

# Setting the standard in vessel and helicopter logistics for the offshore wind industry



Wim Schouwenaar

**Words:** Wim Schouwenaar, CEO at DHSS

Since 1997, DHSS has been involved in offshore energy projects, carried out in the Southern North Sea. The company established its name in the industry, as a provider of vessel agency services and helicopter operations, for complicated offshore projects. Thus, providing an important interface, between offshore and onshore, delivering tailor made services.





### First contact with offshore wind

Our experience in logistics and safety standards gained from working in the oil & gas industry, strengthened the firm when adding offshore wind to our portfolio in 2016, the main other area in the offshore energy sector.

In 2016, the largest offshore wind farm in Europe at that time, Gemini, was built 85 kilometres off the coast of the Netherlands. The first involvement in offshore wind for DHSS, was acting as the control tower for the helicopter operations during the installation phase.

### Helicopter Operations

Out of our facility at Den Helder Airport, we

act as the coordination centre for helicopter flights during the installation and commissioning of wind farm assets. Crews at the wind farm focus on the work to be done on the foundations and turbines. The helicopters fly back and forth, while DHSS ties all strings together.

We manage the full scope of activities involved to execute helicopter flights, in close cooperation with the client's site teams offshore and onshore. This involves everything from planning helicopter flights, preparing flight manifestos, handing out PPE, checking the validity of crew certificates, to picking up crews from international airports and making arrangements for hotel rooms.

Meanwhile our other focus is on vessel

movements: from marshalling ports to and from the wind farm site. Everything has to be carefully coordinated so that it runs like clockwork. We have to ensure sure there is no downtime caused by planning, or logistics.

From the first project in offshore wind in 2016, at DHSS, the transition from oil & gas to sustainable energy has been our focus. This has been reinforced by seeing several clients in oil & gas, also moving into the offshore wind industry.

Supporting clients with the DHSS expertise in helicopter operations are expanding out from the Netherlands, and stretching to Germany, UK, Denmark and Belgium. This also includes helicopter chartering for crew changes, as well as hoisting operations





DHSS Base Eemshaven



DHSS Port of Den Helder

during the O&M phase, to complete the package of helicopter services.

Although originally, we operated out of 3 facilities in Den Helder, due to rapid expansion, we opened new support bases in the ports of Eemshaven and IJmuiden, to support the growth in the offshore wind energy for the Netherlands and Germany.

#### Vessel Agency Services

Agency services in offshore energy provide more than customs' formalities and immigration vessel clearance, for cargo and crew.

Since the start of the company, we have been involved in complex projects, like seismic

surveys, offshore construction, pipe laying and drilling operations. Tailor made support is given to these huge projects, overseeing the equipment and staff involved and complying with the high safety standards. The knowhow and expertise built up in these logistic challenges in the oil & gas industry are integrated in the partnership approach by DHSS to the offshore wind market.

We are the first point of contact for supply base support during port calls and throughout project execution at sea: from site survey vessels and installation vessels, to service operation vessels (SOV's) and crew tender vessels (CTV's). DHSS is the gateway for logistics in the offshore wind industry.

#### Interface

All local requests, whether it is welding jobs on board for mobilization, fuel delivery or a doctor's visit for an injured crew member, DHSS is the vessel agent who makes sure all these requirements are taken care of and on time. An understanding of the demanding needs in the offshore wind industry is of major importance, in order to make sure vessels can make a quick turnaround when planning a port call.

We have put in place communication processes, safe procedures and digital systems, to optimize port and supply base operations. These are constantly monitored to improve efficiency and cut costs.



### AEO certified

While stevedoring and warehousing staff handle all cargo, customs experts from the agency department achieve mandatory customs compliance, by issuing the correct export and import documents. DHSS is an AEO (Authorized Economic Operator) certified company, issued by the tax service and customs to companies that operate internationally. This means DHSS is a trusted partner within the European Union and as such, considered to be safe and reliable, especially where customs and warehouse procedures are concerned.

### Warehouse management and stevedoring

3PL warehousing form part of the integrated services at each support base. All facilities are situated at ISPS qualified berths, at the entrance of each port where we are situated: IJmuiden, Den Helder and Eemshaven. To minimize our carbon footprint, vessels are able to moor in front of our particular support bases and cargo is supplied out of the warehouses, situated within a 'walk to work' distance.

Certified staff take care of loading vessel related cargo; stored, picked, packed and labelled via the intelligent warehouse management system, whilst off going cargo

is being returned to the warehouses, prior to forwarding to final destinations or re-stocking the shelves.

### Container depots

There are a variety of offshore certified CCU's situated at each support base. We collaborate with Cargo Store, a unit specialist for offshore certified containers. Clients can rent from reefers to toolbox containers, to suit their needs.

### Waste Management

Vessel waste, which is collected at our support bases, is segregated and recycled by at least 93%, in order to comply with sustainability. Waste is an issue which affects every industry. Legislation in this area is constantly evolving, which means safe and efficient management and reduction of waste materials are increasingly important. Offshore certified waste skips, including dangerous goods waste units are available at DHSS, in order to start the sorting on board the vessels, as per environmental regulations.

### Track record

As a leading logistics service provider in the offshore wind industry, with a firm focus on

supporting projects and operations for the Southern North Sea area, DHSS has worked tirelessly in partnership with several offshore wind customers.

This is to ensure that maximum cost efficiency is achieved wherever possible, without compromising safety and service delivery.

As such, this key partnership approach has resulted in long term contracts and renewals, in recognition of the long-term commitment to our customer's needs.

From installation to the operation and maintenance phase of offshore wind assets, our services span the entire life cycle, bringing benefits for partners, clients and investors at every stage.

DHSS is setting the industry-standard in safety, quality control and related service levels. With our in-depth knowledge of logistics in the offshore wind operations, our committed staff, and our digitalization of critical logistics solutions.

The whole package of services delivered, gives clients peace of mind in order to achieve a shared result: creating a world that runs on renewable energy... together.

[www.dhss.nl](http://www.dhss.nl)



DHSS IJmuiden