

Challenging Industry

I've been in charge of Offshore Industry for little over one month now, and I only just started to discover the versatility of the fascinating offshore industry. One of the first things that struck me is the enormous demand for skilled and experienced people. While many businesses around the globe are struggling to survive the financial crisis, the offshore industry is struggling to find the right people for their projects. Trade fairs are largely dominated by personnel ads and by recruiters trying desperately to find the right men or women for the job.

With the maturing oil and gas fields the market for decommissioning the aging platforms is booming. This is a huge ongoing operation that demands highly specialised ships, cranes and people. At the same time the offshore wind farming industry is expected to grow substantially in the coming years, requiring exactly the same ships, cranes and people. This poses enormous challenges for the offshore industry and it puts great pressure on the recruiters who are trying to source all these people. There are even projects being cancelled due to the severe lack of personnel. The search for the right people will be an ongoing challenge for the offshore industry.

Other subjects that have come to my attention are the many innovative projects in the field of offshore renewable energy. Existing foundations of offshore wind mills are challenged, resulting in whole new concepts for placing wind mills at sea. The Danes are proven pioneers when it comes to offshore wind farming, and now they are amongst the leaders when it comes to the development of other ways to generate electricity. One of the striking projects in Denmark is the development of a commercial wave generator. The project is now well underway and the results are very promising.

This issue of Offshore Industry is this year's last, but we will surely continue to report about all aspects of this exciting and challenging industry in 2009. On behalf of the whole team at Yellow & Finch publishers I wish you and your loved ones a beautiful Christmas and all the best for 2009.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AH' with a stylized flourish.

Astrid Hinderks
Maritime Editor

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Front cover: IHC Hydrohammer designs, manufactures and supplies hydraulic piling hammers, for on- and offshore use and is well-known for its innovative approach. Photo courtesy of IHC Hydrohammer.

Left page: Offshore drilling rig at sunset – The vibrant shades of red and orange atmospherically depicted by photographer Evert Jan de Kluizenaar.