

Partnering for the ideal accommodation solution



Woodside Angel Platform (Photo courtesy of Woodside Energy Ltd)

When it comes to sourcing an accommodation solution, which meets the requirements of all stakeholders in a renewable energy operation, the most successful approach is to work with an experienced partner. With windfarms increasingly being planned further from shore, daily transfers of technicians and crew members via vessels are becoming a thing of the past. And as more jobs are being created within the offshore wind energy sector to support siting, erecting, maintaining, servicing and possibly dismantling turbines, the need to retain highly skilled crew members is essential.

Accommodating the crew at sea using temporary living quarters saves valuable time and offers a solution which safeguards the personal wellbeing of the crew in an environment often characterized by harsh conditions.

Providing safe, high-quality accommodation with increased cabin space is a key factor in the wellbeing of the crew, who are involved in the vast activities of the construction and commissioning phases and beyond. Wind farm managers nearly always have to work to tight weather-dependent timescales and budgets. Wind farm managers are becoming equally as concerned with sustaining morale amongst their crew and want to ensure

adequate space and reasonable privacy. After all, the rate at which the offshore wind energy sector is expanding has the potential to lead to skills gaps, and it's becoming more imperative than ever for wind farm managers to take increased measures to retain their skilled workforce, by extending the comforts of home out at sea.

When it comes to making remote accommodation appealing, whether short or long-term, privacy is of critical importance to the wellbeing of personnel, who work in any offshore environment. Good personal living conditions should be self-evident in the design and manufacturing of any unit. Cabins should be thoughtfully designed, with space

that exceeds room volumes and requirements as outlined in the 'Guidance for the provision of Accommodation Offshore'. These guidelines specify that rooms should provide at least a minimum of 11 cubic metres per person, and a requirement for reasonable privacy, through no more than two persons sharing a cabin during any 24-hour shift period.

The psychosocial factors of people living in offshore environments have been studied in a variety of different contexts. The importance in quality offshore accommodation, specifically in relation to cabin accommodation, has been found to have a direct impact in the wellbeing and



Lounge library



Ferguson - 10.3m Accommodation Module

work effectiveness of people working in offshore environments.

Many studies concluded that cabins and living spaces should incorporate features that contribute to feelings of security, comfort, privacy and relaxation, much aligned to that of the home environment. Hoover Ferguson have spent many years consulting with offshore personnel to gather direct information, as to which features they value the most, in relation to living in offshore accommodation.

The data gathered revealed that increased space within the cabin was a key need for most occupants. This data concurred with several other studies, which revealed 'cramped sleeping quarters' were high on the list of factors considered to adversely affect the health and wellbeing of personnel working offshore.

A study into the effects of offshore employment noted a direct correlation, made by the physical and social environment of offshore accommodation, to the quality of life and levels of stress among workers. The report concluded and highlighted the importance of providing high quality living quarters, which as far as possible, would create a 'home' environment in order to reduce worker stress.

The selection of offshore accommodation is one of the key decisions for any company involved with providing additional offshore

living quarters. The state of mind of the people living in offshore accommodation, needs to be high on any priority list. Hoover Ferguson understand that the selection of offshore accommodation can often be a complex process, in terms of meeting compliance and standards, which is why engaging and partnering with an experienced accommodation company can alleviate the burden for individuals and companies.

With the accommodation solution often only one part of a bigger project, it is essential for project and operations managers to rely on a trusted and experienced partner to ensure that the accommodation solution selected meets their requirements in a timely and cost-effective manner. There are many factors for project managers to consider, including available footprint, project budget, hook-up



New 10.3m accommodation stacked in yard



Dining kitchen area

capabilities of the platform or vessel and the safety, security and comfort of personnel.

A proven partner will be able to provide advice on the layout of the accommodation complex, compliance requirements, hook-up requirements and, using their industry knowledge, help to proactively identify and avoid any pitfalls that may occur.

Offshore accommodation provider Hoover Ferguson have supported a number of offshore wind projects in the past, providing temporary living quarters to installation vessels such as the Jumbo Javelin, and to offshore platforms including the HelWin Beta platform in the North Sea.

Hoover Ferguson's range of accommodation and ancillary modules can be stacked up to four high to create a compact and comfortable living environment to fully satisfy the extensive requirements of an offshore team. The internal fit out of the module can be customised to meet the specific configuration requirements of clients' projects, while the extensive fleet and truly global reach means that a quick and efficient project turn around can be provided to support customers who are working to tight timescales.

Hoover Ferguson's capabilities extend far beyond standard accommodation modules, with the company offering ancillary modules including galley, mess, recreation rooms, gymnasium, offices and meeting rooms. To support these modules, Hoover Ferguson provides integral stairs and walkways to access the modules, and escape stairs for evacuation along with power distribution modules and reverse osmosis water making and sewage collection facilities.

In addition to the standard range of market leading offshore accommodation solutions available, there is also an experienced in-house design and engineering team focused on providing solutions to meet individual project requirements.

Wind farm operators are given peace of mind that their project will be supported by an expert team from initial enquiry, to the design phase, right through to installation and hook up, with 24/7 support available from the highly qualified and experienced team of specialist technicians who will take care of the hook up of the main distribution, power, water, HVAC and sewage systems quickly and efficiently.

Gary Wilson, VP EMEA offshore, Hoover

Ferguson commented; 'We are not just a provider of equipment, but of complete solutions which provide maximum operational efficiencies and cost savings for our customers' operations. We go beyond the 'day rate' and focus on how we can build partnerships and provide accommodation solutions that have the welfare of the people at the forefront of our decision making.

'Our team works closely with our customers from conception to delivery; identifying the optimal layouts of the accommodation solution to maximise footprint and internal efficiencies, supporting delivery timescales with our own transportation fleet and providing highly skilled technicians to carry out the installation and commission of the modules offshore, ensuring successful hook-up. Post-delivery we offer maintenance and inspection programmes to ensure the continued smooth operation of the accommodation modules. Our goal is to provide quality accommodation solutions that have the welfare of the people at the forefront of our thinking. This is just one of the reasons that our customers work with us time and again.'

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