



A year in review

As we reflect on an exciting 12 months of developments and engagement in the wind energy sector, 2024 has been another standout year for major events. From Wind Europe in Bilbao to Global Offshore Wind in Manchester, UK, and culminating in the packed-to-capacity Wind Energy Hamburg, the EasyQote team has been energised by the advancements and opportunities seen across the industry.

These events were bustling with exhibitors and delegates, all supporting the major push towards maximising renewable energy sources. With consistent and busy footfall, it's interesting to consider the thoughts and questions people shared. We caught up with Dinko Cudic, Business Line Director for the EasyQote and STOPAQ brands at Seal For Life Industries, to ask him what was uppermost in his mind.

PES: Dinko, it has been a busy year so far, where EQ has attended some major wind industry events. What do you enjoy most about your conversations at the booth?

Dinko Cudic: I think the best part is that 'wow' moment, when you explain the concept and people realise just how easy and simple our products are to prepare and apply. They expect it to be more labour and time intensive and it really isn't.

I don't think I will ever get tired of telling prospective clients that. Corrosion prevention doesn't have to be complicated.

PES: We'd love to cover some of the most common questions you get asked if you don't mind starting us off?

DC: Of course, so the first one that often comes up is 'What is the curing time of EasyQote?'

This is a very common question and is in fact related to the standard coating people are used to, how long does it take to cure and what is the inter-coat time? This of course is related to the actual cost of applying a coating system.

EasyQote doesn't cure; it is a product developed from the STOPAQ brand, using Polyisobutene as its core ingredient. We compare it to honey because it maintains a fluid-like state with excellent adhesion. It never hardens, so it won't crack or split like many other coatings. Best of all, adhesion is immediate, just like applying a sticker, and you're done.

PES: Can it withstand the asset flexing?

DC: Since the product never hardens or cures, it allows for movement, such as during strong winds or flexing connections. Traditional systems can crack and cause coatings to flake, but EasyQote adapts, maintaining adhesion and consistent protection. We often compare it to skin, it accommodates changes, like gaining or losing weight.

PES: Do you have to mix it?

DC: No, the products are supplied on a roll, making them convenient and easy to use. The applicator just has to cut the amount required to cover a smaller area, as a patch, or alternatively wrap the product around the asset circumferentially, remove the release liner to expose the materials and start applying.



PES: What surface preparation do we need and what surface profile?

DC: Due to the polymer never really curing, and as we have compared it to honey, EasyQote uses a dispersive kind of adhesion. This means no surface roughness is needed for the adhesion. As a result, surface preparation is minimal and can be done with basic tools, such as an abrasive pad. Remove loose rust, and loose or chalking coating, and apply the product.

The best part is, you can try and peel it off, if you can, you will see the contamination that signals the need for more surface preparation, or if you just can't get it off, you're done!

PES: Does the top foil need to be removed?

DC: No, do not remove the top foil! When demonstrating the adhesion test by attempting to peel the material off the surface to check cleanliness and adhesion,

it's important to clarify that the backing itself should not be peeled off.

We have a weather and impact resistant backing that is part of the system and needs to stay on. As we mentioned before, just remove the release liner and that's it.

PES: Can it be submerged?

DC: It can be submerged once you've applied it to the prepared surface. Because the adhesion is immediate, it also means you can immerse it right after application. Another benefit of not having curing times.

PES: Do you have third party certification?

DC: We have accumulated many certificates and tests over the past 25 years that the technology has been on the market.

This also includes technology verification by governing bodies for service in splash zone conditions such as those covered by ISO 12944-CX.

Of course, the tests we are most proud of are reality tests or the performance in the field and the harsh environments the coatings have to perform in. From wave impact, and freezing conditions to sandstorms in the deserts. These are the many factors most laboratory tests do not test for.

PES: How do you know the product will last 30 years? Do you have a guarantee?

DC: EasyQote is powered by our STOPAQ brand that has been around for over 30 years. Our track record of projects and extensive testing shows that it provides this long-term protection in a wide range of aggressive environments.

In addition, we have performed multiple impedance tests on products that have been exposed for decades, showing insignificant aging.

We also have track records that exceed 25 years in service as more reality check tests from the actual field.

PES: What is the shelf life?

DC: It often surprises people that the shelf life is stated as none. We have operators storing EQ rolls on assets so that corrosion can be halted at the very first sign.

There is no need to mobilise a bunch of equipment and personnel. The simplicity of design and application make it the perfect maintenance solution. With no shelf life, there is never a need to return the products back from the assets, or dispose of them because of expiry dates.

PES: Can it be used on large repairs?

DC: From smaller spot repairs and internal flanges to large steel structures during new build of wind foundations structures.

The options are broad and in fact, we are working with operators to be a part of the installation process, where typical products used take considerable application time. It offers far shorter application times than the conventional coating systems without any environmental impact.

We did see repairs branch from 4m² superscript per turbine to 200m² superscript per turbine.

PES: Can it be used on boat landings at the boat impact area?

DC: Yes. Through discussions with our clients, we identified a common issue across the renewable sector: coating damage frequently occurs in the boat landing area. Clients are striving to be able to add additional mechanical protection to the steel structures.

We can add mechanical protection is by installing EQ Basecoat and an additional four layers of composite wraps with moisture-cured resins, provided by STOPAQ.

We are increasingly looking into the options for providing this extra level of protection working with offshore wind developers

PES: Do you install it or just manufacture it?

DC: We purely focus on the design and manufacture of corrosion prevention systems. We may offer training and provide supervision at times, but we do not undertake applications of the products.

We can confidently recommend contractors with extensive experience in applying EasyQote, guaranteeing the product performs to the highest standards.

PES: Can it be used as a leading edge coating?

DC: Unfortunately, as much as we would love to have this solution, it cannot be used as a protective film on the leading edge.

We have received a lot of inquiries on this and we see the potential. We will certainly look into it as a future solution to meet demand.

PES: Do you have approvals?

DC: We have been approved by many OEMs and operators and will gladly share what we can, with our clients and aid them in creating specs and application manuals, whether for new build or maintenance.

PES: What training do you offer?

DC: We offer training at our facility, at the client's site, and online training. Applicators need to do a theoretical part and most importantly a practical one. After successful completion of training, we issue certificates too.

PES: That's all the commonly asked questions answered Dinko. Do you have anything to add before we close?

DC: As we wrap up another fantastic year filled with growing interest and engagement in our products, the enthusiasm and innovation we've witnessed across the wind energy sector have been truly inspiring. With the momentum of 2024 behind us, we're excited to continue building on this success, driving advancements and strengthening our partnerships in the year ahead.

The future of wind energy is bright, and we're eager to play a key role in shaping it.

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