



Corrosion prevention is better than cure

2023 has been a remarkably productive year for Easy-Qote in the renewable energy sector. The company has participated in numerous events as both exhibitors and attendees, witnessing the undeniable enthusiasm for wind power development. Ensuring the longevity of these assets is crucial for the sustainability of this energy form. Implementing protective measures from the beginning can be pivotal in preventing structural failures, thereby prolonging asset life or even allowing for their repowering.



Looking back at this year, the growth and increase in appetite to make preventative and reactive maintenance solutions the best that they can be has been evident. Laura Hall, Senior Marketing & Communications Manager for Seal for Life asks Easy-Qote's Charlie Watt for answers to some of the most common questions that have been raised in recent months.

Laura Hall: Hi Charlie... I know PES readers will find this insightful. When looking at the EQ brochure people may feel it is designed for smaller areas of repair, can you confirm this?

Charlie Watt: Easy-Qote has the ability to work on both small and large-scale areas of repair. Ideally, it can be applied to a damaged area as soon as the damage occurs. If each wind turbine contained a roll of EQ, then the damage could be repaired instantaneously and not be allowed to deteriorate further

Imagine the maintenance cost savings that could be made by not having to return in the future to repair damaged areas that have deteriorated through time.

If, however, the coating damage has been left for a longer period of time, we will still be able to repair those areas. We are frequently being called in to repair larger areas where previous protection measures have failed, particularly at tower connections. Failure to resolve these larger areas is a risk to the structural integrity of the asset.

Secondly, we have been working with monopile manufacturers to develop a hard-wearing, quick-curing coating for large circumferential areas around the monopile. The optimum solution of using Easy-Qote Basecoat with a coating of Durashield from Lifelast, another brand from the Seal For Life Industries Group, gives additional mechanical protection to the monopile surface. The Durashield cures in around 6 to 8 hours to allow the monopiles to be processed through the workshop with a minimum delay.

LH: Are there any new applications that you are starting to work on?

CW: From discussions with our clients, one common area across the renewable sector

where coating damage is prevalent is in the boat landing areas. Clients are striving to be able to add additional mechanical protection to the steel structures.

The Easy-Qote solution to add mechanical protection is by installing EQ Basecoat and an additional four layers of outer glass shield provided by STOPAQ. We are increasingly looking into the options for providing this extra level of protection working with offshore wind developers.

LH: With the drive to net zero, how does Easy-Qote fit in?

CW: A big impact that EQ has is a 99% reduction in waste when compared to conventional paint systems.

Through our client research we found that in an evaluation of a 100 m² blast and paint approach, a total of 2,300 kg in waste was created. In that same situation utilising EQ a mere 11 kg of waste was created.

That same research showed 11 times less carbon emissions calculations than

traditional systems, a 91% CO₂ emission reduction. Easy-Qote is 100% plant-based, VOC-free, and non-flammable, with no chemical exposure risk to personnel nor dust/contamination particles typically seen through blasting practices.

With an extensive shelf life and a 30-year service interval, we are well placed to support the drive to net zero.

LH: What would you say is the 'lightbulb' moment for people when they visit you at events?

CW: I think it's the moment when people see just how easy it is to apply. The product can be installed quickly and gets to work within a few seconds. After basic surface preparation, you simply wipe the area to be repaired with an isopropanol wipe, then apply Easy-Qote using an application roller.

People can't believe the adhesion works so quickly, but it has been designed for this reason, you don't need to worry about multiple visits and inspections. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

LH: When considering shelf life, other products in the marketplace have a limited shelf life, is this an issue for EQ?

That's a great question that surprises people; it is 25+ years. We advise our customers that they can leave Easy-Qote in the turbine and use it when they need it. The moment you see a crack, chip or damage in the coating, simply cut and apply. Protection remains intact and there is no need for a large maintenance intervention to conduct extensive repairs down the line.

Imagine how much more maintenance budget can be freed up by completing the coating repairs in a single offshore visit.

LH: So with this year of events have you noticed any change in perspectives?



Charlie Watt

CW: Whilst we continue to spread awareness and introduce more people to our products, we are finding more and more people are coming along to our stands already aware of both the product and its capabilities. They have read about it, and heard about it from their networks, clients, and other companies. They arrive at the stand saying 'we were just talking about EQ'. In the course of this year brand awareness has definitely increased.

LH: Who is the EQ client?

CW: Our clients are across all sectors of the wind industry. From wind turbine developers for construction, to fabric maintenance providers, EQ is being seen as an innovative, cost-effective option for repairs to all offshore assets.

LH: We state on the website that the life expectancy of the products is 25 to 30 years. How can this be validated for a relatively new product?

CW: Easy-Qote is the natural evolution of the STOPAQ range of products which have been successfully servicing the oil and gas



Laura Hall

industry for over 30 years. EQ harnesses the STOPAQ technology and has been specifically designed to meet the needs and requirements of the renewable sector. It shows how time flies, as Easy-Qote has already built up six to seven years of experience in the renewable sector.

LH: In the renewable sector, there is a drive towards data management, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to help optimise operational maintenance efficiency. Can you play a part in supporting this optimisation?

CW: Absolutely. We can help in various ways including with the current drive for data management and machine learning, etc, there is a requirement for thousands of additional sensors, data collection points, and associated cabling to be fitted to all offshore assets. Easy-Qote is already being used around the globe to provide additional mechanical protection to these sensors and cabling.

LH: Is Easy-Qote for exclusive use in the renewable sector?

CW: Whilst it has been specifically designed for use in the renewable sector, there are many other clients across all sectors who can see the benefits of the products. It has already been installed in LNG plants, shopping centres, and global furniture stores, to name but a few. In fact, it can be used anywhere coatings have been damaged or corrosion exists.

LH: Are there any plans for Easy-Qote to be exhibited at events in 2024?

CW: Yes, 2024 will be another exciting year for us. We will be attending Wind Europe in Bilbao from 20th to 22nd March, Global Offshore Wind in Manchester on 18th and 19th June and Wind Energy in Hamburg from 24th to 27th September. For anyone attending the event feel free to drop in to our stands, meet the team and for a demonstration of the products and their capabilities.

www.easyqote.com

