

Great Yarmouth, UK



ASCO helps offshore maintenance crews 'Walk-to-Work'

Summary: ASCO's southern North Sea team successfully reduce costs of maintenance to unmanned installations.

Challenge

Helicopters and Standby Vessels are typical examples of equipment necessary to transport maintenance staff to offshore locations and keep them safe in their workplace. Could this objective be met at less cost without compromising safety? This was the task set by an existing customer of ASCO's Southern North Sea Operations.

Solution

The customer would provide a Walk-to-Work (WTW) vessel, so-called because a hydraulic gangway between the WTW vessel and an installation to be serviced permits maintenance crews to walk to and from their place of work. ASCO's contribution was to explore the possibility of providing arrival and departure facilities and services on the site of old offices on their base at Gashouse Quay,

Results

ASCO surveyed some unused offices on their quayside at Gashouse Quay, Great Yarmouth. These offices were approved for conversion and were transformed into a fully serviced departure suite identical to those found at airports and heliports all over the world. Now maintenance teams joining the WTW can enjoy comfortable check-in facilities prior to departure as well as secure parking.

Additional technical services include baggage handling, X-ray screening and specialist personnel vetting.

The improvement has removed the need for helicopters and standby vessels when working at certain locations—drastically reducing costs. At the same time, the safety and comfort of maintenance crews have been greatly enhanced.



Offshore Logistics

Marine Management

Onshore Logistics

Waste Management

Freight Management

Personnel

Consultancy

Management of
dedicated facilities

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North Sea maintenance crews ‘Walk-to-Work’

ASCO’s managers in the Southern North Sea Business Unit are used to solving problems. But when they were asked to help an established customer’s offshore maintenance crews walk to work you would be forgiven for thinking that they had met their match.

In fact, they were being asked to cooperate in a cost reduction exercise. The traditional way of getting maintenance crews to and from work, especially to unmanned installations, is by helicopter. Manning platforms also necessitated the positioning of a standby vessel, adding more cost.

The industry was eager for a new solution and it came in the form of Walk-to-Work (WTW) vessels. WTW vessels would moor alongside unmanned installations and connect to them via a hydraulic gangway. Maintenance crews would live on these vessels, walking to work across the hydraulic gangway.

Spares are transferred by platform crane and the WTW vessel’s rescue craft provides standby cover.

So just how did ASCO contribute to the Walk-to-Work initiative for their customer?

ASCO’s contract manager, Ashley Harrison, for Southern Operations explains: “We were approached by a customer to provide crew change facilities for the maintenance teams, similar to those at airports. This meant X-ray machines, specialist security teams and a departure lounge complete with TV screens showing safety videos.”

These needs lead to the conversion of unused offices on ASCO’s Great Yarmouth quayside. Now ASCO own and operate a complete departure suite including check-in facilities, detector arches, secure parking and baggage handling. All dedicated to the Walk-to-Work initiative.

The crew change facility is now manned by three security staff, a check-in clerk and a supervisor.

The highly successful completion of this project—workers are now safer and costs have been reduced—illustrates ASCO’s appetite for delivering more to their customers.

- Created safer environment for maintenance workers
- Reduced operating costs
- Dedicated arrival and departure facilities created for client