

Foss Maritime completes major international sealift

Foss Maritime Company completed one of the world's largest sealift deliveries when it transported 36 prefabricated modules weighing up to 2,000 tons (1,800 metric tons) each to the Sakhalin-1 project. In doing so, Foss employed highly skilled Russian and Korean personnel, developed international partnerships, and achieved a strong safety and environmental record.

Foss began working with the project in 2003 when operator Exxon Neftegas Limited (ENL) contracted the company to transport cargo to the Chayvo work site on the northeast coast of Russia's Sakhalin Island.

Due to the urgency to complete the delivery, Foss entered the project without the benefit of a traditional operations model or site visit. Foss

worked with ENL and other consultants to develop a plan based on their experience in Alaska and other extreme environments to successfully load the cargo in the port of Korsakov on the island's southern tip and deliver it to the work site on schedule.

Continuing this successful relationship in 2005, ENL contracted Foss to deliver 36 large prefabricated modules to Chayvo. Foss established a fabrication yard in Ulsan, South Korea, and completed the sealift in two summer seasons, delivering 24 modules in 2005 and another 12 in 2006.

A Foss fleet of six tugs and an equipment barge departed their homeport of Seattle, Washington, on a 30-day voyage to the Far East in May 2005 and again in March of 2006. The equipment barge was loaded with a mobile crane, cutting-head dredge, dredge pipe, workboats, ballast pumps, forklifts, welding and cutting units, light plants and other heavy equipment. These were joined by a fleet of 12 chartered tugs and barges sailing from Singapore to Korea.

During the Sakhalin-1 sealift, Foss was responsible for managing marine transportation, ballasting/deballasting, heavy haul, maintenance dredging, engineering, shipyard and equipment modification and operating procedures for working in the severe sub-Arctic climate.



Foss Maritime shallow-water tugs escort a module barge near Sakhalin Island.

manager for the Ulsan segment of the operations.

Developing new supply chains

Foss also developed partnerships with international companies. It quickly established supply chains where none or

few previously existed. The company used international subcontractors for various aspects of the project, including heavy haul and dredging, and established an independently operated fabrication and installation facility inside the module fabricator's yard in Ulsan to modify the barges to meet the challenge of transporting the large heavy modules.

The Sakhalin-1 sealift demonstrated Foss' ability to manage its personnel and resources to operate successfully around the world in diverse and chal-

lenging environments. For more than 100 years, Foss has been operating in regions from Argentina to Alaska to the Russian Far East, providing a full range of marine-transportation capabilities including harbor, ocean-towing, shipyard and engineering services.

Ahead of schedule

The project was completed ahead of schedule, on budget and safely, with all materials delivered in good condition. The modules measured 280 feet by 45 feet by 85 feet (85 meters by 14 meters by 26 meters). The sheer size of these modules and the effect of wind made handling these barges a particular challenge. Foss not only worked out the complex loading, transportation and unloading logistics but also met environmental challenges including ice, typhoons and heavy seas.

Foss employed local Russian and Korean residents and subcontracted numerous Russian and Korean professionals, interpreters, stevedores and laborers. It hired Russian second mates for each of the Foss tugs and stationed a Foss deck officer on each foreign tug. The longshoremen, office manager, shipping agents, accounting manager, contract administrator and regulatory-compliance and safety officers were also local Russian employees. Additionally, Foss hired a Korean naval architect, shipping agent and office



FOSS

Foss Maritime
660 West Ewing Street
Seattle, WA 98119-1587 USA

Phone: (800) 426-2885
Fax: (206) 281-4702

E-mail: info@foss.com
Web site: www.foss.com