



John Ward (Facilities Manager / Lifting Technical Authority)

Internal Profile Q&A

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No	Question & Answer
1.	How long have you been with GMS and what attracted you to the Company in the first place?
Ans:	I've been with GMS for almost 10 years now. I joined in 2012 as a Cranes and Lifting Superintendent. I then became the Facilities Manager and Lifting Technical Authority. A key attraction for me to GMS was the safety culture. Safety is at the heart of everything I'm involved in, so I need to feel I have the backing of the people around me. That depends on the attitude and culture of the organisation and how seriously it takes safety. It's something that must be driven from the top. At GMS I feel there's a good positive safety culture. Health and safety are placed at the forefront of what we do. I don't get people saying no to me because it cuts corners. The people that work for GMS and what they bring to the Company are its most important assets, so it's right they're always put first.
2.	Tell us about your career so far?
Ans:	I've been involved in the oil & gas industry for over 30 years now. Twenty-one of those years were spent offshore. In that time, there's very little I haven't seen or come across. Prior to joining GMS, I was employed by Nor Offshore as Subsea crane operator working worldwide, finishing in the Gulf of Mexico, I also maintained the vessels cranes and lifting equipment. Prior to working for Nor Offshore I spent 10 years as the resident crane operator mechanic on the Saltire Alpha Platform, in the UK North Sea, with Sparrows Group. My career in the industry started with Maersk Oil in 1992 as AB/Crane Operator. Over that time, I've completed many certifications, including mechanical engineering, API crane inspector, Appointed person for lifting and a Sparrows Stage 3 rigger and crane operator, among others.
3.	You've talked a lot about health and safety, what, if anything keeps you awake at night?
Ans	People around me becoming complacent. Predominantly, incidents tend to occur during the lower risk, everyday tasks. When people are complacent that's when things can go wrong. It's important that people always stay focused and remain vigilant. That's not easy but lifting operations are high risk activities and the moment you switch off it tends to come back to bite you. Keeping people focused on the task requires a good safety culture. Its about how you approach each task and having the right disciplines in place to carry out each task safely. Fortunately, at GMS, we have a very positive culture towards health and safety. These things are taken incredibly seriously and that's reflected in the limited number of incidents and accidents that we tend to experience.
4.	How do you keep people focused and drive the right culture?



	<p>It's all about discipline and how you approach every job, however mundane they may seem. Getting that instilled into every aspect of the Company must be driven from the top. If people on the ground understand it's a key metric for those at the top of the organisation, they will take it seriously. That means when I'm looking to the people around me to plan every aspect of a lift, I know they'll do it. No stone will be left unturned, and every member of the team will have a clear idea of what they're doing and how they need to contribute. Again, without that sense of clarity and clear lines of communication, things tend to go wrong, and it doesn't take much for that to happen in this environment. As I said earlier, having a good safety culture ingrained within the Company has been a key attraction for me to GMS throughout my time here.</p>
5.	Tell us about what your average day looks like?
	<p>My responsibilities involve making sure lifting operations are performed safely. That requires a lot of preparation, planning, including briefing various individuals to make sure everyone is working as a team and knows what their roles and responsibilities are. I also manage and oversee the operation and maintenance of the 31 offshore cranes. That involves continually assessing the integrity of the cranes and their various components to minimise the chance of a failure. A component failure in one of these cranes can have severe consequences. It puts people at risk, along with the reputation of the Company, the integrity of the vessel and of course the cargo or personnel being lifted. GMS operates with some of the largest and most reputable companies in the region and is keen to continue to attract good people. A failure can put these objectives at risk. So, in addition to assessing the cranes, a lot of my day is spent procuring parts needed in good time and overseeing the proper fit of those parts. We work in a highly regulated environment, and I am glad to say that GMS is one of those companies that's always looking to meet or exceed what's needed.</p>
6.	What would you say to others considering a similar career to yours?
	<p>Be prepared to continually learn and listen to others. The way things are done today has changed considerably from when I entered the industry some 30 years ago. A lot of things have improved, based on a combination of leaning, the way we approach things and new technology. Throughout my career I have looked to add and develop new skills, through various courses and listening to others. If you want a long and successful career in this industry, I think being open to that is key to success.</p>