

# SKILLED MANPOWER FOR OFFSHORE INDUSTRY

*Having supplied engineers and craftsmen to the oil and gas industry since 1998, PAM Offshore Service is upping its effort to help oilfield services companies build modules and components for Norway's energy infrastructure.*

PAM Offshore Service is stepping up its effort to provide Norway's booming offshore industry with skilled manpower from the Faroe Islands. According to CEO Mouritz Mohr, the clients are mostly leading oilfield services companies including construction firms and shipyards involved in energy infrastructure projects.

PAM Offshore Service, a subsidiary of Faroese shipyard and engineering company MEST, has an active pool of around 220 engineers, electricians and craftsmen, most of whom work regularly in the Norwegian offshore industry.

"The teams work in various shifts," said office manager Anja Jacobsen. "The arrangements have been developed over the years and most people are happy with

it. It basically means you concentrate on work for a certain period, then having time off for the same length of time."

Much of the work has to do with repairing and building modules for drilling rigs and offshore production units



## MORE OIL & GAS RELATED BUSINESS

**As the Faroese become increasingly involved in the oil and gas industry, more and more repair and maintenance orders from offshore support vessels are booked with the MEST shipyard and engineering company.**

THE TWO exploration wells to be drilled offshore the Faroe Islands this summer (2014) will doubtlessly amplify a message that is already resonating in the Faroese business community—the oil and gas industry is moving closer. Two Faroese shipping companies, so far, have managed to establish themselves internationally with their fleets of offshore support vessels; both will be involved in this year's drilling on the Brugdan II and Sula Stelkur prospects.

In the hundreds of million euros, the investments associated with the Statoil-operated exploration wells are record-breaking by Faroese standards.

For MEST, the Faroe Islands' main shipyard and engineering company—with yards in Tórshavn and at Skála, plus a stainless steel equipment manufacturing unit at Runavík—the offshore business has grown slowly but steadily over the last 15 years.

"Fishing still dominates but we're

including subsea systems, fixed platforms, floating production systems and drillships. Main clients include Aker Solutions, Kvaerner, Aibel, COSL, SEC, and Westcon.

"Our workforce has many competitive advantages and one of them is language and communication skills—they understand and speak Norwegian fluently, which is very important in Norway."

**QUALIFIED SUPPLIER:** Skilled workers remain in high demand in the offshore industry. However energy companies have lately introduced a series of cost-cutting measures and contractors have taken a hit; subcontractors, in turn, could be next in line.

By raising quality control and documentation standards, PAM Offshore Service is hoping to reduce the risk of potential contract losses, Mr. Mohr said.



gravitating toward the oil and gas industry," said CEO Mouritz Mohr.

"We have built two offshore support vessels and completed a number of repair and maintenance jobs on such vessels and even on drilling rigs. What



"After all, the fundamentals are still very positive whichever way you look at it," he said. "Oil companies are reducing their operational costs and contractors and subcontractors are certainly not immune to such movements. We are nonetheless determined to rise to the challenge and sharpen our competitiveness, and constantly consider how the high quality of our service can be further improved."

PAM Offshore Service is set to receive its ISO 9001 quality certification this May [2014], Mr. Mohr said. The company is already a qualified supplier in Achilles JQS, the joint qualification system for suppliers to the oil and gas industry in Norway and Denmark.

*CEO Mouritz Mohr (left);  
Tórshavn slipway (opposite);  
The COSL Pioneer (main);  
Electrician at work (top);  
Dry dock at Skála (right).*

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#### PAM Offshore Service

Specialists in providing skilled manpower for oilfield services companies

MEST is the Faeroe Islands' leading shipyard and engineering group. Shipbuilding, conversions, repairs, maintenance, related services. Technical consulting. Advanced tools for e.g. vibration analyses, stability calculation, laser alignment. Comprehensive spares department, general agents for leading brands in marine and food industry equipment and accessories.

Tórshavn: Berth length 200 m, Two slipways 2500 + 1000 tonnes, Two construction halls, Mobile cranes.

Skála: Berth length 400 m, Dry dock 115 m, Slipway 2000 tonnes, Construction hall, Mobile cranes.

Runavík: Design and manufacturing of processing equipment and fish factories. Specially designed hygiene conveyor used in food industry. Fishfarming equipment.



we've noted is that the offshore industry, which was more or less non-existent for Faroese businesses back in the 1990s, is now undeniably a growing market."

In 1998, PAM Offshore Service, fully owned by MEST, was founded. The company focuses squarely on providing manpower for development projects and maintenance in Norway's energy infrastructure.

"Exploration off the Faroes was starting around the time we founded PAM and so we made a strategic decision to prepare for this new indus-

try, which we figured would become important for the country in the years ahead."

With global competition from the East, shipbuilding orders have become infrequent in recent decades. Between them, however, the MEST yards, since the company first opened for business back in 1936, have delivered over a hundred newbuilds, mostly fishing vessels but also car ferries and, more recently, offshore support vessels. In the same period of time, the company has completed thousands of overhauls and repairs.