

MY OTHER CAR IS...

THE ALLSEAS PIONEERING SPIRIT

GOT AN OIL RIG TO SHIFT? YOU'LL NEED THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SHIP

TG TOP FACT
Pioneering Spirit's makers are working on an even bigger version, due for completion in 2020

The perfect transportation for your evil air!



How does it work?

First, the topside of the rig is emptied and the legs, which can stretch hundreds of feet to the seabed, are sliced. The ship then straddles the rig, placing it between the two hulls.

Sounds romantic...

Eight giant arms then grab the topside of the rig and hold it steady. They constantly adjust their tension like a car's adaptive suspension, to compensate for the pitch of the waves.

Then what?

Ballast water is pumped out of the hulls to raise the decks, so the ship and rig bob free in a sort of floating cuddle, leaving the legs behind. It works a bit like a seagoing forklift.

What about the legs?

They're pulled out of the water, vertically, by a winch and crane system on the ship's stern. Once lifted, the crane frame - still carrying the legs - pivots backwards and lies flat on the deck.

Won't it drift on the tide?

The 12 propellers, made by Rolls-Royce, can spin through 360 degrees and act like thrusters, to constantly nudge the ship into a precise position in the water, determined by a GPS system.

One more thing...

Previously disposing of a rig would take months, but with the Pioneering Spirit it takes only a few days. With many North Sea wells running dry, it has a busy few years ahead...

SPEC SHEET

MANUFACTURER

Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering

ENGINE

8x diesel generators

PROPULSION

12x azimuth thrusters (propellers)

POWER

127,404bhp

TOP SPEED

16mph

LENGTH

382 metres

WIDTH

124 metres

GROSS TONNAGE

403,342

LIFT CAPACITY

48,000 tonnes

CREW

571

PRICE

£1.7 billion

SEA KINGS

THE WORLD'S LARGEST FLOATERS IN ONE HANDY PLACE



1. Shell Prelude

Essentially a giant, floating gas plant



2. Allure of the Seas

The world's joint-biggest cruise ships



3. CSCL Globe

The biggest container ship, from China

PLANET TG / #003