

## G+ Global Offshore Wind Health and Safety Organisation 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Stakeholder Day

12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - Amsterdam

### Responses to questions raised on Slido

#### **Safe by Design**

On what basis are the Safe by Design workshop topics chosen (i.e. hydraulic torqueing)? Can we give input on subjects?

*With regards to safe by design, we as an onshore contractor would appreciate clients looking at design with knowledge of the production process to eliminate risks.*

Selecting and scoping the right topics for the Safe by Design programme is critical to making the biggest impact. This is why we make this a collaborative process, inviting input from organisations and individuals across the sector. As well as canvassing opinion from the G+ Groups. This involves running formal surveys on social media, seeking feedback at other G+ events and keeping an open invitation for direct feedback at any time. Each prioritised topic is investigated by analysing the G+ incident data to underpin the risk profile with an evidence data base.

For further information on the G+ Safe by Design programme, please see the [G+ "The Right Design" brochure](#).

The process of selecting topics has evolved alongside the G+. Initially, the Focal Group would identify a general area of high risk (such as lifting), purely based on member input and incident data. However, it soon became apparent that such broad topics were unlikely to generate sufficiently meaningful and actionable outcomes and so subsequent topics were narrowed down to become more tightly focused (such as davit cranes).

To suggest topics for future workshops then please e-mail [gplus@energyinst.org](mailto:gplus@energyinst.org)

*Keep in mind the difference between the new and old wind turbine generators (WTG). The new WTGs are designed more with safety in mind for the technicians. The old WTGs are not.*

This is a significant factor in the G+ Safe by Design workshops. When the participants are split into groups at the workshops, the facilitators frequently pose the question of what can be done regarding the design of the future generation of WTGs and what action can be taken to work with the existing fleet. When good practice is produced the same is considered.

#### **G+ workstreams / G+ Good Practice Guidelines**

*I hear more and more the idea of using helicopters for technician transport. Will helicopters be the new trend?*

*Workstream 9 Helicopter operations: does this include heli ops to vessels with a helideck? Involvement of vessel operators?*

It is likely that, as projects are further away from shore and larger and/or in clusters that helicopters might be used more. The G+ has a workstream for 2020 to produce a helicopter operations good practice guidance document.

Yes, it does include heli ops to vessels with a helideck. As soon as we have a confirmed draft document, we will circulate it for wider industry consultation. In terms of vessel operators, we will ask IMCA and the Workboat Association to circulate the draft document to their members. If you are a vessel operator, or in fact any other company that would like to receive a copy of the draft G+ helicopter operations good practice, then please e-mail [gplus@energyinst.org](mailto:gplus@energyinst.org) We anticipate that the draft will be ready for circulation in May. The final document is due to be published in 2020.

*Workstream 3: Medical and physical requirements. Does this include the supply chain workforce as well as the WTG technicians? E.g. Seafarers or riggers*

The purpose of the G+ medical and physical requirements workstream is to recommend physical fitness standards for offshore wind farm technicians.

The proposed scope of work is:

Phase 1: Undertake a G+ critical task analysis. The purpose of this analysis is to ensure that the critical tasks are identified in the report - *A detailed ergonomic assessment of ladder climbing: key risks (short- and long-term) to technicians in the offshore wind industry* and that it is representative across all G+ countries. It will also establish standard operating procedures and best practices across all G+ countries for the critical tasks identified and, where possible, establish methods of best practice (MOPB) and minimum operating procedures for these critical tasks. It will also establish preferred/viable physical fitness test procedures across G+ countries.

Phase 2: Determine the physical demands of the critical tasks. To quantify the physical demands of the critical tasks of offshore wind farm technician's using the established MOPB and minimum operating standards.

Phase 3: Recommend physical fitness assessments, for offshore wind farm technicians.

While this workstream is dedicated to offshore wind technicians, the recommended standard will be developed in such a modularised way that allows flexibility in the combination of critical tasks depending on the worker's specific role or development in WTG technology. This enables an easy adaptation to roles for the supply chain e.g. seafarers or riggers. G+ would be happy to support another organisation with this development and will discuss with other organisations once the workstream is sufficiently progressed.

*Medical checks should fit the risk profile of the task. We need to consider the life cycle of a wind farm and the medical risk profile involved in the SoW.*

*A statement was used when referring to medical standards for Offshore Wind Farm Workers who are these people, do they include marine crew?*

As identified in the response above, the G+ medical and physical requirements workstream will undertake a critical tasks assessment and determine the demands of the critical tasks. We believe that

exactly this point will be addressed in the G+ workstream. Please [contact the G+](#) if you would like more details on the workstream or to be part of the review process.

The purpose of the G+ medical and physical requirements workstream is to recommend physical fitness standards for offshore wind farm technicians. The G+ believes that it is not the best placed to recommend physical fitness assessments for the supply chain e.g. seafarers or riggers. However, we would be happy to support another organisation to do this.

*IMCA, MSF, G+... everybody produces safety alerts. Can the various organizations work together on this?*

Yes, this is one of G+'s workstreams for 2020. Developed by the Energy Institute (EI), [Toolbox](#) is a free to use, web-based app, that allows users to access health and safety information in text and video formats. In an effort to share learnings from incidents and safety alerts across the offshore wind industry, the G+ has agreed to utilise the Toolbox platform. It will act as a central point for offshore wind health and safety incident and safety alerts. Discussions are underway with other organisations who already promulgate alerts and a G+ protocol will be on the G+ website soon. This includes details on how industry can submit alerts to Toolbox.

*Would/could G+ consider supporting an app for the sharing of safety alerts?*

The G+ will be using the Toolbox platform from 2020. Toolbox is a web-based app. If you go to the web page <https://toolbox.energyinst.org/> on your mobile device, it should give you the option to add the Toolbox app to your Home Screen. You can also sign-up to Toolbox notifications.

## **New topics/areas/groups**

*Is there any opportunity to help align the international community to recognize an offshore WTG, especially when manned, to softly recognize as a vessel?*

This is not a current or past G+ workstream, but the G+ is always open to suggestions for future workstreams. In Summer the G+ looks for ideas for the work programme for the following year. Proposals are submitted to the G+ Focal Group and they then discuss and vote on priorities for the following year. This is then reviewed and decided upon by the G+ Board of Directors. We will include this suggestion in the proposal for 2021. Any other workstream suggestions can be sent to the G+. There is obviously a limit as to how many new work items the G+ can start each year as we are focussed on delivery timely, quality outputs.

*Why does the G+ not cover the E from Health, Safety and Environment?*

Since the G+'s inception in 2012 its scope has been offshore wind health and safety. Environment is not a topic that has been looked at by the G+ despite most organisations having environment including within the scope of their health and safety departments. This question was also raised by the afternoon working groups at the G+ Stakeholder Day so we will review with the G+ Focal Groups and Board and decide whether this is an area that the G+ should be looking into or whether it is sufficiently covered by other organisations.

*A lot of work is being done to improve task level safety. Are there any plans to invest in integrating safety into operational decision making?*

The G+ has been running the Safety Champions group for offshore wind farm construction Project Directors, within Europe, for a number of years now. In the past year, the G+ Focal Group questioned whether there should also be a group for operational projects. A group for G+ operational staff has now been created and the Operations Directors from member and associate companies met in January. This group will meet bi-annually and plan to focus on several topics at each meeting. Agenda suggestions are welcome from the supply chain as are guest speakers.

## Wind Turbine Safety Rules (WTSR)

*Is there a plan to work on turning the Wind Turbine Safety Rules (WTSR) and HV/LV rules into modular blocks of safe operation Good Practice Guidance for international use?*

The Wind Turbine Safety Rules (WTSR) are a model set of Safety Rules and procedures to help formalise a Safe System of Work (SSoW) to manage the significant risks associated with a wind turbine generator (WTGs). At the end of 2019, the coordination and secretariat function of the Operational Safety Rules Group (OSRG) and WTSR was taken on by SafetyOn, following a change of strategy at RenewableUK. The strategy for the WTSR is currently under review. If you would like to be involved in the review, then please e-mail [gplus@energyinst.org](mailto:gplus@energyinst.org)

## Communication

*How is the cooperation with authorities outside UK developed and is a communications plan available?*

The G+ is currently focussed on the European market, APAC (including Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and Australia) and North America. Contacts within the G+ member and associate companies are nominated as the contact for the different regulators in the different countries. Regular meetings are held and when either the regulator or the G+ develop a new guidance document/regulation then this is circulated.

*IMCA's marine renewable energy committee will publish a basic safety training matrix. Is there a plan to align with Global Wind Organisation (GWO), knowing that GWO members (Operators) have themselves different standards?*

The G+, GWO, RUK and IMCA are all part of the Industry Collaboration Committee (ICC) and the topic of a basic safety training matrix has been discussed regularly, including IMCA's latest workgroup on the subject. The GWO has a range of training standards, which align the requirements of employers for workers carrying out various roles in the wind industry. They merely provide training standards. It is for GWO's members to decide on who undertakes which training. The GWO members that have an interest in offshore wind are largely G+ members and IMCA members. The G+ is currently in discussion with IMCA as to how it can best support IMCA's workstream on a basic safety training matrix.

*A lot of talk about growth in offshore wind has been about Europe and Asia. How about implementation of G+ Guidelines in the US?*

The G+ (G9 as it was then) started in the UK in 2012. The focus then widened to Europe a few years ago. In 2019 a G+ Focal Group was created in the APAC region. The G+ Board agreed that this group should be created, progress reviewed and then a decision taken on North America. The G+ has been working with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), the US H&S regulator, for a number of years. A number of G+ members and associates are working on projects in North America and are using G+ good practice and data. The G+ will be involved in the Business Network for Offshore Wind's International Partnering Forum (IPF) in 2020 and will update industry on further plans in the region after this event.

*Are some of these standardisation topics also appropriate for the Wind Harmony work that WindEurope is driving? At least it could provide an EU standard.*

*How is the G+ different from the Wind Harmony project and how is double work avoided?*

The Wind Harmony project was started in 2019 by the European Commission. The project aims to analyse H&S regulations and related standards impacting wind energy (onshore & offshore) across the 28 EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein & Norway. It will also assess and prioritise their potential for harmonisation or alignment at European level. eclareon, a consulting firm, is leading the implementation of the project and is responsible for mapping and analysis of national health & safety

legislation, standards and procedures, training roadmaps and best-practice sharing events. WindEurope is responsible for the communication and stakeholder interaction. The Renewables Consulting Group (RCG) is responsible for the development of the harmonisation and alignment methodology and its application to the identified field of actions.

The G+ secretariat, members and associates have participated in the Wind Harmony project meetings and the steering committee. Project Harmony, like the rest of the offshore wind industry, has access to all of the G+ work that has been produced. It is possible that Project Harmony could take some of these areas forward to standardisation/regulation.

*How does the G+ view recent developments, i.e. Pict Offshore, where relying on PPE is the last step in hierarchy of control?*

G+ members and associates are working on a number of different health and safety initiatives, within their own companies. When requested, detailed information is shared on these with the G+ Focal Group. There is always the potential for the group to adopt an initiative undertaken by a member, but this is for the group to agree.