

OS | VOL. 10 | ISSUE 5 | 2017

# Offshore

i n d u s t r y

## TRANSFORMATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

OFFSHORE ENERGY AMSTERDAM

World's First SCR Unit Installed  
on Offshore Platform

DESIGN & ENGINEERING

*Ready for Any Lift*

TRANSPORT & HEAVY LIFTING

PREVIEW INSIDE

NOT-TO-MISS  
EXHIBITORS

OFFSHORE ENERGY  
AMSTERDAM



# Ready for Any Lift

THE OFFSHORE INDUSTRY IS AN INDUSTRY OF BIG FIGURES. THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE, AND, CONSIDERING THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OFFSHORE WIND INDUSTRY, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS NOT ABOUT TO CHANGE.

WORDS BY ARNO DIRKZWAGER

Most recently, in Newcastle, UK, a mega lifting job was started at the Smulders Project Yard, where Belgian heavy-lift company Sarens hoisted the first jackets for the Beatrice Offshore Windfarm, to be constructed in the Outer Moray Firth, off the north coast of Scotland.

For this project, Sarens is using the SGC-120. Peter Libert, Area Sales Manager at Sarens explains: "The SGC-120 (SGC stands for Sarens Giant Crane), is one of the world's most massive cranes of its kind: it has a 130m main boom and is capable of lifting 3,200t. The preparation for the start of the first lift was quite a project in itself, as the terrain needed to be made suitable for the job and, of course, the crane first needed to be assembled." The crane has a 44m-ring footprint. The boom is 130m long, so, at the yard, space had to be made available to assemble that on the ground as well. A good-sized crawler crane was used to install the 36 counterweights, which weigh 100t each.

## A Wide Reach

The SGC-120 lifted the first 397t windfarm modules off a barge and set them down 120m away from the load-out site. It also placed the upper jacket on top of the lower one, achieving a final height of about 70m. "One of the advantages of using this type of crane for the project is that it operates with a wide reach. This means that the various components can be lifted from almost any location on the yard, so no extra transport is necessary, saving the costs of hiring SPMTs," says Mr Libert. Smulders is responsible for the construction of a total of 28 of the jackets. It is expected that the crane will stay in Newcastle for three to five years in order to assist Smulders with new projects once the construction of the Beatrice jackets is completed. Apart from the SGC-120, Sarens currently deploys fifteen other cranes on the Newcastle yard.

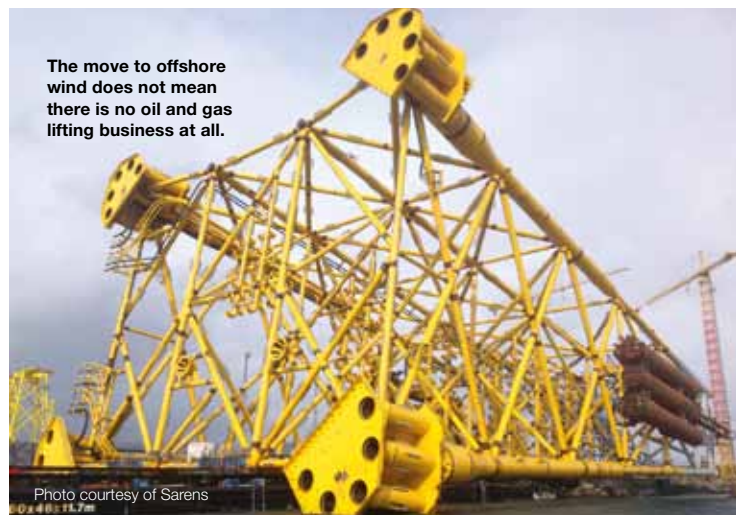
## Johan Sverdrup

Although the offshore wind industry is a growing market for the Belgian company, oil

and gas is still a not-to-miss market for Sarens. "Around 2014, with the oil and gas prices dropping dramatically, we realised we needed to look for other possibilities in the offshore market, and found them in offshore wind," Mr Libert states. The move doesn't mean there isn't any oil and gas lifting business at all. Mr Libert: "For Statoil's Johan Sverdrup project, Sarens will be performing 3 load-outs for all of the modules being built in Norway, from 2,000 to 9,000 tons. The first project was the load-out of a drilling support module (DSM). This 7,500t, 86m x 47m x 32m module was constructed at the Haugesung Yard of Aibel and was moved with 288 SPMT axle lines."

## Think and Act Fast

"As a family-owned business, we are able to think and act fast, and when necessary we can easily move between various industrial and geographical markets," Mr Libert says. In acting this way, Sarens uses the philosophy that a 1,000t crane can handle any piece of 1,000t. "For us, the most





It is expected that the crane will stay in Newcastle for three to five years.



Photo courtesy of Sarens

important difference between oil & gas and the offshore wind market is that in the first, most lifting jobs are one-piece projects, while in the second, a series of more-or-less equal pieces need to be lifted. The success of this kind of project lies not in the lifting itself, but in the logistical efficiency during the project," Mr Libert clarifies. He continues: "In offshore wind projects, we normally need two to three lifts to get used

to the circumstances and after that, things need to go smoothly and efficiently." The ever-growing wind turbines will ask for more lifting and hoisting power. "Turbines will soon increase in power to over 10MW and, consequently, monopiles and jackets will grow in size from the current 1,300t to 2,500t. This may look like a challenge for us, but we have already taken care of these types of weights and dimensions in other

sectors, so whatever may happen, we are ready for any lift," Mr Libert ends.

**i. [www.sarens.com](http://www.sarens.com)**