

Contract: SeaStar Tension Leg Platform Hull
Client: COSCO Shipping
Location: Singapore to US Gulf



Challenge

Having constructed the hull for a SeaStar Tension Leg Platform in Singapore, Atlantia Offshore Limited was now faced with its transportation to the Gulf of Mexico for installation some 13,200 nautical miles away.

Transporting a TLP hull with a 33-metre overhang around the notorious Cape of Good Hope, was never going to be easy and was made even more complicated by minimal clearance to the still waterline.

The risk of slamming damage of the overhanging TLP hull was significant but Noble Denton, on behalf of Cosco Shipping used a combination of pioneering engineering and exhaustive marine procedures, to ensure a safe transportation for the TLP hull on time, within budget and with no damage.

Expertise provided

The hull, weighing 5,800 tonnes, was loaded at Singapore and embarked its voyage to the Matterhorn field in the US Gulf, via the Cape of Good Hope.

Noble Denton's experience of engineering and operational superintendency was called upon to manage the transportation exercise, while its project management team was responsible for preparing the loadout ballast plans, cribbing and seafastening.

During transportation, the massive TLP hull overhung the beam of the *Tai an Kou* (a semi-submersible vessel) by more than 33 metres when stowed on the hull's pontoons. The overhang on each side of the vessel was greater than the beam of the vessel itself.

This overhang required careful consideration and precise engineering at the planning stage before comprehensive marine procedures were developed for the long voyage. It was recommended that the TLP Hull was loaded and discharged by the float-on, float-off method.

Over a period of 18 months Noble Denton provided full engineering services to both COSCO – responsible for shipping the TLP, and Atlantia Offshore Limited, its manufacturer. During the loading, seafastening and discharging Noble Denton provided marine superintendency, ballast supervision and for the voyage itself, weather routing advice to the vessel's Master.

Outcome and benefit

Thanks to Noble Denton's meticulous planning, extensive engineering knowledge, consistent liaison with stakeholders and metocean capabilities the TLP was delivered across some of the world's most challenging seas in just 37 days. Significantly the TLP was delivered with no damage and was fit for immediate installation.

 NOBLE DENTON

THE FORCE OF THE OCEAN

www.nobledenton.com