



SBM Offshore's Liza Destiny: Maximising operational efficiency on Guyana's first FPSO

Delivering first oil from SBM Offshore's Liza Destiny FPSO required a hook-up and commissioning campaign 200 km offshore in challenging seasonal conditions. With tight deadlines and seas rising as high as 5m H_s between December and February, safe and reliable personnel access was critical for operational continuity and to avoid costly delays.

To support these operations, Ampelmann deployed its E-type motion-compensated gangway system on board the Normand Installer. The gangway enabled a secure connection by utilising Ship to Ship (S2S) technology to compensate for the motions of both the vessel and the FPSO in rough seas.

On its first project in Guyana, supporting the country's first FPSO, Ampelmann ensured high uptime and reduced waiting on weather to less than 25 hours. By providing safe 24/7 personnel transfers, the accommodation vessel equipped with the E-type proved key to the success of the project.



Client
SBM Offshore



Region
South America



Sector
Oil and Gas



AMPELMANN



■ Challenges

1. Producing first oil within a tight schedule

Operating 200km offshore, operational expenditure on helicopters quickly compounds as flight times eat into tool time. First oil required high personnel throughput from a dedicated accommodation vessel supporting a large number of Personnel on Board (POB).

2. Operating in challenging weather conditions and rough sea states

The client needed consistent access during a period of harsh seasonal weather from December to February. Costly downtimes caused by rough seas had to be minimised.

3. Transferring personnel between the vessel and the FPSO required flexible landing options

In addition to changing sea states and wind directions, personnel had to be transferred between two floating assets. Despite these complex motions, the client needed to ensure that the FPSO remained accessible from different landing points.

■ Solutions

1. Providing 24/7 access to the FPSO for offshore personnel

The vessel was equipped with the E-type system to enable fast and continuous personnel transfers. Over the course of 158 days, the accommodation system stayed near the FPSO and provided 24/7 access to facilitate 9,991 safe personnel transfers. An average of 60 daily personnel transfers helped keep the project on schedule for first oil.

2. Providing the right combination of vessel and W2W solution

The E-type gangway system can operate in very rough sea states. By limiting waiting on weather to just 24.5 consecutive hours, the vessel and gangway combination reached a full utilisation of 99.3% during the entire campaign, allowing the offshore operations to continue during the harsh seasonal conditions.

3. The E-type provided the flexibility and reach to access the FPSO from multiple angles

Three landing locations were identified, and V-shapes were installed to maintain a secure and stable connection. The E-type's high motion compensation capabilities were especially well suited to deal with the simultaneous motions of the vessel and the FPSO in harsh offshore conditions. For this project, a longer gangway of 30m was deployed to provide the necessary reach.

■ Results

By reaching first oil in record time, the project demonstrated the value of motion compensated gangways in Guyana and proved their effectiveness on FPSOs in an emerging offshore market. It showed that reliable marine access is achievable even during harsh seasonal conditions, reducing reliance on helicopters, enabling consistent operations, and establishing W2W as a viable, resilient solution for future developments in the region.

■ Key stats

9,991
Safe
personnel transfers

99.3%
Uptime

158 Days
project duration

<9 Minutes
batch transfer time

About Ampelmann

Ampelmann is the leading offshore access provider that delivers safe and efficient access solutions to the global offshore energy sector. Ampelmann's diverse portfolio of modular and energy efficient gangways is tailored to meet every local and global demand, providing reliable and consistent access to offshore installations in a variety of sea states and weather conditions. The company is a key global player with strong local presences in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia Pacific and the Americas

