Claims

1. A semi-submersible vessel having a transit state and an operative state, the vessel comprising:

A first hull having a first topside;

A second hull having a second topside, the second hull operable to orientate between a first orientation and a second orientation;

A platform adapted to connect the first and second hulls; and

At least one lifting device,

wherein the first and second hulls are adapted to be ballasted into a water body in the operative state.

2. The semi-submersible vessel of claim 1, wherein the second hull is operated to orientate in the second orientation in the operative state.

3. The semi-submersible vessel of claim 1 or 2, wherein the first orientation is a vertical orientation and the second orientation is a horizontal orientation.

4. The semi-submersible vessel of claim 3, wherein the second hull is substantially planar to the platform in the horizontal orientation.

5. The semi-submersible vessel of any one of claims 1 to 4, the vessel further comprises a hinge, wherein the second hull is adapted to be connected to the platform via the hinge.

6. The semi-submersible vessel of claim 5, wherein the second hull is operable to rotate about the hinge between the first orientation and the second orientation.

7. A method of lifting a load at an offshore site from a water body, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing at least one semi-submersible vessel comprising:

A first hull having a first topside, and a second hull having a second topside, the second hull operable to orientate between a first orientation and a second orientation;

A platform adapted to connect the first and second hulls; and

At least one lifting device,

b) ballasting the first and second hulls into the water body;

c) positioning the at least one vessel alongside the load, wherein the first hull is adjacent to the load;

d) attaching the load to the at least one lifting device; and

e) operating the at least one lifting device to lift the load.

8. The method of claim 7, the method further comprising the step of operating the second hull to orientate it in the second orientation prior to step c).

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of operating the second hull comprises partially ballasting the second hull.

10. The method of any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein the first orientation is a vertical orientation and the second orientation is a horizontal orientation.

11. A semi-submersible vessel having a transit state and an operative state, the vessel comprising:

A first hull having a first topside;

A second hull having a second topside;

A non-buoyant platform adapted to connect the first and second hulls; and

At least one lifting device,

wherein the first and second hulls are adapted to be ballasted into a water body in the operative state.

12. The semi-submersible vessel of claim 11, wherein the platform is a truss structure adapted to connect the first and second hulls via the first and second topsides.

13. A method of lifting a load at an offshore site from a water body, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing at least one semi-submersible vessel comprising:

A first hull having a first topside, and a second hull having a second topside;

A non-buoyant platform adapted to connect the first and second hulls; and

At least one lifting device,

b) ballasting the vessel into the water body;

c) positioning the at least one vessel alongside the load, wherein the first hull is adjacent to the load;

d) attaching the load to the at least one lifting device; and

e) operating the at least one lifting device to lift the load.