

A year of expansion and transformation in offshore wind





In early 2023, Clarksons Port Services completed the acquisition of DHSS, an offshore energy logistics provider with a longstanding and expansive network in the Netherlands. On January 1st, 2024, it was officially rebranded as Clarksons Port Services. This created an ideal opportunity for PES Wind to engage with Wim Schouwenaar, the managing director of the Dutch entity.

PES: To begin with Wim, thank you for joining us today. It's been over a year since DHSS became Clarksons Port Services bv. How would you describe the journey so far for both you and the team? What key moments have shaped this transformation?

Wim Schouwenaar: Thank you for the invitation; it's always a pleasure to discuss developments in offshore wind with PES Wind! Joining Clarksons in February 2023 felt like a warm welcome from day one. Not just for me, but for our whole Netherlands team. We've enjoyed a strong working relationship for over a decade, so transitioning to full-fledged colleagues felt like a natural next step.

PES: Reflecting on this past year, what have been the standout highlights since becoming part of the Clarksons' family?

WS: One of the key benefits, beyond the strength of such a well-established brand, is our ability to create cross-border agreements with several of our clients, whom we now support on both sides of the North Sea.

Additionally, the helicopter services we have provided from the Netherlands for over 25 years are now integrated into the Clarksons portfolio as a core offering. This has expanded the geographical reach of our services, aligning with our vision for continued growth.

As of 1st January 2024, we rebranded as Clarksons Port Services in the Netherlands to reinforce our presence in our markets and ensure clarity for our clients. Our message is simple: we deliver as One Team – One Clarksons Port Services.

PES: It must have opened new opportunities. Could you share any key geographical expansions, particularly across the North Sea, that have stood out?

WS: We've recently expanded our footprint at the Port of Eemshaven with a new quayside building that provides additional warehouse and yard space. This facility supports various stakeholders in the offshore wind industry, creating a central hub for offshore energy. It offers office space to companies that can collaborate on projects and offshore Operations & Maintenance (O&M) campaigns, driving both operational efficiencies and cost savings. This new location enhances sustainability efforts and serves as a strong

foundation for the continued growth of offshore renewables.

Additionally, we've opened a new facility in Vlissingen to further strengthen our presence across the Netherlands.

Our 'flying squad' now extends to helicopter operations out of the UK, with our UK-based colleagues receiving specialised training to support our mission of becoming the preferred partner for seamless client support. From logistics for cargo and crew, to handling customs and ancillary services, we have the expertise to provide clients with peace of mind, whether in port or from a heliport, throughout the entire life cycle of wind farms.

PES: The maritime industry is evolving fast, especially in wind energy. How has integration improved your ability to respond to this growth?

WS: Clarksons is at the heart of global shipping, offering a complete ecosystem of maritime services. The integrated offering is powered by intelligence, giving authoritative insight, industry know-how, and smarter solutions. With a global reach, expertise, and depth of experience, we're able to partner with clients across the sector. We can accelerate with our clients and keep up the pace.

PES: One year on, how has the synergy between Clarksons and your operations reshaped the way you deliver tailored solutions to clients?

WS: As mentioned, we operate as one unified team, providing a wide range of high-quality services globally. With five industry leading business lines under one powerful group, we can leverage our in-house expertise to meet unique client needs, delivering bespoke solutions tailored to their requirements. This approach enables us to exceed expectations.

PES: Has being under the Clarksons banner changed how you approach sustainability or innovation in the wind energy sector?

WS: Our commitment to sustainability remains as strong as ever, now enriched by new perspectives and practices that have become the standard to ensure a brighter future for all. Our purpose is clear: to enable smarter, cleaner global trade. We're dedicated to collaborating with our stakeholders to drive the sustainable, long-term changes necessary to achieve this goal.

As the world's largest integrated shipping service provider, we're seizing the opportunity to make a substantial impact on the maritime industry's direction and pace, contributing to a more sustainable, equitable future.

PES: With your strengthened presence across the North Sea, how are you positioning yourselves to capture future growth in offshore wind and renewable projects?

WS: With our presence throughout the UK, including Northern Ireland, and in the Netherlands, we are strategically positioned to support offshore wind developers and contractors across the North Sea, covering the Dutch, Belgian, German, and UK sectors. Our expanded team and robust resources, including insights from our research division, enable us to anticipate project pipelines efficiently, extending our capabilities beyond the North Sea to a broader geographic scope.

PES: Being part of a PLC offers a different perspective. How has the corporate governance and support from Clarksons helped drive improvements in your services?

WS: We work collaboratively across all business lines, ensuring that everything we do is underpinned by research, powered by advanced technology, and executed by a dedicated team. Our global presence, strong relationships, and comprehensive service offerings drive remarkable improvements and deliver exceptional results. Clarksons Port Services goes beyond traditional ships agency functions, serving as a single source for integrated solutions, both at ports and heliports, to fully support offshore stakeholders.

PES: In what ways has being part of such a large global organisation affected your company culture? Has the team dynamic changed as a result?

WS: Our team in the Netherlands can now assist clients on a broader scale, delivering end-to-end solutions through close collaboration with colleagues in our international offices. The emphasis on open, transparent communication and well-defined goals allows the team to work seamlessly together, aligning efforts to achieve shared objectives. This clarity enhances teamwork and fortifies team dynamics, which have expanded geographically, reaching an international level.

PES: Are there any specific partnerships or collaborations that have come about because of your strengthened geographical footprint?

WS: Yes, certainly! Earlier this year, in March, CPS and Peak Group forged a strategic collaboration to deliver comprehensive Port Agency Services across the North Sea. Together CPS and Peak Agency, a Norwegian group specialising in agency services along the Norwegian coastline, are seeking opportunities to combine our extensive expertise in port agency logistics.

With collective resources and strategic locations in the UK, Netherlands, and Norway, the collaboration enables us to provide operational efficiencies, leveraging expertise and streamlining logistics processes in supply chain management. This provides clients with a comprehensive and unparalleled service navigating the North Sea.



Wim Schouwenaar

Working together, the North Sea Alliance aims to lead the way in developing sustainable marine logistics solutions, exploring new technologies and innovative solutions to meet evolving market demands across the North Sea.

PES: Thank you, Wim, for sharing these valuable insights. Before we conclude, is there anything else you'd like to highlight about what lies ahead and your vision for the future?

WS: As always, we are focussing on future opportunities and growth, so all I can say right now is, watch this space!

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