



# IFS Cloud for Marine Contractors



# Managing Projects and Assets Seamlessly with IFS Cloud

Marine contracting companies deliver complex projects on water—from offshore energy installations and subsea construction to dredging and coastal engineering. They operate in one of the most demanding environments, balancing project delivery with intensive use of high-value mobile assets like vessels, rigs, and ROVs. Their number-one business priority is to **protect thin project margins and manage risk** in an unpredictable setting.

Yet many marine contractors still rely on fragmented systems (separate tools for project costing, maintenance, etc.), leading to delayed insights and reactive decision-making. To thrive amid tightening margins, growing compliance pressures, and a surge of new opportunities (e.g. offshore wind projects), marine contractors need a unified digital solution that addresses both **project execution and asset management** in one platform.

**IFS Cloud meets this need with an integrated, industry-tailored ERP solution.** It combines robust project financial control with enterprise asset management, enabling marine contractors to deliver projects on time and on budget while maximizing fleet uptime and safety. In short, IFS helps marine contractors drive predictable project performance, stable cash flow, and operational excellence—even in remote offshore environments—through a connected digital backbone.

## The Biggest Challenges Facing Marine Contractors Today

The marine contracting industry is experiencing significant shifts. A transition to renewable energy (such as offshore wind farm construction) is opening new project streams, while traditional offshore oil & gas projects continue with high technical complexity. Projects are growing in scale and complexity—e.g. installations in deeper waters and harsher seas—and often involve joint ventures or multi-party consortia. At the same time, marine contractors must manage fleets of specialized equipment and ensure strict compliance with safety and maritime regulations (like class society certifications for vessels). Key challenges facing marine contractors include:

- **Margin Erosion:** Profit margins are easily eroded by small delays, scope changes, or unplanned costs. Many contractors lack real-time visibility into project financials, making it hard to spot problems before margins slip.
- **Unpredictable Cash Flow:** Billing cycles tied to project milestones and client approvals can create long delays in cash collection. Without integrated planning, companies struggle to forecast cash needs and may face working capital stress.
- **Fragmented Systems & Data:** Disconnected software for accounting, project management, maintenance, etc. means information is siloed. Teams waste time reconciling data from spreadsheets, leading to inconsistent reports and decisions made on stale data.
- **Asset Downtime & Compliance Risk:** Vessels and equipment must be available and certified fit for use. Unplanned downtime or lapsed safety certifications can halt projects and incur heavy costs or penalties. Keeping on top of maintenance and regulatory compliance across a moving fleet is a constant challenge, especially when operations are spread globally and offshore connectivity is limited.



**IFS Cloud gives us the agility and depth we need to support our global operations and sustainability goals. It's more than a system - it's a strategic enabler."**

Jean-Christophe Le Gal, General Manager, Dixstone

While marine contractors face growing complexity, digital technologies like IoT, drones, and AI are unlocking new opportunities to improve asset utilization, project planning, and risk management. By embracing digital transformation, contractors can operate more efficiently, adapt to emerging business models—such as offshore wind maintenance—and strengthen their competitive edge.

Industrial AI is redefining marine operations by turning real-time data into actionable insights. From optimizing crane usage to monitoring vessel performance and predicting maintenance needs, AI enhances operational predictability, boosts safety, and supports ESG goals—positioning marine contractors for smarter, more sustainable growth.

## ERP for Marine Contractors Solution Map



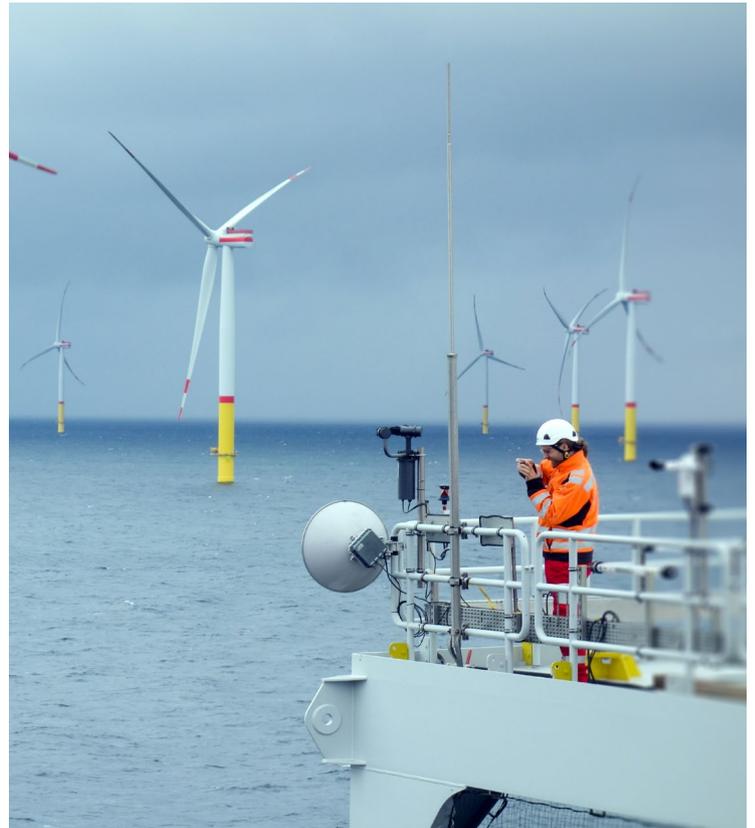
IFS.ai Industrial AI Platform



# Gain One Version of the Truth for Your Projects, Assets, and Finances

IFS Cloud for Marine Contractors is a single, unified platform designed to handle the full scope of marine contracting operations. It brings together what is typically handled by multiple systems into one solution, including: project management and costing, procurement and subcontractor management, asset maintenance, rental management, finance, HSEQ (Health, Safety, Quality & Environment), and more. By covering end-to-end processes, IFS provides one version of the truth across projects, assets, and finances.

Marine contractors using IFS gain real-time visibility into every aspect of project execution and asset performance, whether onshore or offshore. This integrated approach directly addresses the industry's pain points:



## Key Industry Challenge

### Thin Margins & Cost Overruns

Uncontrolled scope changes, delays, and disconnected cost tracking can quickly erode project margins.

Contractors often rely on monthly spreadsheets to understand costs, which is too late to correct course.

### Unpredictable Cash Flow

Project billing is milestone-based and often delayed by approvals or disputes, while expenditures (payroll, equipment, subcontractors) march on. This mismatch strains cash flow and makes it hard to predict liquidity.

## How IFS Addresses It

**Integrated Project Financial Control:** IFS consolidates all cost and revenue data from estimation through execution, updating budgets and actuals in real time. Managers get instant insights into project financials and forecasts, enabling early action to prevent overruns or approve changes before they affect margins. Live dashboards replace manual reconciliation, helping safeguard profits and avoid surprises.

**Automated Cash Planning:** IFS uses a forecasting engine to accurately predict cash inflows and outflows from projects, contracts, and procurement. The system updates cash plans as schedules change, letting finance teams anticipate cash shortages well in advance and respond proactively. Integrated billing and receivables speed up invoicing and reduce outstanding sales days, helping align project operations with financial planning for steadier cash flow.

## Fragmented Systems, Inconsistent Data

Using separate systems for project management, maintenance, inventory, and finance leads to siloed data and process gaps.

Reporting is slow and often unreliable, and employees waste effort entering and reconciling data in multiple places.

## Asset Downtime & Compliance

Marine equipment is both mission-critical and highly regulated. Unexpected breakdowns or missed inspections can halt operations.

Managing maintenance schedules, spare parts, and certification paperwork across a fleet deployed worldwide is labor-intensive without a dedicated system.

**One Unified Platform:** IFS streamlines operations by replacing multiple tools with a single cloud-based ERP. All key processes are connected—purchase orders update project costs and inventory automatically. Teams share one data model and interface, whether onshore or offshore, enabling faster reporting and company-wide best practices. IFS creates a single source of truth for better decisions and less IT complexity, while integration with external tools keeps all data visible.

**Enterprise Asset Management with Mobile Capability:** IFS provides integrated asset management optimized for mobile, critical assets. It handles preventive maintenance, inspections, class certification, and sends early alerts for upcoming maintenance or renewals. Field crews can manage work orders and inspections via mobile devices—online or offline—with results synced centrally, keeping remote teams connected. Asset movements are tracked, maintaining a full history of location, condition, and compliance. This maximizes uptime and compliance, reducing project delays and safety risks.

Beyond these core challenges, IFS Cloud’s broad capabilities support other critical needs of marine contractors. For instance, the system natively handles **multi-company project structures** and joint ventures, enabling proper financial control and reporting when a project is executed by several legal entities. It also embeds **Quality and HSE** processes (incident reporting, risk assessments, permit-to-work) directly into project and maintenance activities, so safety and compliance oversight is continuous rather than siloed.



**IFS Cloud will be the core ERP backbone across 60 countries, and will underpin trust and transparency for our new vision of ‘One Fugro’ which gives our global operations One System, One Standard, and One Way of Working”**

Andy Seymour, Global Director Operational Excellence, Fugro

## Transforming the Way Marine Contractors Deliver Projects

By implementing IFS Cloud, marine contractors can transform the way they plan and execute projects and manage resources.

Key benefits of our platform include:

- **Single Source of Truth, Better Decisions:** With all project and asset information in one place, managers get a real-time, 360° view of operations. They can trust the data and react faster. For example, project cost reports or equipment availability dashboards that once took days to compile are accessible on-demand. This leads to more confident decision-making and agile adjustments in both project execution and strategic planning.

- **Predictable Project Delivery:** IFS enforces consistent processes for bidding, planning, and execution. This consistency, coupled with real-time monitoring, means fewer surprises during delivery. Projects stay on schedule and budget more often, improving client satisfaction and company reputation. When deviations occur, they are flagged early. In short, IFS helps make project outcomes more predictable, turning project management from reactive fire-fighting into proactive control.
- **Protected Margins and Financial Control:** Integrated project accounting ensures that every cost is tracked and aligned with the project budget and scope. Project controllers can easily evaluate the impact of changes or delays and institute corrective actions to protect profitability. Companies have reported improved project margin retention after moving to IFS, simply because they catch issues that would previously go unnoticed until the project was closing. The CFO organization gains confidence that revenue recognition and forecasting are accurate to the current state of projects.
- **Maximized Asset Utilization:** Through IFS, marine contractors can schedule and maintain their equipment for optimum use. They can plan maintenance around project timelines, ensuring key vessels or gear are not in maintenance when they are needed on site. The ability to share real-time asset status and location means if one region's project is idle, a vessel could be redeployed to another project rather than sitting unused. Higher utilization directly contributes to revenue (especially if equipment is rented out) and lowers the cost per project. Moreover, well-maintained assets operate more efficiently and safely.
- **Operational Efficiency & Automation:** IFS automates formerly manual tasks—such as generating a project cash flow forecast, consolidating a multi-entity financial report, or converting a won bid into an executable project plan. Workflows and approvals are digitized. This not only reduces administrative overhead but also reduces errors. Employees can focus on high-value activities (managing subcontractor performance, optimizing the construction methodology, etc.) instead of chasing paperwork.
- The platform's support for emerging tech, including **Industrial AI, Agentic AI or Digital Workers**, means marine contractors can

leverage innovations like predictive maintenance algorithms or AI-driven project risk analysis without needing separate tools.

- **Continuity for Offshore/Remote Operations:** IFS Cloud is built with the understanding that marine projects often happen in remote areas with limited connectivity (offshore platforms, vessels at sea). The system supports offline work and data synchronization. Thanks to connectivity using Starlink or Oneweb, replacing the need for data replication. For example, a crew on a vessel can continue using the maintenance module even when the satellite link is down, with data syncing when the connection is restored.
- **Flexible, Future-Ready Platform:** IFS's modern cloud architecture means updates and new features are rolled out regularly, and the system can easily scale as the company grows or enters new markets. Because IFS covers a wide range of processes in one solution, marine contractors have the flexibility to expand their usage as needed.
- **Native Business Agility:** They might start with core ERP functions and later activate modules for things like field service management (if they begin offering maintenance services to clients) or manufacturing (if they take on prefabrication of components). The modular, but integrated, nature of IFS Cloud means companies can adapt it to new business models or regulatory requirements over time without a major re-implementation.



**At Van Oord, we believe that safety, sustainability and innovation go hand in hand. IFS Cloud is key to enabling us to achieve our net-zero emission commitment across our entire marine portfolio, including Dredging and Infrastructure and Offshore Energy.”**

Sander Korving, Procurement & Supply Chain Director, Van Oord

# Discover why the world's leading marine contractors choose IFS

From industry giants to agile specialists, marine contractors see strategic value in IFS's integrated approach:

**Van Oord**, a global marine contractor known for dredging and offshore wind projects, is implementing IFS Cloud to unify its project management and asset maintenance across more than 30 countries of operation.

**Fugro**, a leading geo-data and offshore services company, has deployed IFS as part of its digital transformation, standardizing processes across 50+ countries and now focusing on optimizing those processes through the IFS platform.

**N-Sea**, a specialized provider of subsea inspection, repair, and maintenance services, has fully rolled out IFS Cloud, replacing spreadsheets with a single system for managing project workflow alongside diving equipment and vessel maintenance – resulting in greater visibility and efficiency in their operations.

**Dixstone** delivers integrated solutions in construction, drilling and oilfield services, workover, marine services, and decommissioning. Dixstone will leverage IFS as their end-to-end ERP to support rapid growth and ensure real-time control over its multi-service business from the start.

# Driving Operational Excellence for Marine Contractors

Marine contractors operate in a high-stakes environment where the cost of delay, failure, or inefficiency is amplified by the scale of projects and assets involved. To succeed, they must seamlessly integrate their project-centric operations with their asset-intensive needs. IFS customers recognize that having projects, assets, and financials on one modern platform is a catalyst for better performance and competitive advantage.

**Marine contractors need a unified digital backbone now more than ever.** By providing a comprehensive solution that covers everything from project financial control and supply chain management to asset maintenance and compliance, IFS Cloud enables marine contracting companies to break down silos and achieve new levels of control and agility.

**With IFS, marine contractors can deliver projects predictably and profitably** while keeping their vital equipment running and in compliance. Finally be able to focus on what your business does best: executing ambitious projects across oceans and seabeds, with the confidence that your enterprise software is orchestrating all supporting processes in the background.

Discover **how to improve your efficiency and compliance today**, while also preparing to **capture the opportunities of tomorrow** – whether that's expanding into new service offerings, embracing innovative technologies, or taking on the next big challenge out at sea.



## About IFS

IFS is the world's leading provider of Industrial AI and enterprise software for hardcore businesses that make, service, and power our planet. Our technology enables businesses which manufacture goods, maintain complex assets, and manage service-focused operations to unlock the transformative power of Industrial AI™ to enhance productivity, efficiency, and sustainability.

IFS Cloud is a fully composable AI-powered platform, designed for ultimate flexibility and adaptability to our customers' specific requirements and business evolution. It spans the needs of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Enterprise Asset Management (EAM), Supply Chain Management (SCM), and Field Service Management (FSM). IFS technology leverages AI, machine learning, real-time data and analytics to empower our customers to make informed strategic decisions and excel at their Moment of Service™.

IFS was founded in 1983 by five university friends who pitched a tent outside our first customer's site to ensure they would be available 24/7 and the needs of the customer would come first. Since then, IFS has grown into a global leader with over 7,000 employees in 80 countries. Driven by those foundational values of agility, customer-centricity, and trust, IFS is recognized worldwide for delivering value and supporting strategic transformations. We are the most recommended supplier in our sector. Visit [ifs.com](https://ifs.com) to learn why.

