

VOLVO PENTA

Volvo Penta of the Americas

Press Information

Volvo Penta Stakes Leadership Position in Wind Farm Support Vessels

(CHESAPEAKE, Va.) – Nov. 28, 2017 – [Volvo Penta](#) has emerged as a leading supplier of propulsion systems for support boats in the booming offshore wind farm industry in Europe, and is poised to capture a significant position as new wind farms come into service in North America.

“Wind farm support vessels operate under some of the world’s most difficult conditions,” said Jens Bering, vice president of marine sales for Volvo Penta of the Americas. “They must be able to work 24/7 in high winds and heavy seas delivering crew and materials quickly and safely to the offshore towers without wasting time and fuel. On station, it’s a big challenge for the operator to nose up to the turbine towers and hold position in turbulent waters when transferring technicians and supplies.”

Volvo Penta’s IPS is the ideal solution for these vessels, according to Bering. “When compared to standard shaft drives, IPS consistently produces 30-40 percent longer cruising range, 15-20 percent higher top speed, 20-35 percent reduction in fuel consumption, 20-35 percent less CO₂ emissions and 50 percent lower perceived noise levels. In addition, IPS provides safe and predictable boat handling, especially with its standard joystick controls. IPS is also easier to install, taking about 50 percent less time than inboard shafts, and is easier to service. The pods also provide higher torque and faster acceleration, as well as higher bollard pull of approximately four tons per pod unit, so it will not lose grip in high seas.”

Bering cited a study conducted by BMT Nigel Gee in June 2015, comparing propulsion options for a 26m vessel. IPS scored higher than fixed pitch, controllable pitch, waterjet and linear jet systems, in terms of bollard pull, efficiency, maneuverability and redundancy. The slightly higher initial cost of IPS is more than offset by the dramatic improvement in life-cycle costs.

Njord Offshore is a good example. The U.K.-based company operates a fleet of 15 crew transfer vessels (CTVs) of 21m and 26m. Six of its 26m CTVs are powered by a Volvo Penta IPS900 Quad installation.

Tom Mehew, director at Njord Offshore, said in 2016, “We’ve been using Volvo Penta’s IPS900 Quad system in our 26m CTVs for over a year now and all expectations have been fulfilled. We, and our customers, require speed, maneuverability and efficiency combined with high static bollard push. In addition, we also look for reliability and redundancy to maximize the uptime for our clients. The advantages of the IPS have been fully proven. The joystick controls are intuitive, the control response times are fast and accurate, which ultimately makes docking on a boat landing in rough weather easier and safer – we also have a dynamic fender system to reduce the load on the boat landings during these conditions.”

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) predicts rapid growth of offshore wind energy developments in U.S. coastal waters. The first American wind farm at Block Island is now operational, and DOE reports that there are 28 U.S. wind farm projects with a total capacity of over 23,000 megawatts now in the works. Many of them will be further offshore – 30 miles or more.

These projects will require a fleet of specialized support vessels, and Volvo Penta plans to be ready to answer the call, according to Bering. “We have a strong market share in the European wind farm support vessel segment. We have a great deal of real-world experience in this sector and excellent relationships with the naval architects, shipyards and operators, and we are well positioned to meet the demand for these highly specialized vessels as the North American market opens over the next few years.”

For a high-resolution image, visit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1hsp8gz2dogpdr/AABzUFHaxvkepneL6cxgvUioa?dl=0>.

About Volvo Penta

Volvo Penta, with approximately 3,500 dealers in over 130 countries, is a world-leading and global manufacturer of engines and complete power systems for boats, vessels and industrial applications. The engine program comprises diesel and gasoline engines with power outputs of between 10 and 1,000 hp. Volvo Penta is part of the Volvo Group, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of heavy trucks, buses and construction equipment.

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