

NINA HAS SETTLED IN AT BOSKALIS SUBSEA CABLES & FLEXIBLES

The NINA safety awareness program was introduced at Boskalis Subsea Cables & Flexibles, the former VBMS, last year. Implementation is now proceeding apace. How have things gone? SHE-Q advisor at Subsea Cables & Flexibles Sebastiaan Janssen and project manager Mirella Verhage share their experiences. 'The NINA Rules and Values are a good addition to the safety approach developed by VBMS.'

'NINA emphasizes safety awareness, focusing importantly on talking to each other about unsafe behavior or unsafe situations, irrespective of the person's position. This is a good addition to the safety program we developed, which is tailored to the strict requirements in the renewables sector,' says SHE-Q advisor Sebastiaan Janssen. 'Our approach includes a number of specific elements that the NINA program does not cover adequately. So the challenge was to integrate NINA in a responsible way in our business operations. We would be taking a step backwards if we were to jettison to the safety expertise we have developed, but that is not a requirement with the NINA philosophy,' he says. 'By combining our approach with the good elements from the NINA program, we get the best of both worlds.'

NINA LOOK

NINA was introduced last year during a number of sessions with the management team, department managers and operational management. With support from SHE-Q colleagues, the Operations department played an important role in the further roll-out and during the NINA workshops, which started at the organization late last year. 'The NINA approach was used on recent projects such as Hornsea, Blyth and Arberdeen, and on the Arkona project in progress at the moment,' says Sebastiaan. 'We take the time for NINA moments and we arrange NINA Startup meetings. From now on, new colleagues will also follow the Do-It training or attend the Do-It workshop. Everything still takes a little bit of getting used to, but I think that many elements of our own approach, such as HAZID (Hazard Identification) and RAMS (Risk Assessment Method Statement) meetings, can easily acquire a NINA look. The ultimate objective continues to be to reduce risks and improve safety.'



ICEBREAKER

Mirella Verhage, project manager on the cable-laying project Arkona in the Baltic Sea, agrees. 'When I first came across NINA during my internship at Boskalis, I noticed how quickly a team spirit is created among people at a workshop. The same thing happened at the NINA workshop we organized earlier this year before a RAMS meeting,' she says. 'In response to our invitation, our client AWE (a joint venture of Statoil and E.ON) sent a delegation of ten people that included their logistics manager, cable package manager and their entire HSE department. In addition to the project team, we were represented by the offshore superintendent and the captain of the cable-laying vessel, as well as several colleagues who supervised the project internally, such as the project controller and the document controller. We had also invited the subcontractors. During the NINA workshop, on the first morning of our two-day RAMS meeting, we recorded the safety agreements for the project on paper and signed them in an interactive atmosphere,' says Mirella. 'When we went through all sorts of operational matters during the subsequent RAMS session with the client, and discussed the procedures and the project risks, you could see a high level of mutual understanding had been established in the morning. NINA often works as an icebreaker to bring people together and I think that's a plus.'

EXCELLENT ADDITION

'The NINA program fits in well with the safety program in place at Subsea Cables & Flexibles. The NINA program allows us here at Subsea Cables & Flexibles to use the existing infrastructure and materials to disseminate the safety program more widely,' she continues. 'NINA focuses on areas such as bridging cultural differences, which is a perfect fit with our requirements because the colleagues on our projects often have different nationalities. Before they go to work, all our riggers receive a detailed project induction training on board that now includes a range of NINA components. Together with the current safety program and the initiatives from NINA, we have an approach that is genuinely fit-for-purpose.' At the Arkona wind farm, 65 turbines will be installed with a joint capacity of 385 megawatts. The 65 inter-array cables have been laid by the cable-laying vessel Spirit, and the fallpipe vessel Rockpiper is now putting down a protective layer of rock to stabilize the cables. The cables will then be connected in the towers, followed by the completion of an extensive testing protocol.

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