

Undersea success story

One of Europe's leading offshore engineering companies is based in an idyllic village on the Helford River



Overview

Seacore carries out specialist marine engineering and sub-sea construction projects in some of the world's most demanding environments. Since 1976 it has climbed to the very top of an industry where skill, experience and technological innovation count for everything. And it has achieved this from the beautiful surroundings of Gweek, a tranquil village on the upper reaches of the Helford River near Helston.

The company was founded in 1976 to provide geotechnical drilling services to the oil and gas industry. Its early success in offshore drilling enabled Seacore to expand into the inshore segment through the construction of a series of small,

easily transportable 'jack-up' craft, used as drill platforms in areas where hostile sea conditions make it difficult to use conventional floating barges.

These innovative units proved outstandingly effective, and in the 1990s Seacore won recognition – and lucrative contracts – all around the world. Far from resting on its laurels, it has continued to seek out new areas in which to apply and develop its skills, particularly in the marine construction industry.

Workforce

Seacore's success is built just as much on its human resources as on the equipment they design and use. The company's personnel are selected from all areas of the industry and are among the most highly skilled people in their fields of expertise.

Managing Director Richard Reed says: 'We delegate an enormous amount of responsibility to our teams of people, who work on projects all over the world from San Francisco to Sri Lanka. The working culture in Cornwall gives us just what we need: people who know how to pull together as a team and get the job done.'

Clients

These include oil industry giants such as BP and Maersk Oil & Gas, as well as a wide range of engineering firms, utilities and government agencies. Seacore often joins in consortia with other leading companies to carry out major marine and civil engineering projects.

Technology

Seacore prides itself on identifying new niche markets for the range of specialised skills and equipment that it has built up over nearly four decades. Recent ground-breaking projects have included:

- > Developing and installing a robust foundation system for Britain's largest offshore wind farm, the 60mw North Hoyle development. For this, the company used its specially adapted jack-up barge Excalibur to sink 30 large-diameter steel monopiles into the seabed off North Wales.
- > Seaflow, a project aimed at harnessing the power of tides and currents in the open sea. Seacore took part in a phased R&D programme with other industrial partners, leading to the successful installation of the world's first offshore tidal turbine 3km off the Devon coast.

The company's team of highly capable mechanical engineers use an extensive range of state-of-the-art engineering design software, including AutoCad 2002i, Autodesk Inventor and MathCAD.

Support

Seacore has had considerable support historically from the Department of Trade and Industry, through its regional office for the South West. The company's wind and tidal turbine projects have been part-funded by the DTI's Renewable Energy Programme and the European Commission.