

Green energy, clients and personnel: top priorities



Innovation, green energy, zero emissions, quality are just some of the things Tom Nevin, CEO at HST Marine, enthused about to PES. This relatively newcomer to offshore wind is a family owned business, focussed on going the extra mile for clients, whilst at the same time, looking after the needs of its personnel. It's great to see a company thinking and acting on the needs of their workers.

PES: Hi Tom it's a real pleasure to welcome you to PES Wind. To begin with would you like to introduce us to HST?

Tom Nevin: HST is a family-owned business which is just over 3 years old, as a management team we have over 60 years of ship management knowledge. We are a quality driven innovative business that have invested greatly into the next generation of offshore vessels.

PES: Of course, we know you work in multi-sectors, but which do you feel are the most important and the ones you are currently developing?

TN: Our main focus and expertise is in Renewables and our mission is to contribute towards the reduction of emissions from our industry. However, we have worked on coastal infrastructure projects, nearshore surveys and oil & gas projects. We feel that we will always save the end clients time and costs with our quality operations.

PES: How do your charter operations work? Do you provide the crew and maintenance?

TN: Currently we only provide the crew and the vessel. However, with the arrival of our Multicat new build we will be looking to provide charterers with ground-breaking solutions for their offshore project requirements.

PES: In this day and age with a focus on professionalism, how do you select your crew and then keep them working for you?

TN: Our crew is hugely important to us and our crew retention statistics are over 98% retained. We have a long-standing relationship with G&L Maritime who supply us with a large number of personnel, who we have worked with for over 12 years. It's more of a family environment and the standard of seafarer is exceptional.

We also have a large number of directly employed seafarers and a cadet training programme, all of our recruitment is done via recommendations and we do not advertise on social media for crew. We invest time and funds in the right people and we are very lucky to have such a strong offshore team.



Tom Nevin

PES: We've spoken about the crew, so let's move onto the vessels, would you say fleet diversification is important to you, if so why?

TN: Fleet diversification is very important to us. We like to offer our clients the expected HST quality with different operational profiles. We have a standardised propulsion system throughout our fleet with commonality, which helps with crew familiarisation, spare parts and maintenance planning.

With the new additions to the fleet, we still keep the quality, but with the added benefits of zero emission running and extreme wave height performance.

PES: Safety must be a preoccupation for you as a company, are there any special considerations, how do you ensure that everyone is kept up to date with the latest requirements?

TN: HST are very safety focussed, our recent charters to Shell in the Exploratory drilling market displayed our willingness to improve and adopt new standards which we have carried across to the renewable industry.

Our management teams have a continuous training programme and deliver regular training and safety updates to our crew



members. Our safety culture runs throughout our company from the boardroom to the vessel.

PES: We would love to know about quality at HST, could you tell us about this?

TN: Quality has been a real focus of HST's from the very outset of the company, we had witnessed too often people not going the extra mile and doing the 'bare minimum' and the whole of the HST team will always go over and above for our clients.

We ensure the added extras are there for the technicians to enjoy some extra comfort, whether that be high-speed internet, business class seating or even just a good cup of coffee.

PES: Are you currently working any projects,

or future projects you can tell us about?

TN: We do have a number of very exciting projects at the moment, we have placed an order for 2 Bartech 30 vessels, which we believe is a 'game changing' design which will exceed performance of all comparable vessels in market with a significant fuel saving.

This is in addition to our 2 Chartwell 24-h vessels with the latter being fitted with the FOSS system for additional fuel savings. These vessels will have an impressive battery range due to the CPP system allowing us to optimise the design fully.

PES: Why do you think clients should choose your solutions, what added value do you offer?

TN: We are working in an industry that is

naturally a difficult environment and we always have a 'can do' attitude whilst trying to find the safest most cost-effective solutions for clients, without compromising quality. With the systems we have on vessels we work open book with our clients, ensuring our monitoring systems can be fully analysed on both sides, to optimise operational efficiency on the projects.

PES: It would be interesting to know where your main clients are based and if this has changed over the years?

TN: The majority of our clients are based in Europe however we do have customers and partners based in the USA, Taiwan and further afield. With our recent JV announcement with Boluda France for the French offshore wind sector, we are very excited to work with a new client base there.

PES: Are there are any other markets you would like to break into?

TN: HST Workboats has only recently been established and we are actively working in the coastal workboat sector. Later this year we will be taking delivery of our Multicat 2309 from Damen. Our sights are firmly set on the marine civils sector, tidal/wave generation and floating wind.

PES: COVID-19 made 2020 a difficult year for many companies, what impact did it have on you, as a company and do you see that changing as we move forward in 2021?

TN: With HST operating the larger Crew Transfer Vessels we were relatively well placed to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our management team worked very well with our clients to ensure our vessels and crew were COVID safe. The main change to our operation was the lack of client and site visits, but we quickly adapted and like many



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others, had regular video calls, which worked very well.

PES: Where do you see HST in particular and the offshore wind industry in general, in 5 years' time?

TN: That's a tough question! With regard to HST, we will be actively decarbonising our fleet and supply chain, as this is critical going forward to all involved. We have an extensive new-building programme that is currently underway that will offer our clients the leading and greenest technology available in the industry.

The offshore wind industry in general is already on this path with our industry colleagues making great strides to reduce emissions and streamline operations. In 5 years' time we see it as a greener, more efficient industry with real innovators leading the way and HST very much at the forefront of this.

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