



STB 12 is generally generously equipped. Everything on the vessel has full redundancy. As an example, there are two bow thrusters for full motor redundancy and for assistance with further manoeuvrability when mooring at the offshore wind turbine.

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STB 12 - the little offshore wind farm vessel

The newly developed ESVAGT STB 12 (Safe Transfer Boat) is more than a traditional daughter craft.

The offshore wind service contracts with Siemens for the delivery of the “Esvagt Froude” and “Esvagt Faraday” mark a pivotal change for ESVAGT. They have opened up completely new markets and brought the introduction of a new vessel type in the fleet. The “Esvagt Froude” and the “Esvagt Faraday” are the world’s first purpose built Wind Service Operation Vessels (SOV); offshore wind farm vessels designed for the concept developed by

ESVAGT.

However, the SOVs are not the only new builds that have been premiered with the offshore wind service contracts.

STB 12 is the name of the newly developed type of vessel that has not attracted the same attention as the larger SOVs but have nonetheless been an important supplement to the SOVs for service duties in the offshore wind farms.

STB 12 is a mothership based Safe Transfer Boat that is used to transfer technicians safely to wind turbines. One of the unique features of the STB 12 is that it has been approved by the Danish Maritime Authority (Søfartsstyrelsen) as a separate craft. They have been christened the “Esvagt Wind 1” and “Esvagt Wind 2” and can sail into port for goods and up to 8 people. These attributes have influenced the design, says Bjarne Mikkelsen, Senior Service Manager, who, together with Ole Andersen from Special Services, constructed the new vessel type – a job that started back in 2010:

“We focussed on making the vessel fuel saving, easy to manoeuvre and comfortable to sit in as passenger – also for people who are not used to working on water,” says Bjarne Mikkelsen.

Manoeuvrable and quiet

The requirements for the vessel were partly met by choosing the right engines. The STB 12 has two inboard motors with tractory, contra-rotating propellers. Volvo Penta calls the motor series the IPS 450 because the motor, which in reality ‘only’ has 330 hp, has traction equivalent to a 450 hp with a water jet:

“The tractory propellers work in undisturbed water, which both increases comfort and efficiency,” says Ole Andersen:

“This gives a reduced fuel consumption of up to 30 percent compared to other solutions – and not least unusually good manoeuvrability and comfort. It is one of the most powerful vessels that I have tried and at the same time, it is incredibly easy to manoeuvre – quite simply with a joystick,” he says.

The noise level has been a positive surprise. ESVAGT had involved a noise

consultant from the outset to ensure that it was acoustically comfortable to be on board:

”We wanted a vessel that was comfortable in every possible way – including noise. The choice of materials and isolation has focussed on reducing noise as much as possible and it has worked. I can’t remember ever before sitting in a driving seat with a noise level of 64 dB at a speed of 28 knots,” says Bjarne Mikkelsen.

The “Esvagt Wind 1” and “Esvagt Wind 2” are equipped with cameras to record all operations:

”We have gained good experience from filming all launch and recoveries at the crew change vessels. We learn from them and use them in training situations. With a new vessel, we would like to ensure that we learn as much as possible – and cameras for and aft will help us to do that,” says Bjarne Mikkelsen.

ESVAGT is a dedicated provider of safety and support at sea, founded on an experienced and well-trained offshore crew and unmatched rescue capabilities.

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.

In 2010, ESVAGT brought the dedicated offshore wind Service Operation Vessels (SOV) to the market. The SOVs provide accommodation for up to 40 technicians, storage for small turbine parts and a workshop, plus personnel and equipment transfer capabilities by either Walk-to-Work gangway system or Safe Transfer Boats.

ESVAGT was founded in 1981 and has a fleet of more than 40 vessels and more than 900 employees on- and offshore.

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