



The Workboat Crewmember Apprenticeship will ensure that young U.K. seafarers benefit from the opportunities being created in the thriving workboat sector. (Courtesy: The Tamarindo Group)

► CONSTRUCTION

NWA launches workboat apprenticeship to combat offshore crewing challenges

The National Workboat Association (NWA), the safety standards, skills, and trade association for the workboat industry, recently announced the Workboat Crewmember Apprenticeship standard has been finalized, paving the way for the program to be rolled out by training providers across England and Wales.

The development of the apprenticeship comes in response to a growing skills and crewing challenge highlighted by NWA members and the wider maritime sector, as experienced

seafarers leave the industry, often for retirement, and numbers of young people entering the industry have fallen. It will ensure that young U.K. seafarers benefit from the opportunities being created in the thriving workboat sector — training as the next generation of offshore wind crew transfer, tug, multicat, survey, and fast pilot vessel crew.

The Workboat Crewmember Standard and end-point assessment have already been published, and this month, the final piece of the jigsaw

fell into place when the Minister for Education confirmed an Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) recommended funding band of £20,000 per Apprentice (aged 24 and younger). This is the most significant funding that has ever been available for training workboat crewmembers.

This will mean those companies in England and Wales already paying the Apprenticeship Levy can claim £20,000 funding per apprentice, while smaller companies not paying the levy are entitled to 90 percent.

The 18-24 month apprenticeship, which includes all SCTW Basic Safety Courses and the Navigational Watch Rating, among other qualifications, will equip would-be seafarers with all of the skills necessary to work as a competent deckhand. Combining shore-based instruction with extensive time on board, it will ensure that successful apprentices are well-placed to meet the requirements of a number of highly-specialized maritime sectors.

“Following a lot of work by the Trailblazer Working Group, the NWA Training group and our contacts at the IfA, we’re very pleased that the Apprenticeship is now finalized and – crucially – has secured a good level of funding support,” said Mark Ranson, secretary of the NWA. “This Apprenticeship offers a standardized, high-quality program, endorsed by the NWA, to drive training initiatives for the next generation of workboat crews.”

“It will contribute to a steady influx of trained personnel to support workboat operations in a range of marine industries throughout the U.K. and Europe, such as construction of offshore wind farms, servicing of ports and inland waterways, surveying, towage, and salvage work.”

With the details now in place, training providers including 54 North Maritime and Red Ensign are drawing up plans to run courses for the Apprenticeship over the coming months, with 54 North Maritime were scheduled to start their first intake August 28.

MORE INFO

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org

► CONSTRUCTION

ALE showcases wind installation expertise in Argentina

ALE has demonstrated its multi-service and wind-specific capabilities while performing the electro-mechan-



ALE providing the crane lifting and electro-mechanical installation at Garayalde, Argentina. (Courtesy: ALE)

ical installation for the Garayalde wind farm project in Argentina.

The global heavylifting contractor was contracted to perform the electro-mechanical installation of seven wind-turbine generators (WTGs).

Commencing in January, the components were received at Puerto Madryn. Once on-site 260 kilometers away, ALE worked with the crane team to implement the mechanical works and the assembly of the components by their global electro-mechanical installation team. ALE then performed all electrical works and handed over the turbines fully assembled to the client.

Carlos Moreno, commercial manager for ALE-Wind Services, explained the benefits of using these specialist teams:

“This was the first time we have executed this installation scope in Argentina and it was completed successfully because of our team’s flexibility, local expertise, installation knowledge, and specialist equipment,” he said. “This was a complex project, made challenging by its remote location. With the team collaboration between many nationalities such as South African, Argentina, Spanish, and Brazilian, our project management skills and installation experts could overcome the challenges and demonstrate our operational flexibility, global management, and specialist wind capabilities for this market.”

MORE INFO www.ale-heavylift.com

CONSTRUCTION

New Mexico closer to largest wind farm in western hemisphere

Pattern Development joined New Mexico officials to recognize the job creation and other economic benefits of the state’s growing wind energy industry.

Construction is mobilizing

around the Grady Wind project, a 221-MW project in Curry County. Officials included State Sen. Pat Woods, Cabinet Secretary of the State of New Mexico Energy Minerals Natural Resources Department Ken McQueen, Curry County Commissioner Robert Thornton, Pattern Energy Senior Di-

Adam Renz, External Affairs and Government Relations specialist. “The Grady Wind facility represents an important step in New Mexico’s evolution as a major renewable energy producer. As wind and solar energy development grows, New Mexicans will reap the economic benefits.”



Pattern Development’s Ward Marshall at the Grady Wind facility. (Courtesy: Pattern Development)

rector of Business Development Ward Marshall, CRELA Board Member Paul Stout, and Clovis Industrial Development Corporation Economic Development Director Chase Gentry.

Grady Wind, expected to create hundreds of jobs for New Mexicans during the construction phase, will also deliver other financial benefits such as land lease payments to local landowners and new tax base for the host communities of eastern New Mexico. Once placed into operation, Pattern Development’s affiliate Pattern Energy will own and operate the Grady Wind facility, along with the neighboring 324 MW Broadview Wind facilities.

“The Pattern Development team is excited to continue helping New Mexico become a western regional leader in the wind-energy industry,” said

Once in operation, the Grady Wind facility will provide enough clean energy to power nearly 90,000 homes each year.

Currently, the solar and wind energy industries employ more than 5,500 in-state workers. Of these, between 3,000 and 4,000 are employed by the wind industry, either directly or indirectly.

MORE INFO patternenergy.com

CONSTRUCTION

Growth ahead for Taiwanese offshore wind

Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy



Memorandums of Understanding were signed between SGRE and partners to further develop the offshore wind supply chain in Taiwan. (Courtesy: Siemens Gamesa)

(SGRE) signed 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with a range of suppliers recently in Taipei, Taiwan. The MoUs come as a complement to previous agreements signed with Yeong Guan Energy Technology Group (YGG) and Swancor Holding Co. (Swancor). They further demonstrate the commitment of SGRE to the development of the offshore wind supply chain in Taiwan, fully in line with helping reach the government's goal of 5.5 GW installed offshore by 2025. The MoUs cover solutions for offshore wind-turbine components, including on machining, control systems, coolers, and more. Timelines have not been set for finalization of the cooperation agreements.

"We are encouraged by the localization plans for Taiwan of our major suppliers, and the growth plans of local suppliers," said Andreas Nauen, CEO of the Offshore Business Unit at Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy. "The growing offshore wind market in the region requires sound, skilled partnerships to meet the ambitious governmental goals. As the industry leader in offshore wind, we look forward to bringing global supplier concepts to the local market, and bringing local supplier concepts to the global market

with partners of all sizes.

"As a global leader in offshore wind, SGRE, together with its global suppliers, can collaborate with Taiwan's major component manufacturers, not only to build up local capabilities, but also to enhance their international competitiveness for a long-term, sustainable offshore wind supply chain for the Taiwanese and global markets," said Taiwan IDB Deputy Director General Yang Chih-Ching, present at the SGRE Offshore Wind Localization Day.

The following MoUs were signed between SGRE and partners to further develop the offshore wind supply chain in Taiwan, more specifically, with regards to:

- ▶ SGRE and AH Industries and YGG: Machining for large steel and metal components.
- ▶ SGRE and Jupiter Bach: Composites for wind-turbine components such as canopy and spinners.
- ▶ SGRE and KK Wind Solutions (KK): Control systems and converters.
- ▶ SGRE and Nissens: Cooling systems.
- ▶ SGRE and RMG Steel: Steel parts such as various sheet metal and weldments solutions.
- ▶ SGRE and SINBON Electronics (SINBON) and TA YA Electric Wire &

Cable (TAYA): Low Voltage cables harnessing.

▶ SGRE and SINBON and Walsin Lihwa Corporation (Walsin Lihwa): Low Voltage cables harnessing.

▶ SGRE and TECO Electric & Machinery (TECO): Yaw motors.

▶ SGRE and Walsin Lihwa: High voltage cables.

▶ SGRE and Wuerth: C-parts and fasteners.

Each of the non-binding MoUs include — among other terms — the establishment or the use by suppliers of facilities in Taiwan, price competitiveness, as well as compliance to SGRE's quality, health, safety, and environment (HSE) standards. Siemens Gamesa will provide support and advice on technical qualifications, and ramping up activities for each supplier.

"As 5.5 GW of grid capacity were awarded in June 2018, a promising pipeline was laid out toward 2025," said Niels Steenberg, executive general manager for Siemens Gamesa Offshore Asia Pacific. "In this context, the support of a complete, competitive, and high-quality supply chain is essential for us to deliver our utmost to the local and regional market."

MORE INFO www.siemensgamesa.com

CONSTRUCTION

Gould Services takes over Total Wind Benelux

Gould Services recently reached an agreement to take over the activities of Total Wind Benelux. The agreement applies retroactively from May 1, 2018.

Total Wind Benelux has an ongoing contract with General Electrics Renewable Energy for the pre-assembly of 66 Haliade 150-6MW turbines that are part of the Merkur Offshore Wind Farm. Total Wind Benelux also is supplying technical support and maintenance to Dutch wind farms onshore to both end users and turbine manufacturers. Total Wind Benelux has built a track record with projects such as Walney OWF extension (Ørsted), Blightbank OWF (MHI Vestas) and various onshore wind farms.

The organization has about 85 people in operation managed from the head office in Middelburg. Gould Services can be divided into three core activities: Windpark Services, Offshore Service Base, and Logistics.

“It was an exciting time during the takeover, but thanks to the support of the customers of Total Wind Benelux and the business partners of Gould Services, we were able to make this great restart with Total Wind Benelux,” said Managing Director Mattheo Rozemond. “This means maintaining employment for the employees, enabling the continuation of projects that have been initiated and increasing Gould Services’ strength in our three core activities. Confident in our team, we look forward to future collaborations with key players in the renewable business.”

MORE INFO www.foundgould.com.

INNOVATION

Antaira introduces compact industrial POE+ media converter

Antaira Technologies recently expanded its industrial networking infrastructure family with the introduction of the IMP-C100-XX series.

Antaira Technologies’ IMP-C100-



The Antaira IMP-C100-XX series. (Courtesy: Antaira Technologies)

XX series is a compact industrial Ethernet-to-fiber PoE+ media converter featuring a 10/100TX Ethernet port and a fixed fiber interface which supports ST or SC connectors depending on the model. This series is compliant with 802.3at standards that are backwards compatible with 802.3af. There are multi-mode and single-mode models to support applications with a variety of fiber distances and types. It is designed to fulfill industrial applications that require fiber optic distance extension while



The pre-assembly of 66 Haliade 150-6MW turbines is part of the Merkur Offshore Wind Farm contract. (Courtesy: Gould Services)