



# Uncertainty and certainty

All over the world, people are asking two questions: How will COVID-19 have a continued effect, and what will the next American President do? The pandemic has caused manufacturing plant closures resulting in predictable havoc, but we have also seen COVID-19 disrupt supply chains that were once rock-solid, in ways nobody could have anticipated. It's uncertainty on top of uncertainty.



want clean, renewable energy. Even so, additional U.S tax incentives would certainly help to grow the wind energy sector.

No matter the outcome of the Presidential election, the U.S. will continue to be the largest market for wind turbines, and carriers will continue to face the challenges of shipping to such a large and diverse geographic area, through ports that are often stretched to the limit of their capacity. A significant number of wind turbines enter the U.S. through the Great Lakes, which present their own vessel and seasonal restrictions, placing more pressure on delivery timetables at a time when pandemic-related supply chain issues are already complicating the process.

Supply chains throughout ports in the U.S. Gulf are also being challenged, due to the heightened demand for clean energy in the U.S. before the PTC expires. 'We've had to get creative and find ways around the bottlenecks,' says Randall, 'but that's what we always do. It's a difficult time but we've still got the largest and most flexible fleet in the industry, and nobody is more well positioned than BBC Chartering to meet this challenge. My colleagues on the BBC wind team in Denmark, Germany, the US and here in Singapore work together around the clock to deliver wind infrastructure to the world'. BBC Chartering leads the industry with the world's largest fleet of multipurpose and heavy-lift vessels. It is a diverse and capable fleet, with 140 ships from 4,325 to 31,800 DWT able to lift up to 800 metric tons.

In a global network of 30 offices, there is a world-class team of chartering and operations professionals with years of experience and deep local knowledge, backed by extraordinary technical and engineering staff.

As the demand for clean energy rises, wind infrastructure onshore is expected to continue developing. While the US will be the largest onshore windmill market for the foreseeable future, the next big market is going to be offshore windfarms like the new Formosa 2 development in Taiwan, where 47 Siemens Gamesa 8 MW wind turbines are being installed in depths up to 55 metres. The BBC Onyx multipurpose heavy-lifter recently delivered six of eight batches of pinpiles for the seabed foundations these huge wind turbines will rest on. The pinpiles are as much as 78.9 metres long, with an outside diameter of 2.4 metres, and each one weighs up to 276 tonnes.

'It's a new market for us,' said Rajeev Singh Brar, Chartering Broker, BBC Singapore, 'and despite the extra challenges COVID-19 presented as well as the steep learning curve a new venture like this always presents, we're pleased with how the Formosa 2 project has gone so far and we're excited about the opportunities to come. Our fleet is well suited to the transportation of pinpiles,

'Nobody believes we've seen the end of what the pandemic will do to the global economy and the various industries that drive it, but we have always thrived in adversity and uncertainty,' says an optimistic Randall Sullivan, Chartering Manager, BBC Singapore, 'and our customers know we'll work right alongside them to find our way in the 'new normal'.

Supply chain disruptions resulting from COVID-19 have already caused problems for our clients, and they've been coming to us for innovative solutions to their rapidly changing transportation needs. We've been able to solve difficult supply problems, sometimes on very short notice, because we've got the

ships and the people to do it. A fleet like ours allows us to mitigate schedule changes that arise from sudden changes in production'.

Who will be the next American President, and what will he do? What will be important to him, and what parts of the American and world economy will grow as a result? For those interested in the U.S. wind turbine market, the more specific question is, what will the next President do to support clean energy production? The Production Tax credit is set to expire at the end of 2020, and there's no doubt that the PTC was instrumental in jump-starting demand for wind energy. The demand is there now, and it will almost certainly continue to grow. People



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transition pieces and monopiles when they come in sections, not to mention the components that will have to be transported once the foundations are set.' Rajeev went on to say, 'The offshore wind market is in many ways different from onshore, but an efficient transport solution is still always the goal. With over 140 vessels available to us, we can offer our clients a variety of solutions to the

unique challenges an offshore windfarm installation presents.'

Through all the uncertainty in the world right now – the political upheaval and rapidly changing markets -- the demand for wind energy continues to grow. People want to know that their homes and cities are being powered by energy that is both sustainable and clean. And while the demand for clean

energy grows, so too does the physical size of the blades we use to harness the wind.

As manufacturers continue to design larger components, there will come a point when the wind turbines are too large for the vessels available to carry them. This will be particularly an issue in the offshore wind market, where every piece of wind infrastructure is bigger and heavier... and getting bigger and heavier. At some point, wind turbine manufacturers will have to contend with the fact that as their product gets larger, the pool of vessels in the world able to carry it gets smaller. They will be competing with big players in the oil and gas sector for space onboard ships that can carry their big, heavy products to market. 'For now, BBC Chartering is ideally positioned to meet this challenge with a diverse and capable fleet, and a unique market approach', says Rajeev, 'and as the market presents us with new challenges, we'll come up with new solutions. We'll just figure it out and get the cargo moved. Innovative, efficient and flexible solutions... that's what we do.'

Randall Sullivan summed it up with, 'There are things we worry about, and things we know. Whatever happens in the world, we know the world will need energy and we know the wind will blow. And we'll keep sailing.'



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