



Growing with the wind of change

DHSS has 25 years' experience delivering high-quality vessel agency services, port logistics, 3PL warehousing, customs services and helicopter logistics to the offshore energy sector. So how is it developing to suit a changing and demanding marketplace?

Dutch company DHSS is experiencing a surge in business as the offshore wind industry grows steadily around the North Sea. Alongside this consistent expansion, a new partnership with Marine Coordination Services (MCS) has recently been announced, as the company seeks to assist clients in the offshore wind industry even further.

'We joined with MCS because they will provide added value to our services,' explained CEO Wim Schouwenaar. 'DHSS already has a helicopter coordination centre, and by combining that with marine coordination, we are able to offer the whole package.'

DHSS was established in 1997 at the port of Den Helder in the province of North Holland. The company quickly expanded, with a branch office at Den Helder Airport, before a warehousing hub in Den Helder became operational in 2014. In 2017, DHSS added support bases in the ports of Eemshaven and IJmuiden, steadily growing these facilities ever since.

Today, DHSS operates three sites around Den Helder, with agency offices and support bases in IJmuiden and Eemshaven. In France and the UK project locations were opened in 2021 to support the renewable energy development. The company currently employs 65 people, but this is a fluid number as DHSS is in a period of rapid growth.

The company offers a wide range of support for the offshore energy industry. 'We deliver the full package of services when it comes to the logistics of people and cargo,' Wim said. 'This may involve a wide variety of vessels such as service operation vessels, installation vessels or crew tender vessels. DHSS has the added value of also being involved in helicopter operations.'

In conjunction with these helicopter services flying out cargo and crew, DHSS provides a package of port logistics and vessel agency services. The company operates a 3PL warehouse management system including

both bonded and external storage, an efficient stock control system and temperature-controlled storage for critical components. DHSS also facilitates customs formalities, support base operations, freight forwarding and procurement management.

The Crosswind example

For a company with such a diverse portfolio of services, picking out a single project to represent the company's abilities is a challenge. That said, to highlight the development of Hollandse Kust Noord Wind Farm, a complex Crosswind subsidy-free offshore wind venture is a good example.

Hollandse Kust Noord is a wind farm being developed by Crosswind, a partnership between Shell and Eneco and built by the Dutch contractor Van Oord. The logistics are complex, with the foundations coming from the SIF terminal in Rotterdam, the turbines from Eemshaven, the commissioning of the turbines is by Siemens Gamesa at IJmuiden and possible helicopter operations are at Den Helder Airport.

Of these four project locations, DHSS is the only company situated in three of them, making it capable of coordinating the logistic movements of the project's vessels and helicopters.

'Our full-service is beneficial for a client, since we are able to unburden the client with our services in port, while our helicopter coordination centre manages the helicopter operations during crew changes offshore,' Wim highlights.

'For example, generator sets deliver temporary power to the turbines. When these come in via CTV in IJmuiden for service and maintenance, our team can load them off and deliver them to Eemshaven, where they go out again via the installation vessel to the turbines offshore.'

All the logistics are coordinated by one DHSS team, which has an overview of the complete

logistics flow. Together with a qualified supply chain and fellow companies, DHSS can unburden all stakeholders of the project by being the stage director for logistics of equipment and crew, including all additional enquiries. Whether it is port call or helicopter related, its staff are qualified and have operational experience to deal with it.

DHSS is heavily involved in the transition into the renewables industry in the Dutch sector and projects in the wider North Sea region. Alongside Hollandse Kust Noord, the company is currently involved in the construction and commissioning phase of Hollandse Kust Zuid wind farm, with both port and helicopter logistics, plus agency services for the cable vessels.

In total, DHSS has assisted in the construction of over 1,400 wind turbines, producing 13,500 MW of renewable power to 19.2 million households.

Dogger Bank

The latest project is Dogger Bank Wind Farm, where work has started on the installation of 277 of some of the world's largest offshore wind turbine foundations. DHSS is responsible for the customs export clearances of monopiles and transition pieces, loaded from the SIF Terminal Rotterdam. Its aviation team also takes care of the helicopter services during crew changes in the construction phase.

Value propositions

The flexibility and breadth of DHSS services sets the company apart from the competition as it aims to be the reliable partner of choice. The foundation of DHSS are its five value propositions. As a family company, DHSS cares about its workforce and invests in training and personal development. In turn, this ensures a high level of service execution in accordance with industry standards and regional regulatory requirements. Thirdly, these operating procedures are reinforced by the company's

commitment to an incident-free working environment with minimal HSE risks.

The company recently received its ISO14001 and 45001 qualifications.

Furthermore, DHSS is strategically located at key locations around the Netherlands to support the offshore energy industry. Finally, the experienced DHSS team is dedicated to going above and beyond every client's expectations, to provide excellent service across its full portfolio of services.

By operating according to these five core values, DHSS forges close relationships with its partners. The company often operates as a middleman, dealing with anything up to 40 different suppliers so that the client does not need to juggle so many purchasing agreements.

'We work with all kinds of qualified stakeholders and supply chain companies,' Wim said. 'Every day is different in the offshore energy business.'

As part of the steady growth of DHSS, the company forms close partnerships with companies to help fulfil a clients' needs. The new partnership with Marine Coordination Services noted above is an example of a collaborative approach which will facilitate this expansion.

Offshore Wind Farm Kaskasi

Another new development for DHSS was the



RWE contract announced earlier in 2022. DHSS provides vessel agency, port logistics and storage services managed from its support base in Eemshaven, but also from Esbjerg the logistic coordination is managed. RWE will install 38 wind turbines in the Kaskasi offshore wind farm in German waters, 35 km north of the island of Heligoland.

Green and growing

As expected of a company heavily involved in the sustainable energy sector, DHSS has taken steps to reduce its own carbon footprint.

'We have various electrical forklifts,' explained Wim. 'We also run electrical vans and cars. Our sites have solar panels on the roof, and we implement CO₂ monitoring to receive certification of the CO₂ Performance Ladder. The company is continuously focusing to realise energy savings and reduce CO₂ emissions in projects and supply chain. This is so that we can track and make visible what we use and have a better insight about how to reduce the carbon footprint. The instrument is used as both a CO₂ management system and a procurement tool.'

For any company growing steadily, there are always challenges. Wim Schouwenaar identified the difficulty of finding sufficient qualified employees: 'DHSS is still growing, with vacancies at several locations, from operational to administration. We need to widen the organisation on all levels, but so far, we are managing well.'

DHSS is firmly established within its network of partners in the Netherlands and around the North Sea. However, the future of DHSS lies further afield.

'Our focus for 2023 is on expanding the business into the US market,' concluded Wim. 'Developers with contracts in the US are often the same European companies we already work with. So, our existing clients are asking us to follow them across the Atlantic because they know the quality of service we deliver and they want that same quality in America as well.'

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