



Sheringham Shoal

by Scira Offshore Energy

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Offshore medical care in the O+M phase

About The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm

The 317MW Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm is owned by two Norwegian companies, Statoil and Statkraft, through joint venture operating company, Scira Offshore Energy Limited.

It is located between 17 and 23 kilometres off the coast of North Norfolk, comprises 88 3.6MW turbines, and generates around 1.1TW of green energy per annum.

Core values and leadership

Scira is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, and associated protective legislation. In order to achieve its own stringent goals, Scira has appointed a designated member of staff to be responsible for company health and safety, to keep the

workplace health, safety and welfare procedures under constant review, to liaise with the Health and Safety Executive wherever necessary, and to keep Scira and its management abreast of new legislation and directives.

The main responsibility for health and safety lies with the General Manager. However, all Scira employees agree, as part of their contract of employment, to comply with their individual duties under both the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, and to co-operate with Scira to enable it to carry out its health and safety duties under the Act.

Scira believes that HSE is a line responsibility and strives to empower each business area and each employee so that they are able to integrate HSE in to their daily task and plans.

The company encourages free thinking and constantly pushes the boundaries of best practice to help improve HSE performance.



A turbine technician climbs up to work.

Project initiative

At the end of the construction phase, Scira Offshore Energy Limited identified that there would be a significant risk of being unable to administer advanced medical treatment within 40 minutes should personnel be injured while working on the wind farm. This was due to the location of the wind farm, which is approximately 12 miles offshore, and the anticipated response times of 40 minutes to 1½ hours from local life boats and SAR helicopters, and the limited training undertaken by personnel working on the wind farm. The industry standard has been for all technicians to hold First Aid at Work qualifications, and while this is a key element in the chain of survival, it is not robust enough to ensure the casualty the best chance of survival. Knowing the importance of casualties getting advanced medical treatment within the ‘Golden Hour’, Scira decided to place an additional requirement upon itself – to ensure that a Scira medic be in the field at all times to act as the link between first aiders and paramedics.

Risk reduction

Scira decided to employ two medics in the field, each of whom had a minimum of FPOS intermediate level training and experience in similar roles within such areas as the lifeboat service, Army CMTs and the NHS paramedic service.

Having a medic on site removes some of the boundaries that may hold back the effective treatment of casualties in the isolated workplace of the wind farm. Having this



Tidal Transit vessels work at the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm.

medical expertise on hand enables Scira to maintain a healthy workforce, minimise medical incidents and reduce the time lost to sickness or accidents. It is also evident that having a medic on site has a notably positive effect on the morale of the workforce and general HSE performance.

The on site medic has also had a significant positive impact on the reporting culture at Sheringham Shoal wind farm, leading to massive improvements throughout the site. We have had over 500 observations and recommendation for improvements from the site and a large number of these have been funneled through the offshore medic due to the relationship they have developed and the trust gained from those on site.

Communicating the learning

The implementation and benefits of this initiative has been shared with all contractors working on site, and the feedback has been very positive. Not only is there a sense of comfort felt by the technicians on site, they also see a sense of openness about HSE challenges. Scira has recently had a heavy lift team on site, and have shared the principles of the offshore medic role with them which led to a discussion about the use of the offshore medic in further detail.

Scira is aware that health and safety in the dangerous environment of an offshore wind farm is paramount. It has found its initiative to provide on-site medics so successful that the scheme has been discussed in detail with Scira’s owner companies, both of which participate in the industry-led G9 forum: a presentation and discussion about the scheme and its benefits took place at the G9 forum in December 2013.

Summary

With proof of the benefits of this initiative, Scira’s next steps will be to further integrate the medic role. This will be achieved by requesting an appropriately trained additional crew member on board the PTVs (passenger transfer vessels) so that the response times can be even faster, and will provide the company with a long term and sustainable solution.

Contact details and more information

Scira Offshore Energy Limited T: 01328 824370
 Wind Farm Place, Edgar Road, E: info@scira.co.uk
 Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6EJ W: www.scira.co.uk

The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm is owned equally by Statoil and Statkraft through the joint venture company Scira Offshore Energy Limited.