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Brexit demands more planning

Brexit has changed the way ESVAGT works in Great Britain. Having the right equipment and personnel in place now takes more planning and more time.

ESVAGT has many vessels working in the energy sector in Great Britain, where ESVAGT supports offshore wind and oil and gas production.

The shipping company therefore needed to thoroughly prepare itself for the consequences of Brexit in good time before Great Britain left the EU on the 31st of January this year. And the company has been closely following

developments since the withdrawal, says Martin Ørbæk Nielsen, Strategic Senior Procurement Manager:

“The fear was that we would have difficulties in logistics and that we would be faced with more bureaucracy and complications, so we made sure we were thoroughly prepared with existing suppliers and with back up suppliers in the UK – our plan B was in place,” he says.

New rules for manpower

Brexit means that Great Britain is no longer within the common market rules for tariffs and for the free labour market.

ESVAGT sends personnel and goods in and out of Great Britain on a daily basis, and the shipping company is registered with the EU customs authorities to ease the inward flow of goods. The company has also taken advantage of the competencies of customs specialists at NorSea, who have helped ESVAGT get on top of the increased amount of paperwork.

“Regardless of whether we are talking about personnel, food products, spare parts or medical equipment entering Great Britain, Brexit has brought potential roadblocks. We follow the situation very closely ourselves and it is good to have partners on board who have the right contacts,” says Martin Ørbæk Nielsen.

A couple of extra days

Six months after Brexit came into force, ESVAGT can conclude that it was well prepared for what was coming – and that it is a good idea to stay that way.

“This is of course also new for the British and small adjustments are being made all the time that we need to adapt to,” says Michael Rønn, Head of Purchase & Logistics for ESVAGT:

“To counter this, we have added a couple of extra days in our planning when

working with Great Britain. Things just take a day or two more than they used to, especially when we need to transport goods from Britain to Denmark,” he says.

About ESVAGT

ESVAGT is a dedicated provider of safety and support at sea and services both the offshore wind industry as well as the oil & gas industry.

We service offshore wind farms and have a fleet of dedicated Service Operation Vessels (SOV), which ESVAGT pioneered in 2010. The SOVs provide accommodation for technicians, spare time facilities, offices and conference room, storage for small turbine parts, workshops, etc. The SOV offers flexible personnel and equipment transfer capabilities by either Walk-to-Work gangway system or Safe Transfer Boats.

We support the offshore Oil & Gas industries with a wide range of specialized services: Standby, Emergency Response and Rescue Vessels (ERRV), Oil spill response, Firefighting, Tanker assists, Rig moves, Supply services and Interfield transfer of cargo and personnel.

ESVAGT was founded in 1981 and has a fleet of more than 40 vessels and approximately 1100 employees offshore and onshore.

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