJVZ: Our growth is like the wind industry, still going. We extend our organisation by means of the input of young dynamic people to assist the existing team. Together we keep building the company with common seafarers values and experience gained over the last 25 years and which are still visible today. ■

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