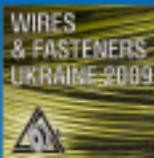


# EUROWIRE

May 2009 • US\$33\*



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## Looking to the East

In May and June this year, the wire and cable industry will be looking to the CIS to find out what's newest and best in our sector. EuroWire's March issue included a preview of wire and Tube Russia 2009; and this issue introduces Wires & Fasteners Kiev.

While the global outlook remains grim, Russia is weathering the storm. Despite a forecast contraction of 2 per cent of GDP this year the Russian stock market is said to have grown, with shares climbing 20 per cent over the last three months; the rouble has stabilised since it was declared the third worst performing currency (Russia's central bank now holds reserves estimated at \$400 billion); and a stable oil price of just over \$50 a barrel is helping to fund Russia's ambitious stimulus package and planned infrastructure spending.

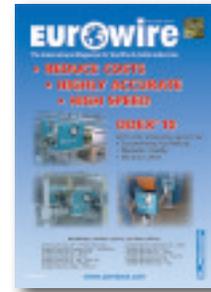
Reliant though it is on exports, Russia's economy may be better placed to withstand the global economic vagaries than those countries, such as the UK, that have become increasingly dependent on the financial and service sectors as generators of the national wealth. In June 2008 the Russian government announced an increase in infrastructure investment to over €650 billion over 15 years. In 2008 spending reached \$420 billion, the majority of which went into the railway network. The political will to invest in infrastructure, and the unwillingness to renege despite the current climate, appears to be attracting foreign investment too.

Although workers within the CIS countries are facing the same concerns as their counterparts elsewhere In Europe (shorter working weeks for less pay, for example) the government approach seems to be slightly different, and the result will be interesting to witness.

Perhaps visitors and exhibitors in Moscow will find the Russian spirit of optimism and confidence (what I've heard described as "the survivor trait" in the Russian personality) will prove contagious.



Gill Watson



\* US\$33 purchase only  
Front cover: Zumbach Electronic AG  
See page 104 for further details

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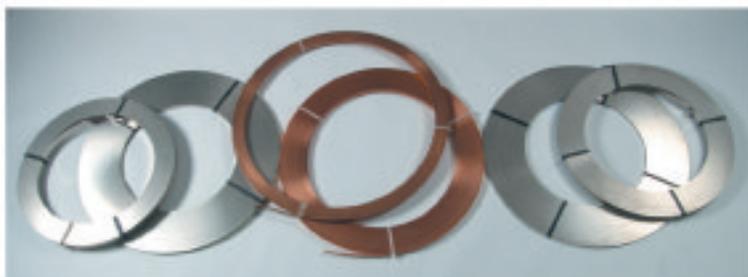




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## Wires & Fasteners Ukraine 2009

### June

10–12: **Wires & Fasteners Ukraine**  
trade exhibition – Kiev, Ukraine  
**Organisers:** TDS – Expo  
**Email:** olga@welding.kiev.ua  
**Website:** www.weldexpo.com.ua  
www.wire-ukraine.com

### September

18–21: **Wire Turkey** –  
trade exhibition – Istanbul, Turkey  
**Organisers:** Media Force  
**Fax:** +90 212 465 7417  
**Email:**  
info@mediaforceonline.com  
**Website:**  
www.mediaforceonline.com

### October

6–8: **Metaltech/Tubotech** –  
trade exhibition – Sao Paulo, Brazil  
**Organisers:** Grupo Cipa  
**Email:**  
international@cipanel.com.br  
**Website:** www.cipanel.com.br

13–15: **wire/Tube SE Asia** – trade  
exhibition – Bangkok, Thailand  
**Organisers:**  
Messe Düsseldorf Asia Pte Ltd  
**Email:** wire@mda.com.sg  
**Website:**  
www.wire-southeastasia.com

### November

2–3: **Istanbul Cable & Wire '09** –  
technical conference,  
Istanbul, Turkey  
**Organisers:** IWMA, WAI, ACIMAF  
**Fax:** +44 1926 314755  
**Email:** info@iwma.org  
**Website:** www.iwma.org

9–11: 58<sup>th</sup> **IWCS** – technical  
conference – Charlotte, NC, USA  
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**Fax:** +1 732 389 0991  
**Email:** admin@iwcs.org  
**Website:** www.iwcs.org

### April 2010

12–16: **wire/Tube Düsseldorf** –  
trade exhibition –  
Düsseldorf, Germany  
**Organisers:** Messe Düsseldorf  
**Fax:** +49 211 45 6087 7793  
**Email:** wire@messe-duesseldorf.de  
**Website:** www.wire.de

### September 2010

TBA: **wire China 2010** –  
trade exhibition – Shanghai, China  
**Organisers:**  
Messe Düsseldorf China  
**Fax:** +86 21 5027 8138  
**Email:** wire@mdc.com.cn  
**Website:** www.wirechina.net

### November 2010

18–20: **Wire & Cable India** –  
trade exhibition – Mumbai, India  
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▲ The invention's birthday is taken to be the day of the first successful test casting, 6<sup>th</sup> November 1968

# Forty years of continuous casting

Upcast® continuous upward casting is forty years old. The Upcast story began in the late 1960s, when casting directions were typically downward or horizontal; cast products were large in cross-section and required further processing in numerous downstream steps.

At Outokumpu's Pori (Finland) plant, research began into casting rod or tube that was closer to the size of the final product. The initial development work culminated in 1968 with the first successful upward test casting. Two years later the first production line was installed at the Pori foundry. The second line, commissioned for an outside customer for copper alloys, followed a year later.

The inventors of the technology were convinced that the Upcast method deserved active in-house development and should be treated as a valuable technological innovation. Their thoughts

were compiled into an internal report, "What to do with upward casting?" Based on the findings of the report, sales and development of upward casting technology was made into its own business entity within Outokumpu's copper division called the JAVA-unit (later renamed Outokumpu Castform Oy).

The unit's work proved fruitful, with 21 lines sold by the end of the 1970s. Landmarks of 50 and 100 commissioned lines were crossed in 1983 and 1993 respectively. Strong sales were seen as such a big threat to Outokumpu's own production activities that restrictions to the supply of Upcast technology outside the Outokumpu Group were set.

Coming to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a new page in the Upcast story was turned. First, Outokumpu Group's management decided to focus on stainless steel products and divest its copper products

division. This was followed later by an announcement from the new owner (Nordic Capital) to concentrate in copper semis production and to sell or close down all of its newly acquired technology companies. At that moment Castform Oy's management joined forces with two outside investors to ensure the continuity of Upcast business activities and Upcast Oy was created.

The Upcast system has come a long way since its creation, and development work is still ongoing. Upcast technology continues to be a leading continuous casting system for oxygen-free copper and copper alloys rod production with more than 170 units sold – an annual capacity of around 1.5 million tons.

**Upcast Oy – Finland**  
**Fax:** +358 207 577 401  
**Email:** info@upcast.com  
**Website:** www.upcast.com



## IWCS and CRU to work closer

For nearly 60 years, the International Wire and Cable Symposium has executed an annual symposium and conference where industry experts have presented the latest technologies in the wire and cable industry. In recent years, IWCS has expanded the programme to include vital information on the economy and on wire and cable market conditions. In this latter topic area, CRU Group of London, UK has provided current, critical information for industry decision-makers and presented this data to the IWCS audience.

In 2009, CRU data and speakers will be a featured component of the IWCS plenary session, offering current market information to the IWCS attendees.

### IWCS – USA

**Fax:** +1 732 389 0991  
**Website:** www.iwcs.org

### CRU – UK

**Email:** sales@crugroup.com  
**Website:** www.crugroup.com

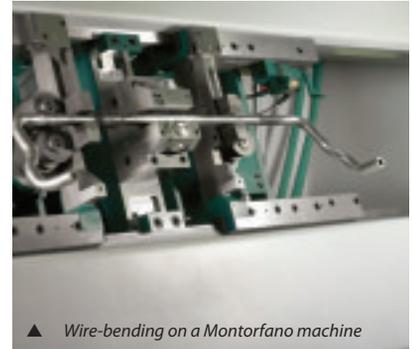
## Montorfano joins the BLM Group

BLM SpA of Cantù, Italy, a leading manufacturer of tube bending and end forming machines and systems, has purchased Officina Meccanica Montorfano Sas.

The takeover of Montorfano, effective from 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009, allows BLM to complement its technology in the tube-bending field with highly productive machines for the bending of wire, small diameter bar and tube, strip/profiles, and armoured heating elements.

For more than forty years Montorfano has specialised in the manufacture of multi-head machines for wire bending, its first patent for this type of machine being granted in 1965 and its first three-axis CNC machine introduced in 1979.

Today the company offers a range of eighteen standard machines capable of bending wire and bar from 1mm to 33mm diameter. These machines are widely used in the automotive and construction industries, and in the production of household appliances,



▲ Wire-bending on a Montorfano machine

indoor and outdoor furnishings, bathroom accessories, and equipment for shops and stores.

### BLM Group UK Ltd – UK

**Fax:** +44 1525 402 312  
**Email:** sales@blmgroup.uk.com  
**Website:** www.blmgroup.uk.com

### BLM Montorfano – Italy

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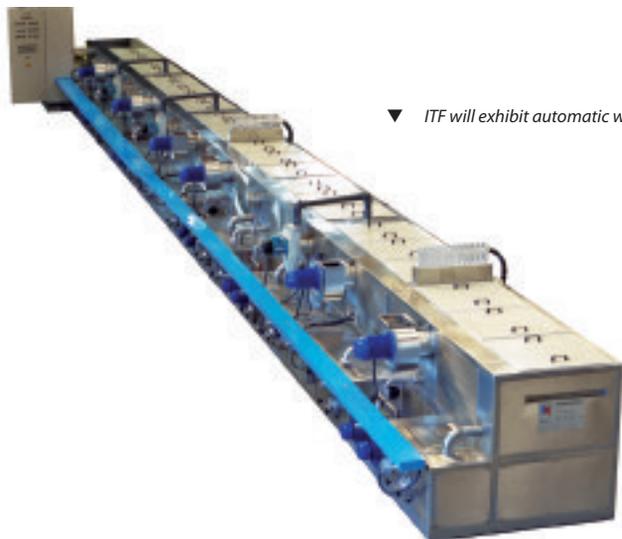
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# Automatic wire cleaning at Kiev



▼ ITF will exhibit automatic wire cleaning lines

Exhibitor at this year's Wires & Fasteners Kiev, ITF Group is among leading suppliers of integrated solutions for cleaning, degreasing and deburring. Knowledge and experience gained over 30 years of activity enable the company to provide its customers with a wide range of individual solutions across customised machines.

ITF's automatic plants for metal wire cleaning and degreasing represent one of these individual solutions. This type of plant has been designed and developed for continuous automatic removal of oils and draw residuals from up to 24 wires. The wire is cleaned by mechanical and chemical actions, giving excellent results.

The cleaning cycle can include spray washing, ultrasound cleaning, spray rinsing and blowing with forced air.

In the loading and unloading area, on the opposite site of the plant, the plates where the wires enter the line have ceramic bushes. Other features of this flexible wire washing plant include:

- Powerful ultrasound
- Ultrasound tank equipped with pump for continuous maintenance of level
- Ceramic bushes to allow for smooth wire run
- Spray rinsing with net water supplied by a factory net

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## Tratos has acquired North West Cables

Tratos Ltd, the UK distribution subsidiary of electrical cable manufacturer Tratos Cavi SpA of Italy, has completed its acquisition of North West Cables Ltd and its subsidiary, Modular Wiring Systems Ltd.

The deal has resulted in all UK manufacturing being transferred to the bespoke Knowsley facility and more staff have been employed there.

John Light, the UK group managing director, believes: "The purchase is of strategic importance to give us a manufacturing operation here, particularly as it is based in what was once the heartland of the British cable industry."

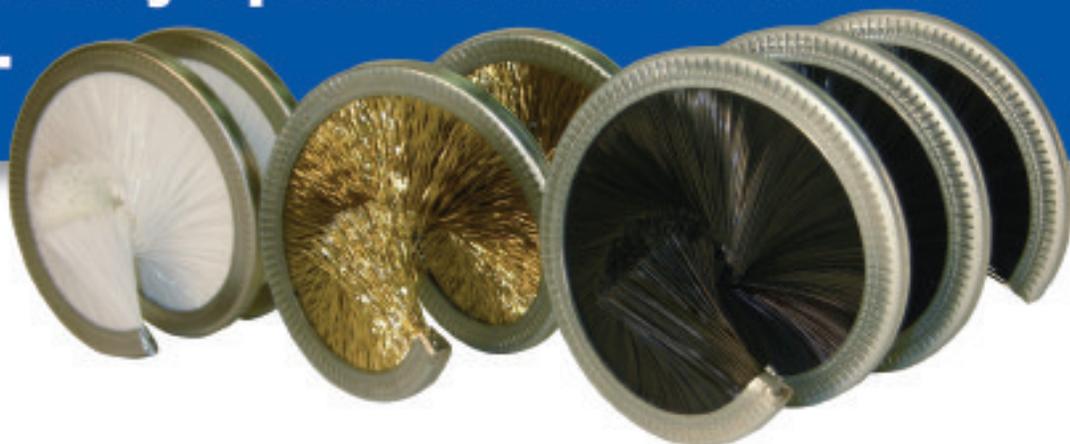
He continued that taking over the Modular Wiring Systems business puts the group at the forefront in this area, which is based on an easily installed modular sub-circuit distribution system that is prefabricated off-site.

Under the new ownership, North West Cables has become Tratos, whilst Modular Wiring Systems will retain its name and become a Tratos Group company.

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## Industry mourns two old friends

### William (Bill) F Hankel

The founder of H&W Pressure Welding, Bill Hankel of Warminster, Philadelphia, died on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009, aged 84.

A WWII veteran serving in the United States Navy, Bill was previously employed as a theatre manager for Warner Brothers in Philadelphia. The Heintz Corporation in Philadelphia then employed him for 35 years before he started his own business, H&W Pressure Welding. In 1984 he became sole USA distributor for British company PWM (Pressure Welding Machines).

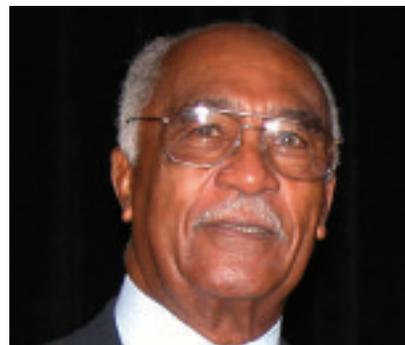
Following a very fit and active life Bill never really submitted to retirement convinced that the next day he would



be back at work. A keen follower of thoroughbred horse racing, Bill enjoyed nothing better than a day at the races.

Bill was the father of a son, William F Hankel Jr, and three daughters, Carolyn Schermerhorn, Suzanne Davidson, and Jennifer Schermerhorn, and had eight grandchildren. His wife, Constance J Hankel, predeceased him.

### Elmer 'Ace' Godwin



John Barteld, CEO and director of IWCS, writes that the wire and cable industry lost a legendary leader and friend when Elmer 'Ace' Godwin, former CEO and director, passed away in late February.

An electronics engineer, Ace worked with the US Army Electronics Command research and development laboratories at Fort Monmouth, NJ. Upon his retirement from the Army in 1979, Ace joined the International Wire and Cable Symposium as its CEO/Director. Ace led the IWCS for 23 years, retiring in 2002.

Ace came from a very humble background in rural Virginia. His education commenced in a one room, segregated schoolhouse on his grand- parents' farm, where the value of education became deeply embedded in him. Eventually leaving the farm for further education, Ace faced the realities of a segregated

country in the pre-World War II era. Joining the US Army early in the war, Ace became a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the all black 223<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Squadron. Ace distinguished himself during his service to the country, being awarded a Good Conduct Medal and the Distinguished Unit Badge while serving in Italy.

After the war, Ace continued his pursuit of education, first at Monmouth College and eventually at Rutgers University, where he received his BS degree in engineering. He then went to work as a civilian for the US Army.

Ace became a leading international lecturer and authority on wire and cable engineering, and contributed significantly to the growing International Wire and Cable Symposium, which was also headquartered at Fort Monmouth.

John writes, "On a personal note, I have had the honour of knowing Ace for only the past six years, but Ace continued to 'look over my shoulder' at the operations of the IWCS. He was keenly interested in the success of the IWCS and always available to offer a kind word of advice, or just to offer encouragement when obstacles loomed. I shall miss him."

**IWCS – USA**  
**Fax:** +1 732 389 0991  
**Website:** [www.iwcs.org](http://www.iwcs.org)





## Marking 80 years in business

This year the family firm of Medek & Schörner celebrates the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding by Josef Medek and Gustav Schörner.

Originally a precision engineering workshop, the company began the manufacture of machines for the marking of cables, wires, pipes and continuously extruded products in the 1950s.

Today's third generation of management (Fritz Descovich II and Kurt Descovich, grandson of founder Josef Medek, and Werner Lichtscheidl, son-in-law of Gustav Schörner II) has continued the company's established traditions of its forebears. Advanced technological expertise, highly trained staff and the latest in production technology continue to ensure the quality of the company's products.

The erection of a production facility at Grossebersdorf in 1989, equipped with the very latest machine tools, went hand in hand with a focus on research and development and a special emphasis on complex electronic controls. This



▲ A focus on research and development

made it possible to continue producing conventional products of exceptional quality, while keeping pace with the latest developments in modern technology. This was of particular benefit with respect to technically highly sophisticated equipment for the colouring and coating of optical fibres for glass fibre cables.

Medek & Schörner believes that its employees represent the company's

real capital. Most of the firm's precision engineers were first employed as apprentices, learning the production of high-precision mechanical components on modern CNC machine tools. Conventional SPS controls and drive components are used in electronic and control engineering, and high-speed processor controls – developed in-house – are employed wherever the standard components available on the market reach their technical limits.

The engineers involved in research, development and design are the same engineers who deal with the wide range of problems encountered by customers in everyday on-site operation. This ensures that Medek & Schörner technology stays true to its maxim: to support the company's customers in every way and meet their requirements in the best possible manner.

**Medek & Schörner GmbH – Austria**

**Fax:** +43 1982 7296

**Email:** m+s@medek.at

**Website:** www.medek.at

## Joint venture agreements

Nexans has signed final agreements with Polycab, India's largest cable company, for a joint venture to be majority-held by Nexans and managed in close cooperation with its Indian partner.

The joint venture, headquartered in Vadodara in Gujarat, will cover the manufacture and marketing of cables for the shipbuilding, material handling, railway and windpower industries. The

agreements include the production of high voltage (HV) underground cables, which was initially anticipated to constitute a second phase.

Michel Lemaire, executive vice president for the Asia-Pacific area of Nexans, said: "We are teamed up with a high-quality partner to ensure the success of our first industrial venture in the Indian market as well as benefiting from the sustained

growth of this emerging economy. The immediate extension of the scope of our agreement to include high voltage cables should allow us to take a strong position in the growing power infrastructures market in India."

**Nexans – France**

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# Welders and lines for wire products

FROMA, who will be exhibiting at Wires & Fasteners Kiev, specialises in the planning and building of special production lines designed to meet each client's particular needs. The company's manufacturing programme includes the following:

- Automatic welding machines for electro-welded mesh panels, working from coils or bars from 800mm-3,000mm
- Automatic bending and welding machines to produce flat or three-dimensional rectangular rings with or without mid reinforcing bars from round and flat wire
- Automatic welding machines for grids
- Specialised bending and welding machines for supermarket trolleys and equipment
- Hydraulic presses and tooling to bend and weld wire baskets and containers
- Special transfer lines of welding machines to produce flat mesh panels; or forming presses, welders and complementary machines to manufacture complex wire products, such as dishwasher baskets.



▲ This 1158-2B automatic line produces a dishwasher upper basket

The company believes that an increasingly competitive marketplace, requiring faster production without any loss of quality, has helped them develop their own niche using experience across many different technologies in automation.

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## Celebrating 25 years of pressure

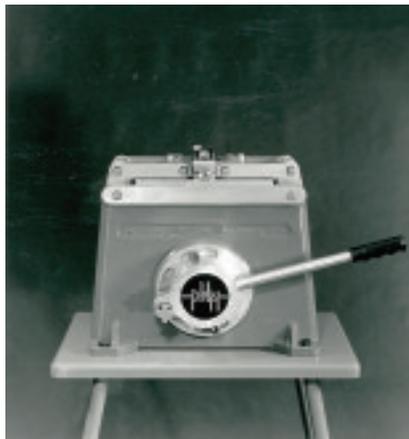
Developing a cold welder to join large rod sections, and a die to bond very fine wire are just two of the milestones in the history of British company PWM, which celebrates 25 years of service to the international wire and cable industry in May 2009.

PWM, which designs and manufactures high performance cold pressure welding equipment and dies, has been at the forefront of cold weld technology since 1984. The PWM range includes machines for a wide variety of applications, from hand held manually operated welders for joining fine copper/aluminium wire from 0.08mm diameter, up to large, heavy-duty electro/pneumatic and electro/hydraulically powered rod welders, with capacities of up to 30mm in diameter.

The company is thought to have pioneered the process of cold welding very large rod sections with the introduction of its first rod welder in 1985. The electro/pneumatic EP500, developed to meet industry demand for a machine that could accommodate copper rod up to 12.5mm in diameter and aluminium to 15mm, is still in production today and is one of PWM's best sellers. At the other end of the scale, on-going research and development has enabled PWM to develop dies capable of joining wire as fine as 0.08mm in diameter.

Recent product innovations include the P1000, an extremely compact, yet powerful rod welder, and an automatic version of its best-selling portable HP100 air-hydraulic model.

These energy efficient machines provide a reliable permanent weld stronger than the parent material, helping to reduce material wastage and cut costs.



▲ An early machine from PWM

Looking to the future, PWM's managing director, Steve Mepsted, said: "Despite the challenging market, we enjoyed record sales growth last year.

Cold welding continues to provide a consistent, reliable and cost effective method of welding non-ferrous materials and we are confident that we will be able to meet the changing needs of our global wire and cable industry customers in the years to come."

**Pressure Welding Machines – UK**  
**Fax:** +44 1233 820847  
**Email:** pwm@btinternet.com  
**Website:** www.pwmltd.co.uk

## Two-for-one

This year the International Wire & Machinery Association celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark the occasion its executive board is making a special offer to all existing and new applicant members.

Member organisations renewing in 2009 will receive two year's membership for the cost of one year, regardless of renewal date. Similarly, organisations applying to join the IWMA in any month during 2009 will be given two years' membership for the price of one year.

**International Wire & Machinery Association – UK**  
**Fax:** +44 1926 314755  
**Email:** info@iwma.org  
**Website:** www.iwma.org

## New Indian agency for Uhing

A sales partnership contract for a second Uhing agency in India, LMI India (P) Ltd, came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. "The Indian market is developing very fast," explained Uhing's head of marketing, Wolfgang Weber.

Following a recommendation, Weber met Mohan Pandit – owner of LMI India (P) Ltd – at the Wire & Cable Fair at Mumbai in November 2008. A seller of product identification solutions and non-contact measuring systems the company, headquartered in New Delhi, has made its mark in the wire and cable as well as the process industries.

The new partner is familiar with German business culture, having been a sales partner for another German company for some years, and will act as an agent for both German companies since the product portfolios complement each other.

"In addition to all these advantages, our new Indian business partner convinced us with his high expertise and enormous proactivity," points out Weber.

LMI India has offices in Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jamshedpur and Surat, ensuring that LMI India employees and existing and future customers will always be within easy travelling distance.

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## UK Nicoletti agent

Techna International Ltd has announced its appointment as UK agent for the range of products from Italian manufacturer, Meccanica Nicoletti Srl.



▲ Techna International is UK agent for Nicoletti

Meccanica Nicoletti produces cable winding and unwinding machinery, 70% of which is exported. Nicoletti's main product areas are:

- Fully automated winding and unwinding work-systems for large-volume cable distributors/handlers
- Vertical cable-drum storage, unwinding and measuring racks
- Machines for winding and unwinding, on reels, coils, coils to reels, coils to coils, reels to coils and reels to reels
- Winding and unwinding accessories for electrical wholesalers, installers and contractors
- Palletised drum racking

### Techna International Ltd – UK

Fax: +44 1923 219 700

Email: [sales@techna.co.uk](mailto:sales@techna.co.uk)

Website: [www.techna.eu](http://www.techna.eu)

## Copper Klad enamelling plant

The research and development division of SICME Italia Impianti has completed and commissioned what is believed to be the first horizontal universal enamelling plant for copper, aluminium and copper Klad with high flexibility (diameters from 0.2mm to 1.2mm) and low energy cost (0.8kW per kilogram product).

SICME Italia Impianti has recently opened a new office in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with Mr Fabrizio Fonsatti taking the role of manager.

### SICME Italia Impianti – Italy

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## Madem launches Gulf Industries

On 8<sup>th</sup> February at the Middle East Electricity Show, Dubai, Madem Reels Group introduced its newest member, Madem Gulf Industries WLL, located in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Leandro Mazzaccato, Madem Group sales director said: "Our new plant will streamline our Middle East operations, and provide our customers with lowered inventories while optimising their logistics. We are absolutely confident in the success of our new manufacturing unit, and our Middle East customers are looking forward to our start-up. Production will begin in May."

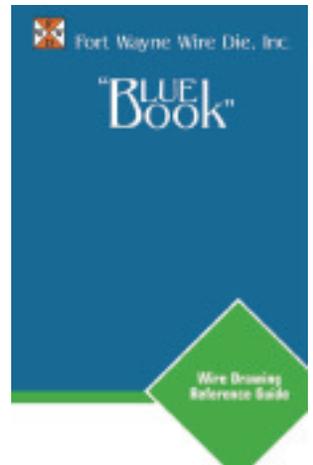
Madem Gulf Inc will initially produce 50 truckloads of reel kits per month, increasing to 100 truckloads per month by June. A third shift has not been ruled out.

Mazzaccato states that: "We could achieve 150 truckloads per month at our Bahrain facility alone, but we could also launch another manufacturing unit in another Gulf country. In the last 15 years Madem has enjoyed the steadfast support of our loyal Arab customers, supplying more than 80 per cent of all imported reels in the Middle East to over 15 customers. With our new local production capability we're hoping to boost our market share of locally produced reels as well."

**Madem Reels – Brazil**  
**Fax:** +55 54 3462 5900  
**Email:** madem@madem.com.br  
**Website:** www.mademreels.com

## New Blue Book

Fort Wayne Wire Die Inc has released an updated edition of its Blue Book wire drawing reference guide, available in English, Chinese and Russian, designed to allow wire drawing professionals to specify wire dies more precisely and efficiently, using the most current information available.



Content includes useful wire gauge charts, detailed technical drawings of wire dies and their nomenclature, die re-cutting options, mathematical wire drawing principles and more, all constructed and organised to guide engineers through a logical die selection process.

▲ The informative Blue Book

Fort Wayne Wire Die Inc designs and manufactures precision wire drawing dies for the wire industry.

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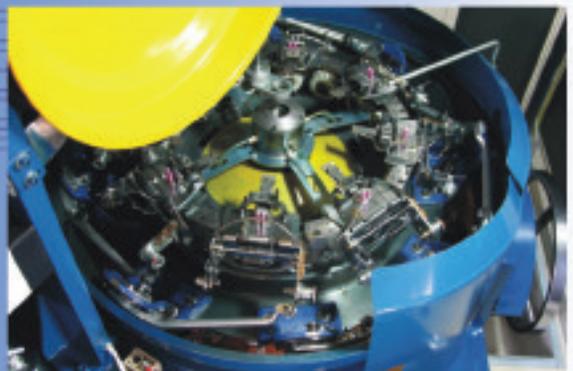
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## Distinguished career rewarded

The Wire & Cable Manufacturers' Alliance (WCMA) announced Don Shaw, director of sales and marketing for Daikin America, as the recipient of a 2009 Distinguished Career award. The annual awards dinner and investiture ceremony was held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009 in Windsor, Connecticut.

Don began his career in field sales with Ausimont USA, and went on to become the national sales manager for the PTFE, melt fluoropolymer and teflon fluoroelastomer businesses.

Don left Ausimont in 1993 to work for Daikin America in field sales, and in less than three years had helped the company's US sales grow from \$80 million to \$300 million.

In 1995 he was promoted to wire and cable sales manager and eventually to director of sales and marketing for the polymer and fluoroelastomer businesses run by Daikin in the US.

**Daikin America – USA**  
**Website:** [www.daikin-america.com](http://www.daikin-america.com)

## Harness contract

Leoni has won a large contract with engine manufacturer Cummins. For five years, Leoni will equip a variety of diesel engines with wiring harnesses.

Cummins is among global power leaders in the design, manufacture, sales and service of diesel engines and related technology around the world, and Leoni has been supplying the company, headquartered in Columbus, USA, with several types of wiring systems for over ten years.

Recently, both companies signed a new sourcing agreement. According to this, Leoni will supply wiring harnesses globally for several Cummins product series until 2012.

Cooperation between Leoni and Cummins has existed since 1997, when Leoni purchased the Cummins Electronics Division harness business. Ever since, there has been a strong technical and engineering relationship.

**Leoni AG – Germany**  
**Fax:** +49 911 2023 231  
**Email:** [info@leoni.com](mailto:info@leoni.com)  
**Website:** [www.leoni.com](http://www.leoni.com)

## MPI range sold worldwide

MPI was established in 1979 to manufacture high quality wire and cable machines, and has completed thirty years of continuous development and service to the wire, power and telecom cable industries.

The company is proud to have developed into a leading manufacturer of machines and has successfully commissioned equipment at cable factories in India, the Middle East and Europe.

The manufacturing range includes wire-drawing machines; rigid and planetary stranders; wire, strip and tape armouring machines; drum twisters; laying up and rewinding machines, and cable sheathing lines.

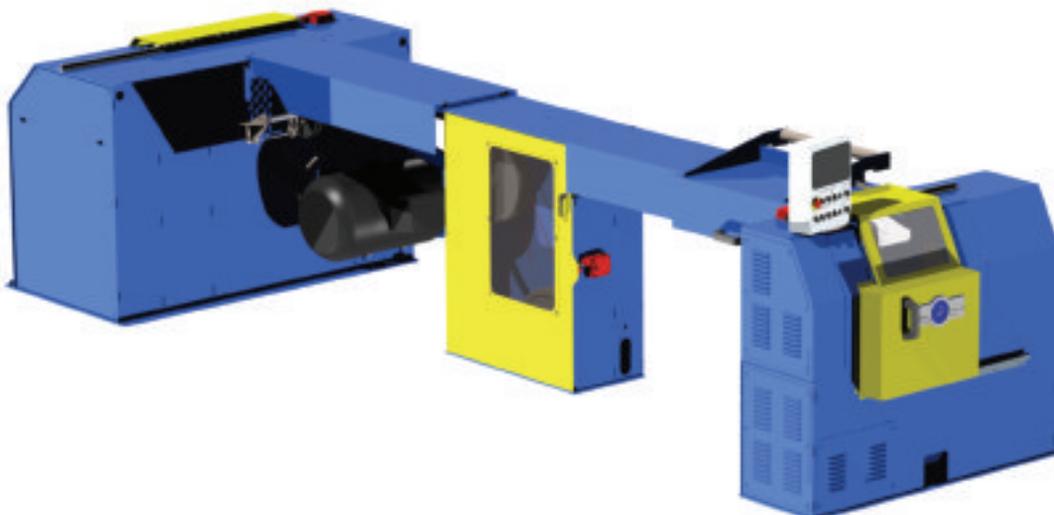
MPI has recently received a bulk order from Middle East cable companies for the supply of a variety of cable manufacturing machines.

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**Website:** [www.mpigwl.com](http://www.mpigwl.com)



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## Business

### Overseas firms seeking opportunities under the US stimulus act proceed confidently but carefully

American firms are not the only ones vying for contracts under the \$787 billion economic stimulus programme announced by US President Barack Obama. Hundreds of foreign-owned companies, believing that they offer more expertise than US companies in the same industry, are intensifying their lobbying efforts. Many are already active in the US and know their way around state capitals as well as Washington, DC.

Their initiative has boosters in high places, among them Spain's Prince Felipe who, with his wife Princess Letizia, visited the US this spring to scout business opportunities for Spanish companies in the stimulus package.

In remarks at a business luncheon in New York, the prince set his purpose in a global context: "Only by working together with US businesses and government, as well as coordinating our needs and priorities, can we get our countries, and world, back on track."

While zeal in the pursuit of commercial advantage is acceptable – even commendable – staff writer Dan Eggen of the *Washington Post* pointed out that foreign companies, trade ministries, and business groups are at some pains not to arouse nationalistic sentiment in US lawmakers and their constituents. He said the firms are being advised by consultants to stress that any contracts they land would lead to jobs in the US rather than overseas. ("Foreign Firms Eye Stimulus Dollars," 23<sup>rd</sup> March)

Mr Eggen noted that the overseas-based companies are not alone in going gingerly. President Obama wants the US to focus on alternative energy, rapid transit, and other technologies pioneered in Europe and Asia. But "Buy American" provisions in the stimulus legislation and elsewhere in US law require that most materials and work originate in the United States. According to Mr Eggen, such statutes are "effectively silent" on where the parent firm must be based.

Will strict interpretation of the law seriously thwart the president's aims? Jayson Myers, the chief executive of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, an Ottawa-based industry group, stated the problem: "Once you get into some of these specialized technologies, only one or a few companies worldwide can provide it. If you want to advance the innovation priorities of the Obama administration, it becomes very difficult without involving foreign companies."

\* The stakes for the US president can be seen in a chief element of his stimulus programme. Mr Eggen of the *Post* observed that most firms specialising in the transit and high-speed rail projects dear to Mr Obama's heart are based overseas. Bombardier, of Canada, and Alstom, of France, provide two examples. Transurban Group, of Australia, is a world leader in the development of toll roads. It happens to be already at work on high-speed toll lanes along the Capital Beltway, in Washington.

Telecommunications is another area important to Mr Obama, whose stimulus sets aside \$7.2 billion for upgrading broadband networks in the United States. Alcatel-Lucent, of France, with its New Jersey-based research arm Bell Labs, would appear to be a prime contender for some work under the plan.

The president's stimulus package is very new; so, too, is the race for preferment that it has set off. But already one thing is clear. According to federal statistics cited by the *Post*, foreign-owned firms employ 5.3 million workers in the US, spend \$336 billion on US payrolls, and account for 20% of US exports. This constitutes a significant presence on the American scene. Firms so situated are not disposed to wait for trifling eligibility questions to be settled before moving to tap into stimulus-related business.

Sanyo North America, an arm of the Japanese technology giant, provides a case in point. Officials of the company, which broke ground recently on a solar-panel plant in Oregon, told Mr Eggen that they are readying their strategies. Senate records show that the firm recently registered as a lobbying organisation in Washington for the first time since 2001.

Aaron S Fowles, of Sanyo's San Diego unit, said, "With the new stimulus package that the federal government has announced, it is starting to appear that the US market will be a prime location to focus much more effort on our environmental and energy-related technology and products."

## Automotive

### Canadian and American auto workers show a new willingness to accept sacrifices to help save their industry

The Canadian Auto Workers union on 8<sup>th</sup> March said that it had reached a tentative agreement with General Motors Corp on a freeze of wages and pensions until September 2012, together with other concessions required to qualify the company for Canadian government aid. GM's Canadian unit is based in Oshawa, Ontario, east of Toronto.

The Conservative government of Canada had made it a condition of providing financial aid to GM and Chrysler Canada that the union agree to bring labour costs into line with costs at Canadian plants operated by Toyota and Honda. As in the United States, the differential in labour costs between Japanese-owned auto companies and others is a contentious subject in Canada. In 2008, after 77 consecutive years as global leader in auto sales, GM conceded first place to Toyota.

While currency fluctuation was not explicit in the agreement announced in early March, the recent decline in value of the Canadian dollar probably allowed the union to avoid wage cuts. The Canadian dollar had fallen, over a year, from about parity to a roughly 25% discount to the United States dollar. At a news conference in Ottawa to announce the agreement, Jim Stanford, chief economist for the union, acknowledged that, if the Canadian currency were to return to par, labour costs at Canadian plants would exceed those in the United States.





But he considers the Canadian "loony" unlikely to strengthen to that point before expiration of the new agreement. The pact renews for another 12 months a contract already in effect. The union credits its year-long effort under the earlier agreement for a collective reduction in Canadian labour costs at GM, Chrysler, and Ford of about C\$900 million (US\$694 million). Ford has not applied for government assistance, in either the US or Canada.

#### And from Detroit . . .

✱ In an almost concurrent development, the acceptance, on 10<sup>th</sup> March, of renegotiated contract concessions by hourly workers at Ford Motor Co plants across the United States intensified pressure on General Motors and Chrysler to come to terms with the United Auto Workers union, mandated for bailouts by Washington. On the same day, members of an Obama administration task force were touring GM and Chrysler plants in the Detroit area. The two companies had less than a month within which to demonstrate that they can become viable.

While Ford has not sought emergency government loans, the agreement with the UAW which freezes wages and cuts bonuses is one of several steps the auto maker has taken to reduce costs and maintain liquidity under the "Way Forward" turnaround plan it launched in January 2006. According to the union, 59% of production workers and 58% of skilled-trades workers at Ford voted for the concessions. Bob King, a vice president of the UAW, said in a statement, "The voting results show that our members are prepared to make painful sacrifices in order to be part of the solution to the problems facing Ford and the US auto industry."

## Steel

### A Russian rescue plan for the Evraz Group finds favour in Oregon

As reported in the *Oregonian*, the Russian government may be poised for a move of some significance to *Evraz Oregon Steel Mills, Inc*, the Portland-based business acquired in 2007 by Russia's Evraz Group. The company manufactures cold rolled steel, seamless tubes, and wire and related products. The *Oregonian's* Richard Read wrote that Prime Minister Vladimir Putin endorses a proposed mega-merger – including Evraz – that would give the Kremlin a stake in a steel behemoth incorporating Oregon Steel.

Evraz Group, one of the world's largest vertically integrated steel makers, has taken on enormous foreign debt deriving from almost \$8 billion in acquisitions abroad. Russia's state bailout agency, chaired by Mr Putin, has already lent Evraz \$1.8 billion to refinance its foreign debt. Citing an Asia Times report, Mr Read said that Evraz is using the funds to avoid forfeiting such properties as Evraz Oregon Steel to the foreign banks holding the mortgages.

Mr Putin signalled his support for a mega-merger approach during his opening remarks on 28<sup>th</sup> January at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Advantages of a diversified Russian metals-and-mining colossus

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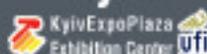
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could include its attraction for low-cost capital, with risk spread across countries and commodities. The behemoth would also be large enough to compete with Australian-British giants Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton, according to Mr Read "a long-held dream of Russian tycoons."

The merger proposed by two such people – Norilsk Nickel shareholders Vladimir Potanin and Oleg Deripaska – would combine that company with Evraz; the mining and metals firm Metalloinvest; steel and coal producer Mechel; and potash producer Uralkali.

The deal could also include Russia's VSMPO-Avisma, whose titanium customers include the Gresham (Oregon) plant of Boeing Co, the Chicago-based plane maker. In return for liquidating debts the Kremlin, through its arms agency Russian Technologies, would receive a 25% stake plus one share of stock in the merged colossus.

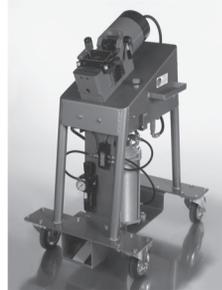
✱ For their part, US customers of Evraz Oregon Steel told the *Oregonian* that Russian government involvement could mean a helping hand at the right time. Lower steel prices since last summer had imposed curtailments at the company's spiral pipe mill and at Canadian plants bought in a \$4 billion deal last year. But improvement in domestic credit markets would favour a rebound in steel prices as early as this summer, with all that that promises for the 80-year-old Oregon business and its clientele. Alan Humbard, purchasing manager at Fought & Co, a fabricator that buys slabs from Evraz Oregon Steel, said, "It might help keep them from closing up some things here."

## Space

 The US, once dominant in the commercial space industry, has relinquished the lead to France

Writing in the *International Herald Tribune* on the "sliver of France" that is French Guiana, Simon Romero cited its prominence in commercial satellite launching as a sign of a much-diminished US presence in that corner of the evolving world economy. Located on the northern coast of South America, French Guiana is an integral part of the French Republic and notable for the Guiana Space Centre. This spaceport, in the commune of Kourou, is a joint enterprise of the government of France and the Paris-based European Space Agency (ESA).

"The driving force behind Kourou's development is Arianespace, a French company that began as a poor cousin to NASA [the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration] nearly three decades ago," wrote Mr Romero. "Today, it has edged past Boeing and Lockheed Martin to become the leading player in the \$3.2 billion commercial-satellite-launching industry," accounting for about half of all the tonnage sent into orbit for business purposes each year. ("In the Jungle, a Commercial Space Coup for France"). To be sure, commercial space is a small field when compared with the military and government satellite business still dominated by the US and Russia. But Mr Romero pointed out that it encompasses the launching

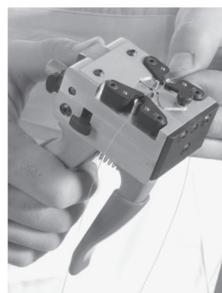


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# Transatlantic Cable



of commercial satellites that transmit the data for a globalised economy, as well as for satellite broadcast, Internet, and Earth-imaging tools. In this, France leads the pack.

"Through perseverance and some good luck and timing, we've done fine for ourselves," Thierry Vallée, an official of the French government space agency CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales), told the *Tribune* – which noted the understatement. Kourou may be small (population 20,000) but, at approximate two-month intervals, rockets light the sky above the one-industry town on the Equator in launches that are believed to cost \$200 million apiece. This remarkable achievement may be traced to the determination of France to find its own way into space, independent of America. The choice of French Guiana over the other outposts French Polynesia and Djibouti was dictated by its equatorial latitude, ideal for satellite launches. Mr Romero explained: "The Earth's rotation is fastest there, thrusting payloads into space like a slingshot."

\* The regression of the US in the commercial space race was traced succinctly by the *Herald Tribune*:

The Reagan administration [1980-1988] prohibited the space shuttles from carrying most commercial payloads after the Challenger disaster in 1986. Later, NASA gave up on two

flawed plans for new vehicles, the National Aerospace Plane and Lockheed Martin's X-33 unmanned space plane.

Boeing (Chicago) and Lockheed Martin (Bethesda, Maryland), whose mainstay was US military contracts, kept launching commercial satellites from California and Florida in those years. But that business declined drastically when the telecommunications and dot-com bubbles burst.

Meanwhile, Arianespace had gathered together CNES and other European stakeholders, mainly public entities without large military programmes, in a consortium to operate out of French Guiana. Jeff Foust, a senior analyst with the aerospace consulting firm Futron, in Maryland, told Mr Romero of the *Tribune*, "The Europeans had to turn to the commercial sector if they wanted to maintain their independent space capabilities."

Whether that edge, patiently cultivated as Americans reached for the moon, will withstand the current global crisis is another story. Mr Romero wrote, "The number of launches is expected to drop [in 2009], and it is anybody's guess what demand will be beyond that."

**Dorothy Fabian**  
USA Editor

## Rolling mills for wire, strip, flattened, plates



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- welding wires
- hard-to-draw materials



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# Perfection in the detail



## AUTOMATIC STRAIGHTENING AND CUTTING-OFF MACHINES FOR ROLLED AND RIBBED WIRES

This series of universal modular machines can straighten any type of wire. They are mainly composed in three sections:

- A) Wire feeding and straightening by straightening dies assembled in a proper rotating body (spinner). Variable speed electronic feed as well as variable speed of spinner/rotating body.
- B) Cutting device actuated through an hydraulic clutch/brake unit. This device can be with flying or fixed shear. The former solution provides a constant and true production output as opposed to the theoretical one, because the wire does not

stop during the cutting operation. The wires overheat and the straightened bar torsion are also reduced. The solution with fixed shear allows an easy production of bars with lengths below 1 m. with a better tolerance on the bar length. The tolerance on the bar length can vary from +/- 1 to +/- 2 mm depending on the feed speed.

- C) An automated cutting bench complete with piece center allows to complete bar bundles as requested.



▲ The assembled Super 3C cable system

# Super 3C cable project is completed

Nexans and Bruker HTS GmbH have announced the successful conclusion of the superconducting coated conductor cable (Super 3C) project in which a high-temperature superconducting (HTS) distribution-level power cable was developed and tested by a European consortium.

The Super 3C project began in June 2004 and ended with the successful test of a 30-metre one-phase HTS cable system in December 2008. The HTS cable achieved its transmitted power target of 17 Megawatts.

Super 3C is one of the first cables in the world using second generation (2G) HTS tapes as current carrying elements. These tapes include a thin HTS layer which constitutes a perfect conductor of electricity when cooled to  $-200^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Bruker HTS developed a proprietary HTS-copper hybrid conductor that facilitates reliable manufacturing and operation of new power cables using HTS technology. The 2G-hybrid conductor utilises the advantages of both superconductivity and copper, enabling it to work and interconnect smoothly with conventional network components. In the course of the project, Nexans and Bruker HTS jointly developed and implemented methods for assembling the 2G hybrid conductors in the cable. Altogether, Bruker HTS manufactured and tested nearly 4,000 metres of 2G hybrid superconductors for the Super 3C cable.

Nexans manufactured the Super 3C cable, including the cryogenic envelope which allows the temperature of the cable core to be maintained at  $-200^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a flow of liquid nitrogen. Nexans also developed and manufactured specific cable terminations for this project.

The €5.2 million project was funded by a €2.7 million grant from the European Union under its 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for research and technological development. Nexans acted as the project coordinator. Bruker HTS was responsible for the largest single work package, specifically the development and delivery of 2G HTS conductors for the cable.

Jean-Maxime Saugrain, Nexans superconductor activity manager and Super 3C project coordinator, said of the project: "It is of immense significance for Europe's competitiveness in the emerging market for efficient HTS solutions." Dr Burkhard Prause, managing director of Bruker HTS, called it: "An important watermark for efficient HTS solutions in Europe and throughout the world." HTS cables are expected to enable power links with minimised losses, helping to reduce greenhouse emissions.

**Nexans – France**  
**Fax:** +33 15669 8484  
**Email:** nexans.web@nexans.com  
**Website:** www.nexans.com

## Drive nuts for measuring machines

When developing its drive nut, Uhing conceived a non-positive linear feed element that is successful as a drive element in measuring machines. "The secret is its lack of play, a feature that is fundamentally inherent to the construction of the drive nut," explains Uhing's head of marketing, Wolfgang Weber.

Drive nuts have three or four rolling rings alternately pushed against the surface of a plain shaft by spring force. These rings connect to the shaft by friction. Skewing the rolling rings results in their rolling off on the surface of the rotating shaft at their pitch angle, thus generating a linear movement. This results in drive nut and shaft acting like a nut and threaded spindle.

The spring force required to produce the frictional connection automatically reduces the theoretically existing play to zero, so there is no detrimental effect. The drive nut instantly translates the smallest back and forth rotation of the shaft into a movement to the left or right because there is no system-inherent play to overcome.

The pitch of the drive nut varies in relation to the actual shaft diameter, which is never constant over the entire stroke because the feed distance per shaft revolution depends on the shaft diameter and the pitch angle of the rolling rings. The actual position of the drive nut must be monitored with a precise length scale in a measuring machine, which is standard equipment in such machines.

"A release option, operated manually or pneumatically, is an additional advantage for tool adjustment devices," advises Wolfgang Weber.

"Once the drive nut has been uncoupled from the shaft, literally meaning the shaft has been released, the tool or measuring instrument is quickly moved by hand. This prevents damage to delicate components during test sample exchange, and measuring as such is speeded up."

**Joachim Uhing KG GmbH – Germany**

**Fax:** +49 4347 90640

**Email:** info@uhing.com

**Website:** www.uhing.com

## New appointment for CIS countries

Gauder Group has announced the extension of Maillefer's contract to represent its range of new rotating machines in all CIS countries.

Well-known for many years by Pourtier and Setic customers throughout the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus, Maillefer SA Moscow is from now on the representative office for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan markets as well, in direct collaboration with Philippe Letout, sales manager for rotating machines.

**Gauder Group – France**

**Fax:** +33 1 64 26 61 10

**Email:**

sales.pourtier@gaudergroup.com

**Website:** www.gaudergroup.com

**Maillefer representative office – Russia**

**Fax:** +7 495 362 60 41

**Email:**

vladimir.borisevich@maillefer.net

**Website:** www.mailleferextrusion.com

## Electrostatic powder coating

Model RSC is designed to give an even, finely dosed and dust-free powdering of talc, stearate, lac powder or swellable powder to cables and wires.

Strong adhesion and even surface layer is achieved by the electrostatic charging of the powder. The electrostatic also ensures that no powder will fall from the product after leaving the dusting chamber. Depending on extrusion speed and product diameter, up to four powder guns of 100 kV each are used.

Schlicht machines can handle product diameters up to 160mm, manufactured to the user's desired extrusion speed and diameter.

Inside the machine is a fluidised powder hopper from which the powder is sucked by pneumatic venturi pumps and blown to the guns. For adjustment of the powder quantity the power of the electrostatic charge can be adjusted from 0kV to 100kV, as can powder quantity and dust cloud speed. Nozzles on the powder gun can be changed to suit the product. An extra-fine dosing device is available as an option.

The machine features a fully automatic and maintenance-free filter system, allowing a strong and constant vacuum in the machine; no powder escapes into the environment.

Hoses can connect a freestanding dusting chamber to the machine.

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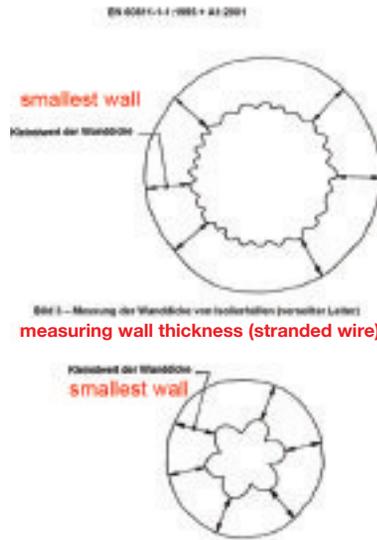
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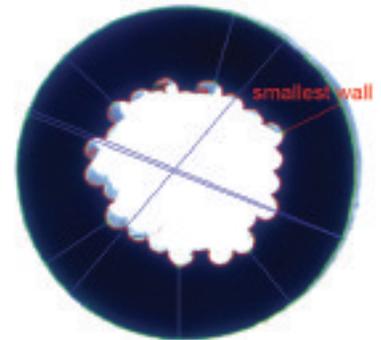
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**Automatic measuring gives better results**



**VisioCablePro- Result**



Sample prepared with a standard blade,  
shadows are ignored

Central to quality in cable production is the measurement of wall thickness, especially at the narrowest point that forms the basis of the calculation of that other important feature, concentricity. It is important that this measurement is determined accurately and that it is appropriate for the cable type.

In determining the wall thickness, it is necessary to take measurements at 60° intervals around the cable, as shown in the diagram. It can also be seen that the narrowest parts of the wall are not necessarily uniform. This makes manual measurement difficult for the operator with the responsibility of the measuring microscope or profile projector, and can lead to an arbitrary or subjective technique and uncertain results.

Calculation inaccuracies in wall-thickness and concentricity can be overcome by the use of an automatic measuring device, such as the VisioCablePro system from iiM. It measures the smallest wall and other wall-thickness minima without operator input in the process, or in lighting or optic focusing. The operator is only concerned with preparing the sample.

Accurate wall-thickness measurement is essential for final product performance and to avoid waste; if the minimum wall-thickness is too small, the cable has to be scrapped.

**iiM AG – Germany**  
**Fax:** +49 3693 88585 11  
**Email:** info@iimag.de  
**Website:** www.iimag.de

**Twistable optical fibre cable**

Bus system problems often occur during twisting applications in energy chains, particularly with shielded data cables if the shields get damaged or open up. This is not the case with glass fibre optic cables, which do not have a mechanically vulnerable shield braid, and are insensitive to EMC whilst transferring high-speed bus signals up to a length of 400m.

The special design uses twist-optimised compensating elements, and the mechanically strong fibre optic cable is robust even with rotary angles of +180° on a robot arm.

Chainflex CF Robot-LWL cable has been tested for more than 1 million double cycles, with no change to data transfer rates even at a torsion angle of 360°.

igus GmbH has developed a twistable fibre optic cable for all 3D movements in energy chains, to keep bus systems working reliably. The twistable TPE fibre optic cable, Chainflex CF Robot-LWL makes high data rates possible and can be routed directly alongside high-capacity electrical power cables.

The cable is suitable for industrial applications for image transmission for GigE, FireWire IEEE1394a/b and USB.

**igus GmbH – Germany**  
**Fax:** +49 2203 96 49222  
**Email:** info@igus.de  
**Website:** www.igus.de





# Dimensional measurement for manufacturing

Zumbach offers a complete line of modular, single axis ODAC® laser gauges, available either mounted on a rail or as components with separate sender and receiver units for flexible installation in any position.

Using high precision, telecentric optics, it is possible to mount sender and receiver units at a distance to each other (depending on the model, up to 3m/10ft). This enables multiple sender/receiver pairs arranged in the same measuring level, thus offering a multi-axis measurement.

With almost unlimited installation and configuration possibilities, these gauges can be used in most manufacturing processes, including the extrusion of cables, hoses, and profiles or in the steel and metal industries for drawing, grinding, cold and hot rolling of rods and tubes.

The advantages of the system include:

- High scan rate, depending on the model up to 2,000/s
- Accurate
- Compact and rugged design
- Various measurement modes including diameter, gap width, depth penetration or multiple measurement
- Special beam geometries available (depending on model): narrow beam for contour measurements; parallel beam for profiles and similar
- Models with integrated processor (RS, Ethernet, Profibus DP)

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## Guides and wipes for wire working

Keir Manufacturing has been producing ceramic guides for the wire and cable industry for 25 years, using technical, task specific ceramics to provide customers with the exact solution, to specification, in a reasonable amount of time.

Keir manufactures bushings, eyelets, rods, tubes, wear plates and any other geometrical shape based on the wire customer's needs or will duplicate worn out metal components with 99.8% pure alumina ceramics.

Ceramic components are more durable, resistant to wear, and more cost effective than metal, with reduced heat transfer.

The Frontiersman AirWipe from Keir, operates at line speeds up to 7,200 ft/sec utilising compressed air. Two models of AirWipes are available: the SureShot is ideal for bare wire and the SplitShot for jacketed wire. The design of Keir's patented ceramic insert utilises lower air pressure air than other models.

The pressure regulator and insert are mounted in a durable polymer housing which delivers the appropriate amount of air, saving costs due to the reduced

requirement for air. For producers of multiple gauge wire, Keir inserts allow for quick changes, with minimal downtime and retooling.

For multiple strand wire, Keir AirWipes can be mounted in a line to support as many strands as required.

It is ready for mounting and made to fit the exact wire size, instead of a range of sizes. The split and spring loaded design of the SplitShot allows for welds or extrusion bulges to pass through without damage, or is used where it is not practical to thread wire.

Keir's AirWipes will accommodate wire gauges up to a maximum OD of 4.5".



▲ A selection of ceramic components from Keir

Keir has dedicated itself to making ceramic products that enable the wire and cable industry to be more efficient and productive.

**Keir Manufacturing – USA**  
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## DEH system for Skarv pipeline

Nexans has been awarded an €11 million contract by BP Norge to supply a direct electrical heating (DEH) system for the Skarv field subsea production pipeline in the Norwegian Sea. Nexans is the only supplier with experience of this technology and has already supplied this type of system for 17 subsea pipeline installations.

A 12" diameter production pipeline will be installed from one of the production wells at the field to the floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel at Skarv. The distance between the well and vessel is approximately 13km. At times of low production or shutdown a DEH system will be used, thus preventing blockage of the pipe. A number of methods may be used for maintaining flow, such as chemical injection, but DEH has proved to be both a reliable and eco-friendly solution to the problem.

The DEH principle works by sending an electrical alternating current from the FPSO through a dynamic riser cable with two power cores to the seabed and in to the production pipeline. One insulated cable is connected directly to the pipe in the near-end while the other is laid along the pipeline in the direction of the template (far-end) where it is connected to the pipe. AC current is supplied through the cable and returned partly via the pipe walls and partly through the seawater. This causes heat to be generated in the steel pipe, ensuring that the well flow is maintained above the critical temperature for hydrate formation.

**Nexans – France**  
**Fax:** +33 15669 8484  
**Email:** nexans.web@nexans.com  
**Website:** www.nexans.com



## Measuring cable samples

The latest product development from iiM AG, the fourth and revised version of the basic system of the VisioCablePro series, is suitable to carry out fast and precise geometry measurements of insulating skins and sheaths. Depending on the elected lens, the geometrical features of very small or very large cable samples can be measured. A wide range of single components (the user can choose between forty different types of objectives and eight different camera systems) enables the exact adaptation of VCPB-04 to individual measuring criteria and needs.

With high-resolution sensors and efficient lighting systems, the cable samples are well illuminated to eliminate shadows for optimal measuring results. The new housing improves the measuring exactness not only because it creates ideal system conditions for the illumination, the optics and the camera but also because it offers protection against blanketing light and stability against vibrations. The lighting adjustment, focusing and measuring procedure are completely automatic and thus exclude any user's influence on the measuring errors.

The measurements of cable samples are carried out according to the basic measuring norms: EN 50396 (VDE 0473-396), EN 60811-1-1, DIN 57472 (parts 401, 402), VDE 0472 and 0473 (parts 401, 402) as well as VDE 0276-605.

Options for the basic system are a template integrated into the body that allows the measuring of extrusion nozzles with a diameter up to 30mm, and a USB jack that allows rapid connection to external devices making the VCPB-04 very flexible. The system's software, FMK-2, guarantees the optimal evaluation of the obtained measuring results.

**iiM AG – Germany**  
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▲ Measuring an extrusion die with VCPB-04

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## Test system for titanium rod

Magnetic Analysis Corporation, a designer and manufacturer of non-destructive test systems for over 80 years, recently supplied a multi-test eddy current/ultrasonic system to inspect small diameter (2.54mm to 31.75mm) titanium bars and rods.

Testing criteria were AMS-2631B, Class AA for the ultrasonic test (aerospace specifications) and typical eddy current inspection standards for the eddy current test.

By combining eddy current and ultrasonic technology in a comprehensive inspection system, superior test results can be obtained as each technique is used to detect the conditions that it is best suited to find.

This particular system incorporates Echomac® FD-4 ultrasonic instrumentation, an Echomac Rotary which spins the transducers and water couplant around the bar, and a MultiMac eddy current instrument and test coil.

The UT test uses one normal incidence and two shear wave transducers to inspect for surface and near-surface defects such as spiral seams and light cracks, inclusions and deep voids. The eddy current single channel test complements the UT test by detecting some very small surface seams or pitting that are poor reflectors of sound.

The test system also includes air operated dual pinch stands designed to drive and position the test material accurately, a slide and elevate platform to adjust the UT Rotary, a water recirculation system for the couplant, and automatic markers.

The system is mounted on a welded test bench and 'learn controls' are included to automatically adjust the timing based on the initial test piece.

**Magnetic Analysis Corp – USA**  
**Fax:** +1 914 699 9837  
**Email:** contactus@mac-ndt.com  
**Website:** www.mac-ndt.com

## Falcon TopScan AWM

Falcon Topscan AWM system is a vision inspection machine that allows fully automatic thickness measurement on insulating covers and non-metallic sheathings of electric cables.

Developed by Falcon Instruments, TopScan AWM is the evolution of the profile projector or of the measuring microscope, achieving the following aims:

- Measurement objectivity
- Results repeatability
- Time and manpower saving
- Ease of use
- Conformity with CEI 20-34/1-1 and with the international normative

The system measures the thickness of insulating covers and sheathings, giving the single thickness measurement. The system is also capable of working with varying height cable samples and with a single parallel plane. This is made possible by a particular disposition of the camera. It also allows a double interfacing level with the instrument: the first level is for the line operators; the second one is for a supervisor or for those who are in charge of quality laboratories.

All the systems of this product line have been developed using the criterion of the Falcon MMI user interface concept – press a button and measure.



▲ Falcon TopScan AWM from Emmerre

The instrument has the following metrological characteristics:

- Measurement repeatability: 1/4000 of the field of view. For example the repeatability of the instrument with a 20mm field of view is equivalent to ±0.005mm.
- Measurement reliability: 1/2000. For example, instrument reliability with 20mm field of view is equivalent to ±0.01mm.

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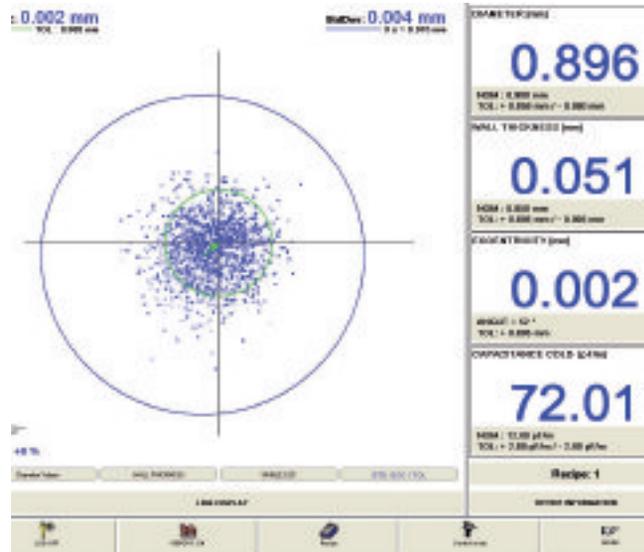
# 8-point eccentricity measurement

Sikora's Centerview 8000 includes a non-contact gauge head to provide continuous online measurements; 8-point eccentricity, 4-axis diameter and 8-point ovality measurements ensure the highest accuracy. The system is suitable for the production of coaxial, LAN, automotive and installation cables.

Sikora offers two Centerview 8000 versions, for product diameters from 0.1mm to 10mm and 0.5mm to 25mm. The Centerview 8000 combines an optical and inductive measuring technique. With the inductive measuring circuit the position of the conductor is recognised and the gauge head automatically centred to the cable position. Guide rollers and manual adjustment are unnecessary.

The optical part of the system is based on the principle of diffraction analysis combined with pulse-driven laser diodes. The laser diodes project a picture of the cable on the latest available CCD-line technology in each measuring axis. Within microseconds eccentricity, diameter and ovality are calculated from the image of the product.

The cloud diagram is an additional visualisation of the measurements being made on the processor system Ecocontrol. With the help of the cloud diagram the distribution of short-term eccentricity variations is shown. Each point represents an actual single value of the eccentricity with regard to amount and direction. The overall distribution of the cloud diagram easily highlights the standard deviation of the eccentricity.



▲ Circular distribution of the single values of the eccentricity helps to optimise the extrusion process

**Sikora AG – Germany**  
**Fax:** +49 421 489 0090  
**Email:** sales@sikora.net  
**Website:** www.sikora.net

## manufacturers of nickel alloy wires

sizes range: 20mm - 0.025mm  
 quantities: from 1kg



Narrowboat Way, Hurst Business Park, Brierley Hill,  
 West Midlands DY5 1UF UK

Inconel X750	Nickel 200	Hastelloy C-22
Inconel 600	Nickel 201	Hastelloy C-276
Inconel 601	Nickel 205	Hastelloy C-2000
Inconel 625	Nickel 212	Hastelloy G-30
Inconel 718	Nickel 270	Hastelloy 'X'
Incoloy 800	Nispan / C902	Haynes 25
Incoloy 800HT	Nilo 36	Haynes 214
Incoloy 825	Nilo 48	Phynox
Incoloy A286	Nilo 52	MP35N
Monel 400	Nilo 'K'	RENE 41
Monel K500	Hastelloy B-2	Alloy 20 Cb3
Nimonic 90	Hastelloy B-3	Beryllium Copper
Nimonic 80A	Hastelloy C-4	Waspaloy
Nimonic 75		

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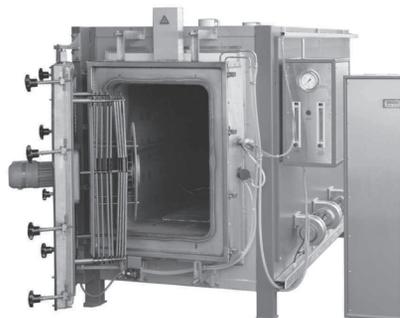
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## Innovations in hardness testing

The latest developments in Zwick's ZHU/zwicki-Line provide a new system for classical and instrumented hardness testing. This fully automatic universal hardness testing system covers the Vickers, Knoop, Brinell, Rockwell, ball indentation and instrumented indentation methods.

The ZHU/zwicki-Line for instrumented indentation testing in the macro range covers a wide range of applications and features hardware and electronics precisely tailored to the requirements of hardness testing, guaranteeing high reproducibility.

In addition to instrumented indentation tests to determine hardness and other material parameters, the ZHU/zwicki-Line can perform all the classical hardness testing methods used for metals.

Whichever method is used, the testing system records the load-indentation depth curve to provide additional material assessment. The instrumented indentation test includes elastic and plastic deformations in order to obtain the elastic and plastic material characteristic values.

The core of the testing system is a hardness measuring head, into which the measuring systems for test load and indentation depth plus an indenter with hold-down device are integrated. For optical-based hardness testing methods to Vickers, Knoop and Brinell an add-on unit with measuring microscope is available. This unit is motorised in

accordance with the trend for increasing automation and reduction of operator influence, while indentation setting, microscope positioning and optical measurement of the indentation are all performed completely automatically.

The range of compound (XY) tables has also seen further improvements in support surface area, test load and travel. The new motorised tables are designed for test loads up to 250kg and have travel ranges up to 150mm x 50mm.

The range of applications covered by the ZHU/zwicki-Line has been expanded to include fully automatic Jominy testing to ISO 642 and ASTM 255. In the Jominy (end-quenching) test the hardness of steel is determined by performing a hardness profile test with the Rockwell (HRC) or Vickers (HV30) method on a prepared specimen.

Available from Zwick are motorised compound tables with appropriate Jominy tooling for three or five standardised specimens. Testing is carried out completely automatically with user-friendly testXpert® II software; the operator only has to enter the starting points and test sequence directions.

The system is suitable for use in research and development, production and goods inwards testing.

**Zwick GmbH & Co KG – Germany**

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## Measurement and flaw detection

LaserLinc has released a new model in its Triton line of triple-axis micrometers.

The Triton360 has a 60mm measurement window and a maximum of 12,000 measurements per second (4,000 per axis). The Triton360 is designed to provide more precise tracking of average diameter than two-axis micrometers, near-perfect ovality measurement, and improved flaw detection on opaque and clear products. The scanner can be used for pipe, cable, hose and other similar materials.

Two Triton360s can be arranged on a dual-mount stand to provide six axes of measurement, 30 degrees apart.

**LaserLinc Inc – USA**

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**Website:** www.laserlinc.com



▲ Two Triton360s on a dual-mount stand

## On-line range for accuracy and control

Zumbach's range of non-contact on-line measuring and control instruments is in use worldwide for dimensional parameters including diameter, thickness and eccentricity, out-of-round and for physical or electrical parameters including expansion, capacitance and dielectric strength.

Zumbach technology, such as lasers/optics, ultrasonics, x-ray, high-voltage technology, computer hardware and software, is used in the cable and wire industry for telecommunication wire, data wire, power cable, electronic and control cable, fibre optic cable, on extrusion lines of singles and jackets, CV-lines and rewinding stations.

Zumbach's patents for measuring and control instruments include:

- Highly accurate diameter and ovality measurement with 1-axis, 2-axis and 3-axis laser scanners (ODAC®)
- Non-contact measurement of coating thickness with ultrasonic wall thickness scanners (UMAC®)
- Eccentricity/concentricity and diameter and true minimum wall

measurement and control on high-speed extrusion lines with one gauge (ODEX®)

- X-ray measuring systems for cross-section measurement in CV-lines (RAYEX®)
- Highly accurate capacitance measurement (CAPAC®)
- Foam/Foam skin CD-control (Cellmaster®)
- Ultrasonic measuring and control systems for wall thickness with cutting edge digital technology (Wallmaster – UMAC® CI)
- Spark Testers meeting all standards (AST, DST, IST) and calibrators
- Full circumferential detection of surface faults (KW TRIO, SIMAC®)
- Inductive conductor preheating with temperature control (Tempmaster)
- Non-contact temperature measurement of wires (AUTAC)
- Non-contact oscillating and static measuring systems for hot steel applications (Steelmater)

**Zumbach Electronic AG – Switzerland**

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## Wire with 'new-coat' in bright finish for plating quality

*Advertorial on behalf of Decalub*

In-line Pressure Wet Cleaning (PWC) system cleans drawn wire of residual lubricant to obtain a smooth and glossy finish of 'plating' quality, at up to 14m/sec (2,800 ft/min) depending on wire size.

The system simultaneously performs in-line surface cleaning and polishing with drawing, and uses standard cleaning media including cold water or oil for the most demanding wire cleaning and polishing applications. The wire leaves the cleaning unit completely dry, ultra-clean, with a highly reflective appearance.

The PWC system is particularly recommended for cleaning applications in which a traditional process is inappropriate, especially with wire drawn in severe conditions resulting in increased heat and burnt lubricant tightly bound to the wire surface and embedded in micro-cracks and longitudinal scratches.

The exceptional cleanliness of the glossy finish permits direct coating, in brass or copper for example. Wire cleaning prior to heat treatment applications include patenting and annealing.



▲ Wire cleaning and polishing by PWC system

In demanding applications, such as production of highly reflective wire, the PWC system enables considerably higher surface quality of the end product, benefiting from the Decalub 'new-coat' process with controlled nano-film lubrication.

This permits wire polishing and smooth and frictionless drawing with water soluble sodium lubricants in all drafts, easy to clean in-line at high speed with 'rust preventive' additives.

**Decalub – France**

**Fax:** +33 1 6020 2021

**Email:** info@decalub.com

**Website:** www.decalub.com

## wire plating plants



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### can do wire equipment

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- ◆ Electrolytic & Ultrasonic degreasing
- ◆ Welding wire cleaning and copper coating
- ◆ Pickling & phosphating



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E-mail: [ajexturner@gmail.com](mailto:ajexturner@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ajexturner.in](http://www.ajexturner.in)

## Ultra-productive with ultrasonic

During the production of medium and high voltage XLPE insulated power cables, melt temperature plays a critical role, affecting the quality of the product as well as the productivity of the extrusion process. Organic peroxides are used with polyethylene materials for cross-linking, and here the melt temperature is subject to tight tolerances.

In cooperation with machine manufacturer Maillefer Extrusion Oy, Sikora AG has developed the temperature measuring system Ultratemp 6000; based on ultrasonic technology Ultratemp 6000 is specifically designed for the measurement of XLPE melts.

Until now conventional methods, such as contact thermocouple sensors, have been used to measure the melt temperature. Even simple hand-held meters are utilised before starting up the extrusion line to measure the melt temperature after the crosshead. These techniques do not offer reliable measuring results, as they are contact measurements with a relatively slow response time. Moreover, they can influence the melt flow properties that may result in cross-linking.

Sikora's Ultratemp 6000 is a non-contact melt temperature measurement system based on non-invasive ultrasonic technology. It measures the melt temperature during production and does not influence the melt flow properties. With the use of Ultratemp 6000 melt shear heating errors are eliminated. It ensures homogeneous melt viscosity for the extrusion process and helps to avoid premature cross-linking after screens, which may lead to ambers and scorches in the polyethylene material.

Sikora's temperature measurement system optimises the running time and the productivity of the extrusion line.

The measuring technology of Ultratemp 6000 is based on precise high-temperature ultrasonic sensors. The adapter of the system, including the ultrasonic sensors, is positioned in the flow channel between extruder and crosshead. In contrast to conventional methods, the ultrasonic sensors do not influence the polyethylene melt flow because the sensors are outside the flow channel. In consequence, the sensors do not affect the extrusion process, even if they have to be exchanged.

The extremely high measuring rate allows a fast response time as well as the registration of small temperature variations. Hence, Ultratemp 6000 is an efficient partner in the wire and cable production. This system supplies an important step for further process optimisation and cost reduction.

In all production lines Ultratemp 6000 can be combined with display and control systems Ecocontrol 600, 1000 and 2000. The processor systems display numeric and graphical process information with analysis tools such as trending and statistical process control analysis. Ecocontrol models offer continuous monitoring of the measured values.

Ultratemp 6000 can be delivered with a Profibus-DP interface.

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## Ultra-bend insensitive fibre

Draka Communications has launched a new type of ultra-bend insensitive fibre, BendBright-Elite, a sister product to BendBright-XS, its bend-insensitive optical fibre for FTTx applications.

BendBright-Elite is specially customised and fine-tuned for component intra-connections and speciality applications.

Tighter bendable fibres not only enhance FTTx applications through easier installations, they also reduce component size and volume, minimise the cost of ownership and enable improved system density.

Another advantage for ultra-bend insensitive fibre is to facilitate handling during manufacturing.

Draka's latest speciality fibre meets the requirements of speciality applications in a diversity of environments. BendBright-Elite is also available, on request, with high temperature coatings, 150°C, 200°C, for harsh usage environments such as aerospace or marine, oil and gas.

Draka's BendBright-Elite is made possible by combining trench-assisted core structures with the flexibility of its plasma chemical vapour deposition (PCVD) manufacturing process.

**Draka Holdings NV – The Netherlands**  
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**Website:** [www.draka.com](http://www.draka.com)





# East meets West in production

The sema Systemtechnik range of machines and lines have been sold and installed for well known bar and wire manufacturers. The range includes:

- separating systems for bars and wire, straightened or unstraightened
- finishing lines, with roller and belt transports and lifting stations testing lines with in-feed, testing table, output and sorting for profiles, bars and wire
- panel cutter with two or more saws, cross transport systems and collecting troughs
- chamfering and end-processing units for bars in lengths from 1mm up to 18m
- coiler for wire, with feeding, cleaning, horizontal/vertical straightening device, space for a testing device, marking, drying unit, pre-bender and coiling unit. Dimensions: layer width 600mm and coil diameter 1,600mm
- packaging lines for round, hexagonal and square bundles for bars and wire.



▲ Testing line for round and hexagonal material

In 2009, sema will enlarge its programme, adding a pointer for drawing tags, a nine-roller straightener for bars in black material, single- and multi-drawing benches and a two-roller straightening machine for bars and shafts.

In cooperation with sema Systemtechnik, Prestar machines and lines are manufactured and delivered to the Eastern market.

sema Systemtechnik sells Prestar bar grinding machines and finishing lines for pipes in Western Europe.

**sema Systemtechnik GmbH & Co KG – Germany**

**Fax:** +49 5744 9318 91

**Email:** info@sema-systemtechnik.de

**Website:** www.sema-systemtechnik.de

**Prestar sro – Czech Republic**

**Fax:** +420 533 7597 21

**Email:** f.horak@prestar.cz

**Website:** www.prestar.cz

## Machines and facilities for forming and processing of wire



- Project planning
- Supply
- Installation
- Training
- Service

- Unwinding
- Profile drawing
- Cleaning
- Profile rolling
- Spooling
- Bar cutting

e.g. 3-stand rolling mill WST175

- Specialized in rectangular shapes
- Unique tool set for all wire sizes
- Computer controlled roll positioning



[www.karl-fuhr.com](http://www.karl-fuhr.com)





# Wires & Fasteners Ukraine 2009

The international Wires & Fasteners Ukraine 2009 exhibition, organised by TDS-Expo, will be held at the Exhibition Center, KyivExpoPlaza in Kyiv Ukraine, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June. Running concurrently with Tubes & Fittings Ukraine 2009 the exhibition is held under the auspices of the Ministry of Industrial Policy of Ukraine with the support of Ukrtruboprom Association, Ukrzvetmet Concern, Machine-building Engineers and Technologists Association of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Union of Industrial Companies. Last year's exhibitions attracted more than 150 exhibiting companies from 20 countries, and over 6,500 visitors from across the Ukraine and beyond.

The Ukrainian market is of increasing interest; it is the largest European country and enjoys a well-developed industrial base, especially in the metalworking sectors, with an established education system. In 2008 Ukraine was among the largest steel producers in the world but also has a powerful high-technology industry that includes electronics and manufacturing for the defence and space industries.

Foreign trade and investment is encouraged in the Ukraine where, traditionally, Germany, Cyprus, Italy, Russia, Netherlands, Austria and Great Britain have been the largest investors. The country's energy strategy is to move away from electrical power production based on gas and oil and towards nuclear production, and much infrastructure investment is currently taking place in advance of the 2012 European football championships, supported by the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development. In 2008 Ukraine became the 152<sup>nd</sup> member of the World Trade Organisation and offers a potential sales market for many foreign companies.

Wires & Fasteners Ukraine 2009, and the concurrent exhibitions, will be officially opened on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon and remain open until 5.30pm. Opening hours on Thursday (11<sup>th</sup>) will be 10am until 5.30pm, and 10am to 4pm on the final day (Friday). For the first time an international forum, 'Anticor Ukraine 2009' will be held alongside the Kyiv Technical Trade Show.

**TDS-Expo – Ukraine** Fax: +380 44 596 93 74 Email: [olga@welding.kiev.ua](mailto:olga@welding.kiev.ua) Website: [www.weldexpo.com.ua](http://www.weldexpo.com.ua)

# Wires & Fasteners Ukraine 2009

10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June



## Alphabetical list of Exhibitors

Preliminary list of exhibitors of Kyiv Technical Trade Show 2009

<b>Company</b> .....	<b>Country</b>	<b>Company</b> .....	<b>Country</b>
Abplanalp.....	Ukraine	Navikom .....	Russia
Akma PKF .....	Ukraine	Navko-Tech.....	Ukraine
Alta as .....	Czech Republic	New Technologies Group Ltd.....	Ukraine
Alu-M GmbH.....	Germany	NG Metal.....	Ukraine
Anyksciu varies .....	Lithuania	NITI GP .....	Ukraine
ARCSEL .....	Ukraine	Nordgalvanotechnik .....	Ukraine
Aspekt PE .....	Moldova	Oteco CZ spol S ro.....	Czech Republic
Association of the technologists and machine builders of Ukraine .....	Ukraine	Paton Electric Welding Institute .....	Ukraine
Auria M Ltd .....	Hungary	Physical-Chemical Institute of Environmental and Human Protection .....	Ukraine
Bibus Metals.....	Ukraine	Pilot Plant of Welding Equipment of the PWI.....	Ukraine
Binzel Abicor .....	Germany	Pilot Plant of Welding Materials of the PWI.....	Ukraine
Bropol Brody .....	Ukraine	Plasmotron.....	Ukraine
BWE Ltd .....	Great Britain	Polysoude.....	France- Russia
Centros paw .....	Ukraine	Polystar Ltd .....	Ukraine
Communar State Corporation .....	Ukraine	Prism Surface Coatings .....	India
Colormet Institute .....	Russia	Rembudservice .....	Ukraine
CPU-Czech Surface Treatment.....	Czech Republic	RUSO .....	Ukraine
DEWeld (Dealer of EWM).....	Ukraine	H A Schlatter AG.....	Switzerland
Dneprotechservice Scientific Firm .....	Ukraine	Selco srl .....	Italy
Doerken MKS-Systeme GmbH .....	Germany	SEPROZ - Scientific-Technology Center for Provision of Quality and Certification.....	Ukraine
DONMET Autogenous Equipment Plant.....	Ukraine	Sharptools Group .....	India
DP "Test" .....	Ukraine	Simferopol Motor Plant SIMZ .....	Ukraine
Electric Machine-Building Plant "Firm SELMA" .....	Ukraine	Sinico Spa .....	Italy
Engineering-Industrial Group .....	Ukraine	Sonis Ltd.....	Russia
EuroWire magazine .....	Great Britain	Speranza Company.....	Ukraine
ESAB.....	Sweden	Spetstechmaschine .....	Ukraine
EST+ as.....	Czech Republic	Stan-Complect .....	Ukraine
Esteves Group .....	Poland	Starfit China .....	European Office
Everstar sro .....	Czech Republic	STC "Paton Welding Institute" .....	Ukraine
Factor TH .....	Ukraine	Steelkanat-Market.....	Ukraine
Fakoor International Tehran Engineering Co .....	Iran	Stema/Pedax.....	Denmark
Fronius-Ukraine .....	Austria - Ukraine	Techmash Khmelnytskyi .....	Ukraine
Galatek as .....	Czech Republic	Techmash Odessa .....	Ukraine
Galvanochrom Ltd .....	Russia	Technolog .....	Ukraine
Hydropress Ltd .....	Ukraine	Tepris Ltd .....	Ukraine
Inductotherm HWT Ltd .....	USA	Tetra Ltd .....	Ukraine
Industrial Ware Union .....	Ukraine	TM Spetsmash.....	Ukraine
Innovator Sp Z oo .....	Poland	Trade House Welding .....	Ukraine
Intech NPP .....	Ukraine	Ukrainian Society of NDT and Technical Diagnostics .....	Ukraine
Interchim-BTW (Bohler Thyssen welding group) .....	Ukraine	Ukrainian Welding Company .....	Ukraine
Intras Ltd .....	Great Britain	UKRTRUBOPROM Association .....	Ukraine
IPG Zhitomyr .....	Ukraine	Ultracon.....	Ukraine
ItalPartner Group .....	Ukraine	Ultracon-Service .....	Ukraine
Kakhovka Electric Welding Equipment Plant.....	Ukraine	VANAD 2000.....	Czech Republic
Lasany Industries.....	Pakistan	Vari Tek Ltd.....	Ukraine
Lecom as .....	Czech Republic	Vistec (Dialer of KEMPPI OY).....	Ukraine
Lincoln Electric Europe.....	Netherlands	Volochisk-Metiz .....	Ukraine
Losynostrov Electrode Plant .....	Russia	Weldotherm .....	Germany- Ukraine
Menam Stainless Wire Public Co Ltd .....	Thailand	Weber CoMechanics .....	Russia
Metals of Ukraine .....	Ukraine	Wilhelm SEVERT Maschinenbau GmbH .....	Germany
Metiz Service.....	Ukraine	Wire & Cable ASIA magazine .....	Great Britain
Mezhgosmetiz .....	Russia	Wista .....	Czech Republic
MGM .....	Czech Republic	ZONT (Autogenmash).....	Ukraine
MMK-Metiz Ware Works .....	Russia		



# Materials handling & equipment

A strand of wire may be a powerful channel for data transmission; it is also a thin skein whose utility for any purpose can be destroyed in a moment.

Because mischance at any stage – from procurement to delivery of the finished product – would be ruinous to productivity, handling is a vital concern throughout the cycle of wire manufacture. In a modern, high-speed wire and cable plant, the caution “Handle with Care” will not be found posted on walls or stenciled on packing cases. It is understood to inform every process of the operation.

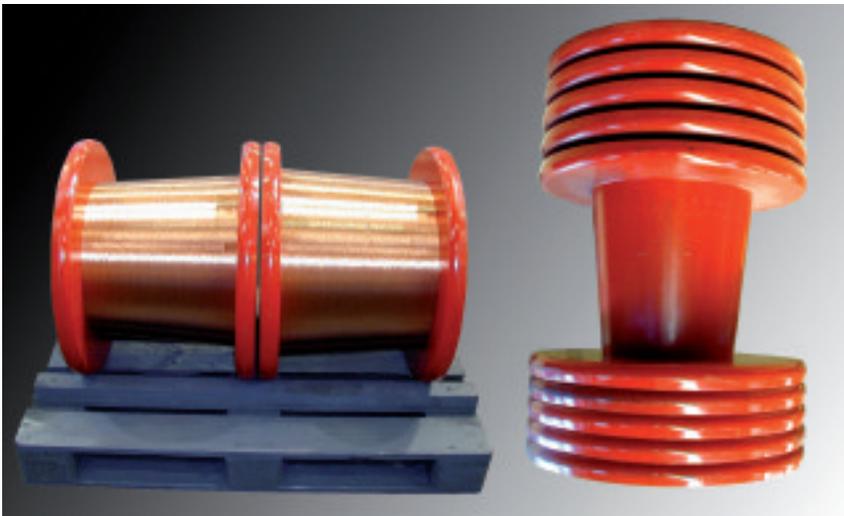
From the most sophisticated conveyors and carousels to the most workaday racks, jacks, and pallets, equipment and methods for the care and handling of wire and cable are top priority, from the receiving dock to the shipping bay.

The products and services reviewed here come out of that tradition.

## Strand spool saves costs

More than ten years ago, Maschinenfabrik Niehoff introduced the Niehoff Package System (NPS) to the market, a handling system which enables an efficient, safe and economical handling of cables, conductors, wires and strands. The NPS consists of specially developed spoolers and collapsible multi-way spools made of ABS plastic.

One of the NPS spools is designed for the spooling and transportation of wire bundles and strands. It features a correspondingly rugged and sturdy design and construction and is available in flange diameters of 630mm or 560mm. Like all other NPS spools, the NPS strand spools can be fully dismantled when empty and stacked into each other, which means that an NPS strand spool takes up only a third of the space of a comparable conventional spool and needs therefore much less return shipping space than traditional spools of the same capacity.



▲ NPS spools can be fully dismantled when empty

For the application of the NPS strand spool, a return on investment calculation, carried out by Niehoff, suggests that investment in NPS630 spools and the necessary conversion of the relevant machinery may be returned in a year and a half. The detailed calculation example is available upon request from Niehoff.

**Maschinenfabrik Niehoff GmbH & Co KG – Germany** Fax: +49 9122 977155  
**Email:** info@niehoff.de **Website:** www.niehoff.de

## Cable winding

Drouaire cable winding machines incorporate modern state-of-the-art technology, using a combination of electrical, pneumatic and hydraulic power. The result is believed to be the most rapid and easily operated unit of this kind available. Drouaire machines have been installed all over the world for major cable makers and cable sellers including Nexans, Prysmian, Draka and Silec and the range of production represents wide choice for cable, wire and optical fibre cable producers.



▲ Winding systems from Drouaire

The cable winding machines are fitted to a wide variety of drums and cables: for small drums (less than 1.4m diameter) payoff, traversing unit and take-up can be an all-in-one machine. This winding equipment is designed for cable sellers and cable users. The same machine will wind onto either a coiler or a drum: selection is easy, quick and secure (CE labelled). For larger, heavier drums (from 1.4m to 3.4m diameter), a gantry type is highly recommended to work more efficiently in all safety conditions. The layering unit should be motorised and controlled by PLC to wind the cable perfectly onto the drum. Control is by touch screen in the language of the user's choice.

**Drouaire & Fils sa – France**  
**Email:** contact@drouaire.com

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**Website:** www.drouaire.com

## HARD DRAWN CARBON STEEL WIRE

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## Wire and strip feeder

Bihler's NC-controlled gripper feed unit RZV 2 is a compact, highly flexible feeding system for strip and wire. It is especially suited for profiled, enamelled or coated material with a sensitive surface. It allows processing machines to be charged with material, directly fed from the coil, in precisely defined lengths from zero to infinite.

The material is treated especially gently as three grippers are always in action simultaneously. This multiple clamping avoids slipping of the material and

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Technical data:

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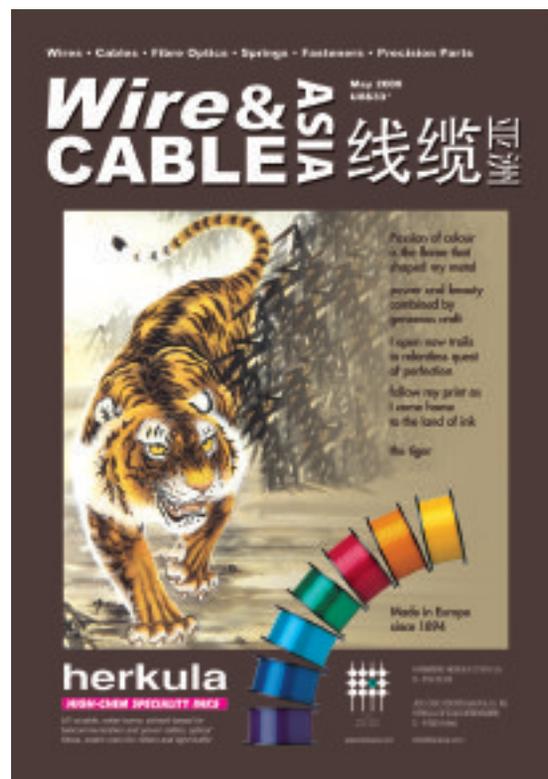
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- Maximum outer diameter: 230mm
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▲ Short length coils for Prysmian

The standard PS 200/8-2 comprises units such as a 1,800mm driven portal payoff stand, a vertical dancer, an electronic control cabinet, as well as a meter-counter group, a coiling head, a diametric strapping unit, a thermo-shrinking tunnel, a film drilling machine and automatic perimetral taping unit and two labelling machines.

The perimetral taping machine is designed to automatically apply adhesive tape onto the coil outer diameter thus making the final packaging more presentable. Company details such as the company name, address and website URL can be shown on this tape as well as the cable characteristics.

The film drilling machine, located at the exit of the tunnel, can drill both sides of the shrink-wrapped coil simultaneously, thus producing a circular drilling and a hole to enable the customer to easily pull the end of the cable through.

Moreover, by pressing the film-drilled area, the end-user can have a shrink-wrapped coil with a central hole and a small hole to pull the end of the cable.

These holes, on the shrink-wrapped coil, also enable the customer to shelve the coils accordingly.

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M+E also manufactures wet drawing machines for steel and stainless steel wire complete with horizontal or vertical axis spoolers.

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▲ Spool (on the left) and carrier (on the right) for stainless steel wire

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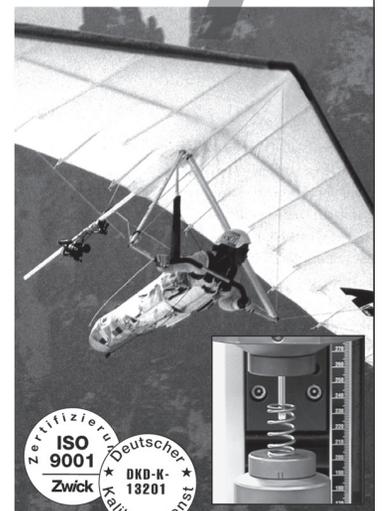
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Today's high-throughput production machines routinely attain speeds of more than 30m per second for wires of only a few hundredths of a millimetre in diameter. The forces applied to these wires are of the order of a few tenths of a Newton, and must be controlled very precisely. The task is complicated by the fact that the tension to be applied must be above the elastic limit of the wire (to give it rigidity) yet below its breaking point (to avoid any break leading to production shutdown). At such speeds wire tension control cannot be applied at the feed coil, as its inertia is too high. The feed coil therefore remains static, and the wire is pulled by the tensioner and then wound onto the receiving coil. In these conditions the precision of tension control during coil winding is a major issue.

Various braking technologies can be considered to control the torque applied to the shaft of the capstan pulley around which the wire is wound (without slippage) to generate the winding tension. Other than technologies based on friction brakes of various levels of sophistication, which cannot handle large-diameter wires, the solutions generally use motor control, but these are also generally limited to the finest wires for reasons of space and budget limitations. However, future developments are tending towards larger wire diameters, for example in order to meet the high demand from China and India for power transformers, but also for more specific applications in the cable industry. In this context, Altic has selected Merobel EMP brakes, from Redex Andantex, for its entire range of electrical and electronic tensioners.

"We can only be pleased by the technical advantages provided by Merobel brakes for our most demanding applications," states Jean-Yves Petitgas, director of Altic.

"Their flexible, jerk-free operation, the very low electrical power needed for their control, the torque density and the robustness of the brakes are indispensable qualities for us. The technology of Merobel's EMP brakes enables us to cover 100% of our current range." The electromagnetic brake works on the following principle: a change in the magnetic field alters the viscosity of the EMP powder, controlling the mechanical coupling between the inner and outer rotors. With this technique, the torque is proportional to the current that produces the magnetic field and is independent of the rotation speed. The torque/size ratio is better than for a friction-based mechanical solution: the torque is reliable and reproducible, without shocks, and the response time is rapid. Wear is also very low, giving a long maintenance-free lifetime. The design means that mechanical installation is generally very simple.

Altic uses the FAS and FRAS models (output-shaft brakes) for the smallest sizes and the FAT and FRAT models (through-shaft brakes) for the rest of the range. In addition, Altic fits Merobel PowerBlock2 power supplies in all cases, ensuring very precise electrical control. Altic is the inventor of the modern wire tensioner and manufactures the only closed loop force control solutions available on the market. Based in southern France, Altic now exports almost 80% of its production.

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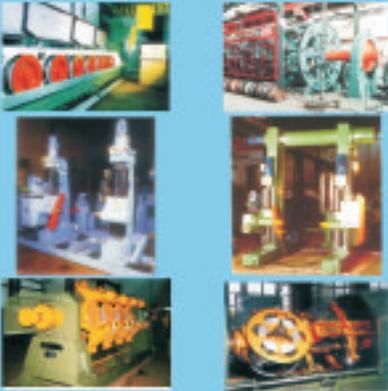
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## Coil winder and decoiler

Model AU180SPE is an easy to use machine for winding normal or coated ductile wires, annealed or zinc-plated iron, copper or zinc aluminium with diameters up to 5mm. It winds onto a standard pick up coil with an outer diameter of 340mm, an inner diameter 200mm and coil width 150mm. The coil can weigh up to 50kg.

The machine is equipped with electronic adjustment of the wire-guide pitch, simply set using a special keyboard. This system makes the machine extremely flexible and rapid for winding any diameter of wire with maximum precision. Winding stops when the desired (set) number of coiled wire numbers layers is reached. An automatic pneumatic system extracts the finished bounded coil from the winding drum.



▲ AU180SPE, SV2, and SLF01 from Collari Edore

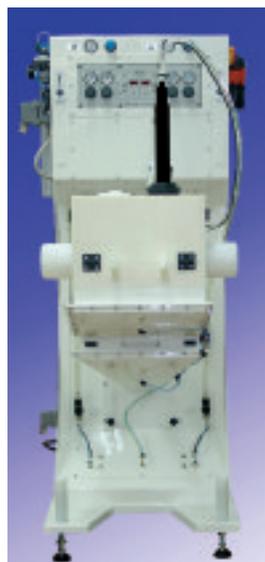
The model SV2 unwinder/static decoiler can be easily combined with all Collari Edore coil winder models. This adaptable decoiler will work with big skins of up to 1,000kg or with special or standard internal baskets up to 1,500mm height. It is suitable for metal wires of 0.5mm to 5mm diameter and for speeds up to 7m/sec. For automatic lubrication of wire during the winding process, model SLF01 can be placed between decoiler and coil winder.

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## Powder handling for coating systems

ECC 701 coating systems from Nordson Corporation provide precise process control for applying powders for high quality, reproducible cable coating. The system maintains an even flow of powder to consistently produce the desired coating thickness. The new dual-filter system and improved pump technology help reduce material usage, lower production costs and allow handling of abrasive materials.



▲ Nordson coatings materials handling system, ECC 701

ECC 701 systems fluidise and charge various powders, including talcs and superabsorbent powders (SAPs), to spray on to cable. The systems precisely control all process parameters for repeatable coating, and parameters can be easily adjusted to meet changing application requirements. Use of Versa-Spray® guns optimises performance of various powders using the corona process to charge powder particles. Versatile, industry-proven Versa-Spray guns process a wide variety of materials from talcs to abrasive substances such as SAPs.

The new dual-filter system recovers material not applied to cables and returns it to the hopper. This results in high transfer efficiency while also providing a clean production environment.

The ECC 701 coating systems allow specification of spray chambers and pumps to accommodate a wide variety of process requirements and materials. Options such as material flow monitoring and automatic refill hoppers further customise the systems for individual manufacturing needs. The modular system design has flexible inputs and outputs for easy integration into existing production lines.

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## Automatic double winding, packaging and palletising line

KFM Kabelmaschinenfabrik Müller GmbH, Germany, has developed a new fully automatic double spooling line for winding, packing and palletising of plywood reels. The double winding system increases the output of coiled reels.

The installation is designed in modules, which are adaptable to the special requirements of each customer. The modules include a new payoff, type TW 800, suitable for drums with a flange diameter of 300mm up to 500mm that can be programmed for automatic pick-up and delivery of drums. The operator has only to connect the ends of the cables.

The heart of the installation is the reel winder, type TS 500/300-2. The plant is designed to operate different sizes of reels with minimum preparation time; the change of format for the complete line takes approximately ten minutes. Up to 12 empty reels are manually placed on a table, from where they are collected individually and set into the winding axis by a pick-and-place unit. The cable is guided through a gaugeable length-measuring system via several test instruments, an accumulator and a laying-up device onto the core of the reel, where it is mechanically fixed. The cable is wound according to the pre-programmed length, and after winding it is fixed and packed in stretch foil. For this, and to maintain production speed, the reel is moved into another station. The packed reel is taken out of the machine by means of a carriage and moved into a tipping unit. Then the reel is labelled with pre-defined information or individual in-line result information. Defective cable is cut and removed from the machine, to ensure that only perfect cable is packed on reels.

The last station in the line is the fully automatic palletiser. The palletiser is programmed with pre-sets for each size of spool, making it easy to change spool sizes. The palletiser is designed to receive different sizes of pallets.



▲ Double spooler for large diameter reels

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# Deep-Sea ROV Cable

By Jarrett S Shinoski Research & Development, CommScope Claremont, NC; Dave Weaver and Tom Tolman Oceaneering International Inc, Hanover, MD

## Abstract

The Deep-Sea ROV cable has changed the world of deep-sea exploration forever. With this technology, explorers and historians have been able to investigate the interiors of such shipwrecks as the Titanic and the Bismarck. This unique cable has been used as a communications link between the operator and two specially designed ROVs (Remote Operated Vehicle) referred to as the Deep-Sea ROV and the Hybrid AUV (Autonomous Underwater Vehicle)/ROV.

This cable is 900microns in diameter and carries a single fibre for sending information to and from the fibre optic telemetry system.

Mike Cameron of Dark Matter LLC originally developed this technology in 1999. Mike Cameron and his brother James Cameron used this ROV technology in documentary films before Oceaneering International purchased the technology in January 2005. Oceaneering has plans of bringing this technology into the mainstream by utilising both of the ROV's unique capabilities, for potential uses such as the inspection of undersea equipment, port security monitoring, and search and rescue missions.

The Oceaneering ROVs are revolutionary and have created a paradigm shift in ROV design. The two ROVs are self-contained units that house their own batteries for power and spool out their own cable for communications.

A typical ROV sends power and commands through a large tether, which restrains the path of the vehicle and how far the vehicle can penetrate into a wreck.

In addition, the tether is commonly spooled out from the command centre via a very large reel. Since the fibre optic tether is expendable, the Oceaneering ROVs have the unique capability of running into one opening and out through another with no restrictions on entry and exit points and no restrictions on depth of penetration into a cavity. The Deep-Sea ROV cable gives these ROVs a competitive edge.

The cable spools out by way of a proprietary mechanical payoff system built into the ROV itself, eliminating the need for a fibre optic slip ring. The Deep-Sea ROV contains approximately 600metres while the Hybrid AUV/ROV contains 2,000metres of this very fine 900micron cable.

This cable contains one optical fibre, speciality strength members, and oil. The optical fibre is a typical single mode fibre 255microns in diameter, utilised for controls and feedback. The strength members aid in both tension control and cable durability. The oil gives the cable its incompressible properties at depths of up to 6,100metres (20,000 feet). The outer jacket is a special polymer blend used to achieve the correct buoyancy of the cable in the water column. The ROVs are so small, and contain so much cable, that an improperly weighted cable would wreak havoc on an ROV's buoyancy controls.

This cable was qualified using both standard testing practices and distinctively new test methods. Mechanical and environmental performance was tested and the cable was subjected to the most severe requirements of three different standards.

The three standards were the ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, the GR-20-CORE, and the EN 187105. To get a better idea of the performance of this cable, it was tested to failure under the general guidelines of the specifications.

In addition, several custom tests were developed in order to predict the reliability of the cable. A specialised hydrostatic pressure test bench was employed by Oceaneering in order to simulate the pressure on the cable at extreme ocean depths. A buoyancy requirement was also created by Oceaneering in order to achieve the proper buoyancy. A specialised test for hockling (the marine term for kinking) was created by CommScope in order to benchmark the hockle performance of each cable. From these test results we could assure Oceaneering the best possible cable for their special application.

## 1 Introduction

The Deep-Sea ROV cable was evaluated by both the manufacturer and the end user for two different but similar applications. This specialised cable was already being used for the Deep-Sea ROV, but needed to be optimised to perform well in a newer application.

This new application was a Hybrid AUV/ROV with both autonomous and normal ROV capabilities. Many cabling trials, laboratory tests and field tests were conducted in order to hone in on the proper cable design.

## 2 Cable design

### 2.1 Customer request

Oceaneering had requested a new cable design containing only one fibre and with a diameter close to 900microns. This invention was a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Deep-Sea ROV cable.

#### 2.1.1 First generation cable

The first generation cable was a 2-fibre cable consisting of two multimode fibres with an overall diameter of approximately 1.4mm. One fibre was for information sent to the ROV (to control the ROV) and the other was information sent back from the ROV (live video feedback).

This cable contained many ends of strength elements for increased tensile strength. Later on, the Oceaneering team replaced the fibre optic systems so that they could send information bi-directionally via a single fibre rather than two separate ones.

#### 2.1.2 Second generation cable

Still maintaining the same diameter for mechanical compatibility, this second generation cable contained only a single fibre.

The cable was still 1.4mm in diameter but added an additional jacket of protection. In between the two jacket layers was a layer of strength elements for added tensile strength and abrasion resistance.

Both the first and second generation cables had no requirements for buoyancy; they only had to be guaranteed to sink.

### 2.1.3 Deep-Sea ROV cable

This third generation cable differed from the previous two generations of cable by having the following enhanced properties:

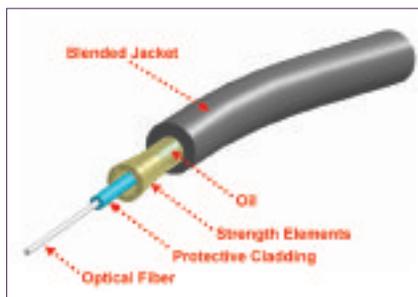
- 1 smaller diameter – this cable was almost half the size of the previous two versions, making for a more compact spool, hence a smaller ROV design or potentially longer cable runs
- 2 neutrally buoyant – this cable was constructed of a blended polymer jacket, which consisted of two different types of material added together to give the cable neutral buoyancy properties
- 3 more hockle resistance – this cable had a greater chance of relieving itself from a high stress kink situation than its predecessors. This was due to the fact that the jacket was much more rigid than previous cable jackets

### 2.2 Invention construction

This cable was a 1-fibre construction, meaning it contained only a single optical fibre for data transmission to and from the vehicle. The design was oil-filled buffer tube, approximately 900microns in diameter. The tube contained oil, optical fibre, and strength elements. The oil consisted of a low viscosity mineral oil. The optical fibre was a standard dispersion-unshifted, matched-clad single mode fibre of 255microns in diameter.

The strength elements consisted of a multifilament thermoplastic yarn, with good tensile properties and superior abrasion resistance. The buffer tube consisted of a dual polymer blend.

See *Figure 1* below for a schematic of the cable design.



▲ **Figure 1**

### 2.3 Purpose

Typical ROVs used a large tether for power and communications. Unlike typical ROVs, power in this case was provided onboard using a high energy density battery system.

A revolutionary communications link was needed to feed commands to the ROV as well as send back video imagery.

Wireless systems would seem to be the logical choice, considering the advanced systems found in these ROVs. Unfortunately, wireless systems under water tend to perform very differently from their performance in the open air. Traditional video signals could be transmitted to the controller via radio waves, but radio will not travel far underwater.

Sound travels well underwater, but sound waves would be too slow and could not handle the data transfer rate required for the high-resolution video images. That is when the Deep-Sea ROV cable came to fruition as the only logical solution to a communications dilemma. Using a non-traditional method of tethered deployment, the small expendable cable was fed from a spool located inside the vehicle. Conventional tethers would be spooled out from the host ship or command centre.

Where standard tethers would limit the mobility of the vehicle, this cable allowed the BOT operator unprecedented freedom to explore. There would be no more entanglement situations as the ROV could simply leave the entangled cable behind and continue exploring. The ROV would simply spool out more cable via its sophisticated mechanical payoff. No more returning in the same path in which you came, this vehicle could be driven into one location and out another. With a completed mission the umbilical would simply be cut and left behind.

## 3 Deep-Sea ROV

### 3.1 Purpose

The initial purpose of the Deep-Sea ROV was to explore ship wreckage. The first official job of the Deep-Sea ROV as an Oceanering asset was a film documentary of the Titanic, Last Mystery of the Titanic, which aired live on the Discovery Channel on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2005 from the site of the wreck. In addition, the Deep-Sea ROV has successfully demonstrated the ability to conduct close-in inspection of subsea equipment, improved search and recovery operations, and security inspections of vessels and piers.

### 3.2 Description

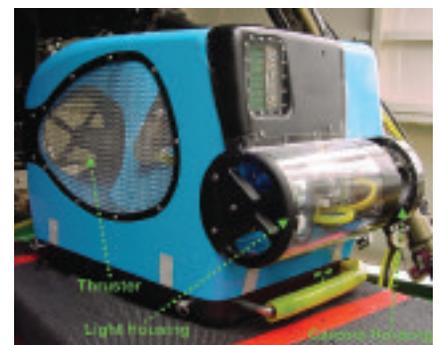
The Deep-Sea ROV was a box shaped BOT measuring 27" long by 15.5" wide by 17.5" tall. Interestingly enough, these dimensions came from the requirements of its first mission, a trip into the RMS Titanic. The Deep-Sea ROV had to fit through the portholes on the Titanic, measuring 18" wide by 24" high. The outside of the BOT was comprised of syntactic foam made of spheres of glass impregnated into a two-part epoxy-type resin.

This special makeup allowed the BOT to have buoyancy at great depth. Inside the frame were 600metres of the Deep-Sea ROV cable. The ROV housed two video cameras, one being a high-resolution camera for filming segments and the other, a monochrome camera used for navigation purposes. In order to see at these depths, the ROV was equipped with two sets of halogen floodlights and two sets of LED arrays. The halogen flood and spot lights were utilised during filming sequences, while the LED lights were used to navigate due to their low power consumption.

The cameras and lights were mounted onto a tiltable bar that allowed up to 210° of travel in the up/down range. The operator controlled the tilt angle from a button located on the operator's joystick.

To position the cameras azimuthally the operator could manipulate the four thrusters via movement of the joystick. The operator had the ability to control the yaw and pitch, which was described as being very similar to flying a small airplane. In addition, the operator had the ability to control the buoyancy of the ROV by releasing small weights from the underbody of the vehicle or syntactic foam blocks from the top of the vehicle.

All the sophisticated electronic equipment located on this ROV was powered by a high energy-density battery system, which provided 12–18 hours of operation. Refer to *Figure 2* for a schematic of the Deep-Sea ROV.



▲ **Figure 2**

### 3.3 Advantages

The main advantages of the Deep-Sea ROV over traditional ROVs were its small package size, high-energy onboard power supply, and an expendable fibre optic tether (Deep-Sea ROV cable). The ROV was capable of manoeuvring into small cavities within a wreck that would be inaccessible to manned submersibles, divers, or larger ROVs and because it used an onboard power supply, there was no need for a bulky tether; a bulky tether would make filming almost impossible as it would stir up too much sediment for a clear shot of the subject.



Another advantage of the ROV was its ability to provide real-time high-resolution video images via a high-resolution camera and sophisticated lighting, as seen in *Figure 3*.



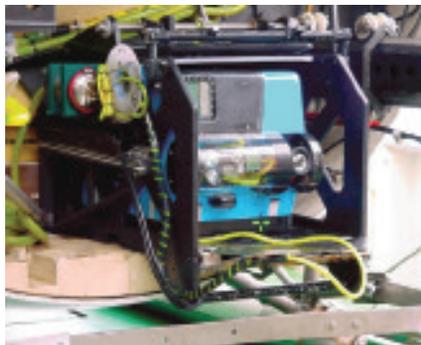
▲ **Figure 3**

Since the ROV's buoyancy, yaw and pitch could be adjusted on the fly, this ROV could be very effective on missions requiring tricky manoeuvres.

### 3.4 Disadvantages

The Deep-Sea ROV was designed for a niche application. Because it was a slow moving vehicle (< 3 knots) and it had a finite amount of battery life, the ROV had to be placed in very close proximity to the inspection site.

A majority of the time it would be carried to the site via a manned submersible in a launch and recovery enclosure (LARE) as seen in *Figure 4*. The BOT could operate in currents of 2 knots or less.



▲ **Figure 4**

## 4 Hybrid AUV/ROV

### 4.1 Purpose

The purpose of the hybrid vehicle is to take the advantage of the Deep-Sea ROV technology and couple that with the advantages of an autonomous, free swimming vehicle. This was achieved by using a Myring hull design vice the box shape of the first generation Deep-Sea ROV. The Hybrid AUV/ROV is capable of greater distances as well as the handling of strong water currents. The Hybrid AUV/ROV has two modes of operation: (1) autonomous and (2) ROV. In the autonomous mode, the vehicle can be programmed via mission planning software to operate using waypoint navigation. In this mode the fibre optic tether can be used to monitor the

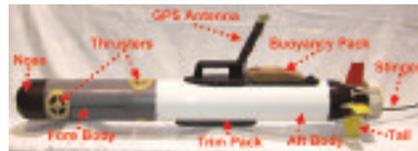
vehicle's activities and allow the operator to take control of the vehicle at any time. Additionally, if the fibre optic tether were to break, the vehicle is pre-programmed to return to a selected location for recovery. In the ROV mode, the operator can take control of the vehicle to conduct inspections such as to check damage on hulls of ships, potential faults in dams, and leaks in potable water tunnels.

### 4.2 Description

The shape of the Hybrid AUV/ROV is drastically different from that of the original Deep-Sea ROV. The profile of the vehicle mimics the contours of a standard submarine or torpedo design.

The body shape allows the vehicle to speed (> 3.5 knots) through rough waters and heavy currents.

The Hybrid AUV/ROV is 6" in diameter and over 62" in length. Though larger than the Deep-Sea ROV, it has the agility needed to position itself for near field inspections. The vehicle has a main propulsion screw for forward and reverse motion as well as vertical and lateral thrusters located in the fore body. Refer to *Figure 5* for a schematic of the AUV/ROV.



▲ **Figure 5**

The Hybrid AUV/ROV is similar to the Deep-Sea ROV in that it has an onboard power supply and is tethered to the command station via the same Deep-Sea ROV cable. Cable is paid out of the vehicle in a more simplistic manner than the original Deep-Sea ROV, storing up to 2,000metres of cable within its hull. The tether leaves the vehicle via a small tube called the stinger, so as to prevent the cable from getting caught up in the propulsion system.

The Hybrid AUV/ROV has improved electronics and sensors to allow it to perform its role as a piece of inspection equipment.

### 4.3 Advantages

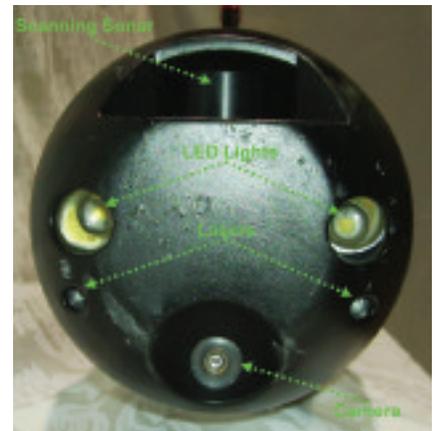
The Hybrid AUV/ROV has the capability of travelling long distances without any human intervention via its autonomous operation mode.

The advantages of the autonomous mode are that: (1) it provides a stand-off capability from the work site and (2) it eases operator loading by not having to steer the vehicle at high speed over a long distance. Without a stand-off capability, the Hybrid AUV/ROV would have to be

delivered to the work site via a manned submersible, more like the Deep-Sea ROV. Additionally, the vehicle's autonomous capability provides a means to recover the vehicle if the fibre optic tether were to sever or break during the operation. The vehicle can be pre-programmed prior to the start of the operation with a geodetic location to return to if communication is lost. This could be as simple as a single location or instruction to swim out on the same path as was used to reach the work site.

To assist with autonomous navigation the Hybrid AUV/ROV is equipped with a GPS (Global Positioning System). The vehicle can be programmed to come to the surface during transit to the work site to obtain a navigational fix. Once the fix has been obtained the vehicle can correct its course and proceed to the next waypoint.

The vehicle is also equipped with high-frequency sonar, as seen in *Figure 6*, which is employed for obstacle avoidance and to help locate the work site.



▲ **Figure 6**

Once the Hybrid AUV/ROV has reached its destination the operator shifts to the ROV mode and monitors the high-resolution imagery available from the two video cameras. One camera is located on the nose and the other on the GPS mast.

The camera located on the GPS mast is used both surfaced and submerged. This camera can assist with navigation when surfaced and provide a different perspective when submerged since the nose of the vehicle is visible in the viewing area.

In addition, the Hybrid AUV/ROV has two lasers located on the nose, used to provide a fixed reference frame for sizing objects seen through the nose camera.

### 4.4 Disadvantages

The Hybrid AUV/ROV was not designed to penetrate shipwrecks or small void areas; the long length of the vehicle offsets the small diameter size.

While highly manoeuvrable, this vehicle is better suited for external vice internal inspections. With today's technology, this was the most compact unit that could be built and still retain the sophisticated features described above.

## 5 Review of test results

### 5.1 CommScope Testing

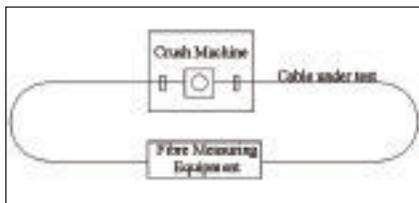
Standard outside plant cable testing was completed at the CommScope facility located in Claremont, NC. This testing was performed, not to qualify this cable for use as an everyday terrestrial cable or long haul oceanic cable, but in order to set a benchmark for future deep-sea fibre optic cable designs. The cable was subject to the most severe requirements set out in the ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, the GR-20-CORE and the EN 187105 standards, and tested to failure under the general guidelines of these specifications.

#### 5.1.1 Compression to failure

The Telcordia GR-20 was the most stringent of the three standards, calling for 44N/mm of pressure over a one minute period and 22N/mm of pressure over ten minutes. A similar test was adopted by applying a specified load for a period of ten minutes, and then testing the attenuation of the cable at the end of that time period while the cable was still under load.

The GR-20 standard had the most rigorous requirements for any increase in attenuation; therefore the GR-20 was the guideline that was followed. The standard stated that the change in attenuation should remain less than 0.05dB for 90% of the fibres under test and less than 0.15 for 100% of the fibres under test.

The cable was crushed using a 25mm steel plate with rounded edges having a 10mm radius. A schematic of the test setup can be seen in Figure 7.



▲ Figure 7

With every passing result, the load was increased. This procedure was followed until a cable failure was achieved.

The results of this testing can be seen in Table 2. As we can see from the results, the cable performed surprisingly well, considering that the requirement for a standard outside plant cable is 44N/mm.

Pressure (N/mm)	Delta (dB)	Pass/Fail
10	0.00	Pass
15	0.08	Pass
20	0.03	Pass
25	0.11	Pass
30	0.70	Fail

▲ Table 2: Compression Test Results

Number of Impacts	Force (N.m)	Δ Attn.	Pass/Fail
1	0.1	0	Pass
1	0.2	0	Pass
1	0.3	0	Pass
1	0.4	0	Pass
1	0.5	N/A	Fail

▲ Table 3: Impact Test Results

Each of the pressures was performed twice in order to assure a passing or a failing result. The incompressible fluid within the cable may have attributed to the performance of this cable construction under a compressible load.

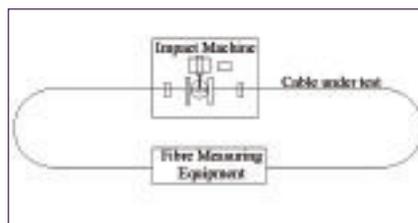
#### 5.1.2 Impact to failure

The EN-187105 standard required a specified impact force be applied once over three different sections of the cable.

The ICEA-640 standard required a specified impact force be applied twice over three different sections of the cable.

The GR-20 standard required a specified impact force be applied 20 times in one location on the cable. In a real underwater scenario an impact would most likely occur only one time in one location, therefore the GR-20 test procedure was followed. The GR-20 standard had the most severe requirements for any increase in attenuation; therefore the GR-20 was the guideline that was followed.

Again, the standard stated that the change in attenuation should remain less than 0.05 dB for 90% of the fibres under test and less than 0.15 for 100% of the fibres under test. A schematic of the test setup can be seen in Figure 8.



▲ Figure 8

The test cable was impacted with a specified force for the duration of one cycle. Once the impact was complete, the cable's attenuation was tested.

This procedure was repeated until a cable failure was achieved. The results of this testing can be seen in Table 3.

From these results it can be seen that 0.4Nm is the maximum impact force that this cable could withstand. At 0.5Nm the cable was completely flattened with the broken fibre protruding from the side of the jacket. As a reference, standard outside plant is required to withstand an impact force of 4.4Nm, much higher than what the Deep-Sea ROV cable was capable of achieving. However, this cable will most likely be impacted under water; any falling object located underwater will move with much less velocity, hence much less force will be exerted on the cable.

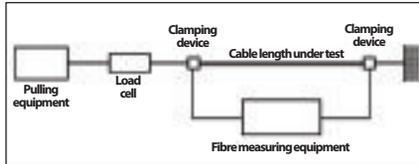
#### 5.1.3 Tensile to failure

All three standards require a specific tensile load with the ICEA-640 and GR-20 standards calling for the highest short-term tensile load at 2670N. The EN-187105 calls for a short-term tensile load that is a factor of the cable's weight. The mandrel diameter used on the bench was specified to be the most stringent in the GR-20 and ICEA-640 documents. These standards specify a maximum diameter of 560mm and a minimum of 30x the diameter of the cable. Testers utilised a mandrel diameter of 26mm for this test.

According the ICEA-640 and GR-20 documents, a cable failure constitutes an attenuation increase of greater than 0.05dB at the 1,550nm wavelength and/or a fibre strain greater than or equal to 60% of the fibre's proof strain. Obviously, this test would not be approaching the specified loads, as the cable has a modulus of elasticity in the range of only 12kgf.

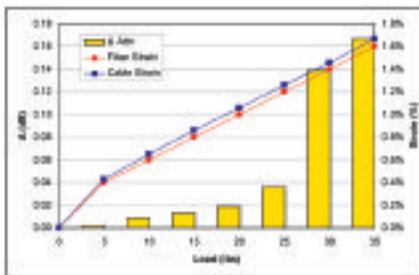
Testers used an Instron® tensile bench with built-in extensometer to strain test this cable. The tensile bench was set up to run as slowly as possible, to allow for recording

of the cable's attenuation and strain. The Instron provided the load data, while the extensometer provided the strain data. Since the extra fibre length in this cable was so insignificant, cable strain and fibre strain were assumed to be the same. A schematic of the test set up can be seen in *Figure 9*.



▲ **Figure 9**

The cable strain and fibre strain results with corresponding attenuation readings can be seen in *Figure 10*.



▲ **Figure 10**

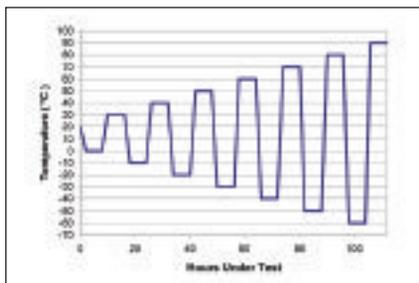
From the results it can be seen that there is no large change in attenuation before 30 pounds. All fibre optic cable standards require that the fibre sees strain no higher than 60% of the fibre proof level while the cable is at its maximum rated load. This proof strain was derived from the study of the reliability of fibre over a 20-year life cycle, specifically the propagation of stress cracks over this time period.

The Deep-Sea ROV cable was only intended to perform for a short period of time before it was decommissioned so, because of the limited life cycle of this cable, the acceptable load could be much greater than the 60% fibre proof strain. A load of 25 pounds appears to be an acceptable choice.

### 5.1.4 Temperature cycle to failure

EN-187105 demands the lowest test temperature at  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$ , while the GR-20 and ICEA-640 call for the highest test temperature at  $+70^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

▼ **Figure 11**



Cycle	Temperature Extremes ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	Delta Cold (dB/km)	Delta Hot (dB/km)
1	0/+40	-0.003	0.003
2	-10/+50	-0.002	0.011
3	-20/+60	-0.002	0.010
4	-30/+70	-0.005	0.010
5	-40/+80	-0.004	0.007
6	-50/+85	-0.003	0.005
7	-60/+90	0.043	N/A

▲ **Table 4: Temperature Cycle Test Results**

It was decided to follow a modified temperature cycle profile that would cycle the cables to temperature extremes to initiate cable failure. The temperature cycle profile used in this test can be seen in *Figure 11*.

GR-20 requires the most stringent attenuation requirements for the average attenuation increase of all of the fibres, at 0.05dB/km. EN-187105 has the most stringent requirement for attenuation increase on an individual fibre, 0.1dB/km.

Testers settled on a modified requirement that no individual fibre shall have an attenuation increase greater than 0.1dB/km and that the average attenuation increase of all of the fibres shall not be greater than 0.05dB/km. It was also decided to follow the more stringent requirements of ICEA-640 and GR-20 while taking attenuation measurements.

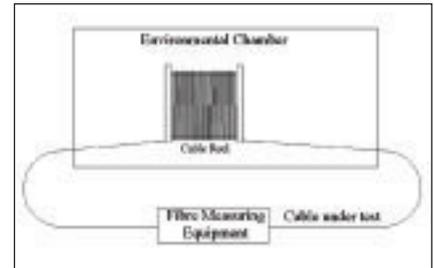
All attenuation measurements would be measured at the temperature extremes and compared with the baseline measurements taken at ambient temperature prior to testing. A schematic of the test set up can be seen in *Figure 12*.

The results of this testing can be seen in *Figure 13*, where the temperature cycle was represented on the X-axis and the fluctuation in attenuation was represented on the Y-axis. These values represented the maximum attenuation change of a singular fibre at every temperature extreme.

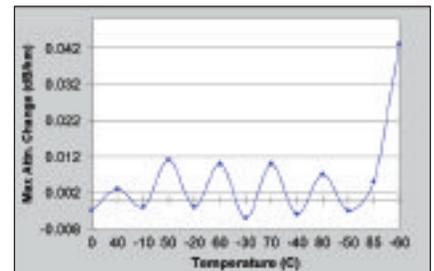
From these results it can be seen that the cable was more than capable of handling large fluctuations in temperature. Even though the cable is capable of  $-60^{\circ}\text{C}$ , it will most likely never see this temperature as the sea water in which it operates freezes at a temperature just below  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The data is represented in a tabular form in *Table 4*.

### 5.1.5 Hockle Test

This test was created to test the kink resistance or hockle resistance of the variations of the Deep-Sea ROV cable. Hockling is defined as, "(of a rope) to have the yarns spread and kinked through twisting in use." A benchmark was needed to judge whether or not the process or material changes in the design were

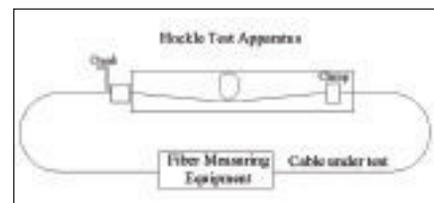


▲ **Figure 12**



▲ **Figure 13**

helping to improve the hockle effect on the cable. The test set up included a twisting bench and a fibre-measuring device. The cable was strung through the twisting bench and then connected to the fibre testing equipment on either end, as seen in *Figure 14*.



▲ **Figure 14**

The distance between the crank and the clamp were set to a predetermined distance. With the distance set, the cable was affixed to both the clamp and the crank. The clamp was then moved two-thirds of the distance back to the crank. The crank handle was turned in 10 turn increments starting at 0. Once twisted through a 10-turn cycle, the clamp was returned to its designated position.

During the clamp's return path the cable would hockle and then remove itself from a hockle. The fibre was tested following the release of the hockle.

Set Distance (m)	Maximum Number of Turns before Attn. Failure	Maximum Number of Turns before Fibre Break
0.50	20	40
0.75	40	50
1.00	50	60
1.25	70	70
1.50	70	80

▲ **Table 5: Hockle Test Results**

The standard attenuation requirement was used for this test. The standard stated that the change in attenuation should remain less than 0.05dB for 90% of the fibres under test and less than 0.15 for 100% of the fibres under test.

If the fibre met the change in attenuation requirements, then the procedure was repeated until a failure occurred.

From the results it can be seen that the cable will withstand an extreme hockle situation. The results far exceeded expectations, eclipsing the results from previous cable designs. With other cable designs, a predictable number of twists would form a hockle in the cable. Once a hockle was formed, cable failure was almost guaranteed.

In the current case a hockle had to be combined with excessive twisting in order to initiate a failure. This was definitely a more robust cable than any of the previous iterations.

## 5.2 Oceaneering International testing

In addition to CommScope testing, Oceaneering performed a few internally created tests in order to build confidence in the cable design.

A deployment at sea can cost millions of dollars, so Oceaneering methodically tests all components of the ROVs.

The Deep-Sea ROV cable was a small but vital component; therefore, Oceaneering engineers were uncompromising regarding any poor test results.

### 5.2.1 Specialised hydrostatic pressure test

In order to simulate the extreme depths of the ocean, a hydrostatic pressure tank was utilised by the Oceaneering team.

These tanks are capable of simulating 9,100metres (30,000 ft) depths with a pressure of 92N/mm<sup>2</sup> (13,400psi) of water pressure.

All of the equipment was tested to 6,096metres (20,000 ft) or 61 N/mm<sup>2</sup> (8,900psi) of water pressure. Oceaneering tested the Deep-Sea ROV cable on site with a small hydrostatic chamber.

Immediate feedback on the pressure performance allowed for quicker turn around time for any necessary design changes or process alterations.

### 5.2.2 Buoyancy test

This test was performed within the Oceaneering facility. It was extremely important to the Oceaneering team that the new cable was neutrally buoyant, so as not to affect the buoyancy of the vehicle itself.

The spooled cable located onboard the ROV makes up a large percentage of the overall weight of the vehicle. As the cable is paid out it can potentially cause a shift in the buoyancy of the vessel.

This test was performed by weighing the spool of cable on a gravimetric scale located in a salt water bath.

### 5.2.3 Fibre pack payout test

A third party was used to pack the fibre onto the spool, therefore an acceptance test needed to be performed on the finished fibre packs which had both a second party supplier and a third party supplier for one piece of equipment.

The quality of this cable has to be flawless to meet the requirements of both Oceaneering and the spool manufacturer.

Even if the cable met all of Oceaneering's requirements, it did not mean approval from the spooling manufacturer.

The fibre pack was tested underwater with a take-up spooling out the cable and an attenuation measuring device to monitor the cable's attenuation values as it was paid out.

## 6 Conclusion

From the testing completed at the CommScope Claremont facility developers had a good understanding of the capabilities of the new cable.

This data can be compared to any future cable designs to see if a change in design or material will really improve the performance of this cable.

The test results from Oceaneering assure the ROV team that the cable will meet the rigorous demands of the deep-sea environment. ■

## 7 Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the CommScope fibre optics product engineering staff for all of their hard work, namely Robert D Paysour Jr, Kevin Sigmon, Chris Rogers and Joe Lichtenwalner.

This paper was presented at the 56<sup>th</sup> IWCS, held in Florida in 2007, and is reproduced with the permission of the organisers.

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- <sup>[2]</sup> GR-20-CORE Issue 2, "Generic requirements for optical fiber and optical fiber cable"
- <sup>[3]</sup> EN 187105:2002, "Single mode optical cable (duct/direct buried installation)"
- <sup>[4]</sup> Random House Unabridged Dictionary, copyright© 1997

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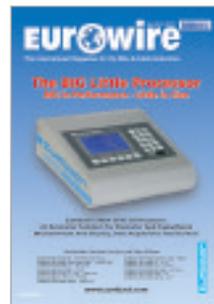
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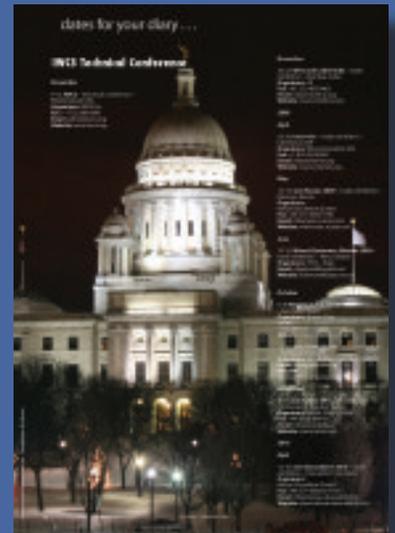
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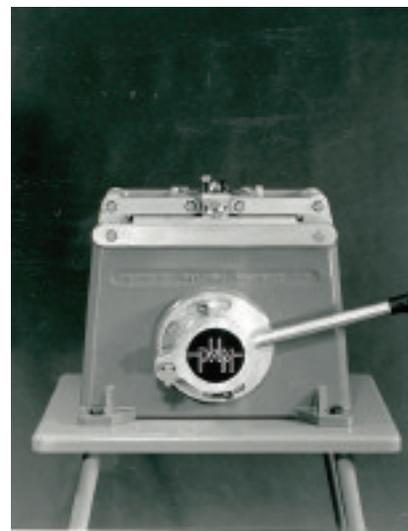
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## PWM feiert 25 Jahre Leistung

Die Entwicklung eines Kaltschweißers, um große Stabquerschnitte zu vereinigen, und jene eines Ziehsteins, um sehr dünnen Draht zu binden, sind nur zwei der Meilensteine der Geschichte des britischen Unternehmens PWM, das im Mai 2009 25 Jahre Betrieb in der internationalen Draht- und Kabelindustrie feiert.

PWM, das Hochleistungs-Kaltpreßschweißausrüstungen und Ziehsteine entwirft und herstellt, ist seit 1984 an erster Stelle in der Kaltschweißtechnologie. Die Produktpalette von PWM umfasst Maschinen, die sich für eine große Auswahl an Anwendungen eignen, von manuell betriebenen Handschweißgerät um dünnen Kupfer-/Aluminiumdraht mit einem Durchmesser von 0,08mm zu verbinden bis hin zu großen, hochbelastbaren elektrisch/pneumatisch und elektronisch/hydraulisch angetriebenen Stabschweißern mit Durchmesserkapazitäten bis zu 30mm.

Die neueren Produktinnovationen umfassen den P1000, ein sehr kompakter, jedoch leistungsfähiger Stabschweißer, und eine automatische Version seines sich bestens verkaufenden lufthydraulischen, tragbaren Modells HP100. In die Zukunft blickend, sagte Steve Mepsted, Geschäftsführer von PWM: "Trotz des anspruchsvollen Markts, erfreuten wir uns letztes Jahr an einem Rekord-



▲ Eine der ersten Maschinen von PWM

Verkaufswachstum. Das Kaltschweißen bietet weiterhin eine gleich bleibende, zuverlässige und wirtschaftliche Methode um NE-Materialien zu schweißen und wir vertrauen darauf, daß wir in den kommenden Jahren die sich verändernden Anforderungen unserer Kunden aus der weltweiten Draht- und Kabelindustrie erfüllen werden können."

### Pressure Welding Machines – UK

**Fax:** +44 1233 820847

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**Website:** www.pwmltd.co.uk

## Vierzig Jahre Upcast®



▲ Als Geburtstag der Erfindung wurde der Tag des ersten erfolgreichen Probegießens am 6. November 1968 bestimmt

Die erfolgreiche Geschichte von Upcast® begann Ende der 60er Jahre, als viele marktübliche Gießmethoden für Kupfer und Kupferlegierungen im Einsatz waren. Die Gießrichtung ging normalerweise abwärts oder horizontal; die Gießprodukte waren im Querschnitt breit und weitere Verarbeitungen waren

kulminierte mit dem ersten erfolgreichen vertikalen Prüfgießen im Jahre 1968.

Ein Paar Jahre später wurde die erste Produktionslinie in der Gießerei in Pori installiert. Diese erste Upcast®-Produktionseinheit ist heute noch in

daher in zahlreichen nachgeschalteten Schritten erforderlich. In der Anlage von Outokumpu in Pori (Finnland) wurde eine Entscheidung getroffen, um eine Methode zu finden mit der man Stäbe oder Rohre gießen konnte, deren Abmessungen dem Endprodukt ähnlicher waren. Die anfängliche Entwicklungsarbeit

Betrieb und wurde durch verschiedene Modernisierungen und Änderungen auf dem neuesten Stand gehalten. Die zweite Linie für Kupferlegierungen wurde für einen ausländischen Kunden schon ein Jahr nach der ersten Linie in Betrieb gesetzt.

Das Upcast®-System hat seit seiner Schöpfung einen weiten Weg zurückgelegt und die Entwicklungsarbeit ist immer noch in Gang. Die Upcast®-Technologie ist weiterhin ein führendes Stranggießsystem für die Stabproduktion aus sauerstofffreiem Kupfer und Kupferlegierungen mit über 170 bis heute verkauften Einheiten – eine jährliche Gesamtkapazität von rund 1,5 Millionen Tonnen.

### Upcast Oy – Finnland

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## Bruker HTS und Nexans schließen das europäische Supraleitungsprojekt ab

Nexans und Bruker HTS GmbH haben den erfolgreichen Abschluss des supraleitenden Kabelprojekts Super 3C (Superconducting Coated Conductor Cable) bekannt gegeben in dessen Rahmen ein europäisches Konsortium ein supraleitendes Hochtemperatur-Stromversorgungskabel (HTS) entwickelte und testete. Das Super 3C-Projekt begann im Juni 2004 und wurde im Dezember 2008 mit dem erfolgreichen Test eines einphasigen HTS-Kabelsystems vom 30 Metern Länge abgeschlossen. Das HTS-Kabel erreichte sein Stromübertragungsziel von 17 Megawatt.

Super 3C ist eines der ersten Kabel der Welt, bei denen HTS-Bänder der zweiten Generation (2G) als Stromspannungsträger eingesetzt werden. Diese Bänder beinhalten eine dünne HTS-Schicht, die perfekte Leiteigenschaften aufweist, wenn sie auf -200°C abgekühlt wird.

Bruker HTS entwickelte einen unternehmenseigenen HTS-Kupfer-Hybridleiter, der die zuverlässige Herstellung und Inbetriebnahme neuer Stromkabel ermöglicht, in denen die HTS-Technologie zum Einsatz kommt. Der 2G-Hybridleiter nutzt die jeweiligen Vorteile von Supraleitern und Kupfer und ist somit in der Lage, reibungslos

in Verbindung mit herkömmlichen Netzkomponenten zu funktionieren. Im Laufe des Projekts entwickelten und implementierten Nexans und Bruker HTS gemeinsam Methoden, um die 2G-Hybridleiter in das Kabel einzubauen. Insgesamt produzierte und testete Bruker HTS beinahe 4.000 Meter von 2G-Hybrid-Supraleitern für das Super 3C-Kabel.

Nexans stellte das Super 3C-Kabel her, einschließlich des Tieftemperaturmantels, durch den die Temperatur des Kabelkerns mittels fließendem Flüssigstickstoff auf -200°C gehalten werden kann. Nexans entwickelte und produzierte außerdem spezielle Kabelabschlüsse für dieses Projekt.

Die EU finanzierte das 5,2-Millionen-Euro-Projekt mit einem Zuschuss von 2,7 Millionen Euro unter ihrem 6. Rahmenprogramm für Forschung und technologische Entwicklung. Nexans fungierte als Projektkoordinator. Bruker HTS war für die größte einzelne Arbeitsaufgabe verantwortlich, nämlich die Entwicklung und Bereitstellung der 2G-HTS-Leiter für das Kabel.

**Nexans – Frankreich**  
**Fax:** +33 15669 8484  
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## Neue Blue Book Ausgabe

Fort Wayne Wire Die Inc. hat die neueste Ausgabe seines Drahtziehführers Blue Book komplett überarbeitet veröffentlicht und ist nun in englisch, chinesisch und russisch erhältlich.

Der Führer soll Drahtzieh-Fachleuten ermöglichen deren Drahtziehsteine besser zu spezifizieren und eine höhere Genauigkeit und Wirksamkeit zu bieten, dank aktuellster Informationen über Lochabmessungstoleranzen, verfügbare Diamantmaterialien sowie -abmessungen, Vergleichswerkzeuge für Ziehsteinmaterial und weiteres.

Geboten werden auch Diagramme über Drahtlehren, detaillierte technische Zeichnungen und Fachbegriffe über Drahtziehsteine, Optionen zu Ziehstein-Nachbearbeitungen, mathematische Grundsätze zum Drahtziehen und vieles mehr, alles derart gegliedert und geordnet, daß Techniker durch ein logisches Ziehstein-Auswahlverfahren geführt werden. Fort Wayne Wire Die Inc entwirft und fertigt hochpräzise Drahtziehsteine und Bestandteile aus Hartmaterial für die Draht- und Kabelindustrie.

**Fort Wayne Wire Die Inc – USA**  
**Fax:** +1 260 747 4269  
**Email:** sales@fwwd.com  
**Website:** www.fwwd.com

## 80-jähriges Bestehen von M&S

Dieses Jahr feiert das Familienunternehmen Medek & Schörner - ein Marktführer bei Kabelbedruckungsmaschinen und Optical Fiber Processing Lines - sein 80-jähriges Jubiläum. Die Firma wurde 1929 von Josef Medek und Schörner gegründet.

Ursprünglich eine Werkstatt für Präzisionsmechanik, begann die Firma in den 50er Jahren mit der Herstellung von Maschinen für die Kennzeichnung von Kabeln, Drähten, Rohren und kontinuierlich erzeugten Produkten.

Mit der Errichtung einer mit modernsten Werkzeugmaschinen ausgestatteten Fertigungsstätte in Grobebersdorf im Jahre 1989 und mit der Betonung von Forschung und Entwicklung, insbesondere bei komplexen elektronischen Steuerungen, wurde die Möglichkeit geschaffen, einerseits die klassischen Produkte weiterhin in hervorragender Qualität



▲ Medek & Schörner legt den Fokus auf Forschung und Entwicklung

herzustellen und andererseits auch ständig am Puls des modernen Standes der Technologie zu bleiben. Dies hat sich besonders fruchtbar bei den technisch äußerst anspruchsvollen Anlagen zur Färbung und Beschichtung von Lichtwellenleitern für Glasfaserkabel ausgewirkt.

Medek & Schörner ist der Meinung, daß sein hervorragend ausgebildeter Mitarbeiterstamm, das eigentliche Kapital der Firma darstellt. Die Präzisionsmechaniker der Firma wurden in der Mehrzahl zunächst vom Lehrling an ausgebildet und beherrschen die Fertigung von mechanischen Teilen höchster Präzision auf modernen CNC-Werkzeugmaschinen. Die mit Forschung, Entwicklung und Konstruktion befassten Techniker sind dieselben, die vor Ort beim Kunden mit den in der alltäglichen Praxis auftretenden Problemstellungen verschiedenster Art konfrontiert werden und damit sicherstellen, dass die Technik von Medek & Schörner im richtigen Gleis läuft: zur vollen Unterstützung des Kunden und zur besten Erfüllung der von ihm gestellten Ansprüche.

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# Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel

Von Jarrett S Shinoski Research & Development, CommScope Claremont, NC;  
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## Übersicht

Tiefseekabel für ferngesteuerte Tauchroboter (Deep-Sea ROV cable) haben die Welt der Tiefseeforschung grundlegend verändert. Dank dieser Technologie haben Forscher und Historiker das Innere von Schiffswracks wie z. B. der Titanic und der Bismarck erkunden können. Dieses einzigartige Kabel wurde zur Datenübertragung zwischen dem Bediener und zwei speziell entworfenen ferngesteuerten Tauchrobotern (ROVs - Remote Operated Vehicle) eingesetzt, einem Tiefsee-Tauchroboter „Deep-Sea ROV“ und einem „Hybrid-AUV“ (Autonomous Underwater Vehicle)/ROV. Dieses Kabel weist einen Durchmesser von 900 Mikron auf und trägt eine Einzelfaser um Informationen zum und vom LWL-Telemetriesystem zu senden.

Mike Cameron von Dark Matter LLC entwickelte diese Technologie ursprünglich 1999. Mike Cameron und sein Bruder James Cameron haben diese ROV-Technologie für Dokumentarfilme benutzt, bevor die Technologie im Januar 2005 von Oceaneering International erworben wurde. Oceaneering hat vor, diese Technologie als auf breiter Basis anzuwenden Haupttrichtung zu verfolgen, indem die beiden besonderen Möglichkeiten des ROV, für potentielle Einsätze wie z. B. die Prüfung von Unterwasserausrüstungen, Sicherheitsüberwachung in den Häfen sowie Such- und Rettungsmissionen genutzt werden.

Die ROVs von Oceaneering sind revolutionär und haben einen Paradigmenwechsel im ROV-Entwurf geschaffen. Die zwei ROVs sind autonome Einheiten, in denen eigene Batterien für die Stromerzeugung und das Ausspulen ihrer Kommunikationskabel untergebracht sind. Ein typischer ROV überträgt Strom und Steuerbefehle über ein dickes Kabel, das den Weg eines Fahrzeugs einschränkt und bestimmt, wie tief das Fahrzeug in ein Wrack eindringen kann. Außerdem wird das Kabel üblicherweise von der zentralen Leitstelle aus durch eine sehr große Spule abgerollt. Da das LWL-Kabel nicht wiederverwendbar ist, weisen die ROVs von Oceaneering die besondere Fähigkeit auf in eine Öffnung hineinzufahren und aus einer anderen Öffnung herauszufahren, ohne durch die Ein- und Auslaufstellen sowie von der Eindringtiefe in einen Hohlraum eingeschränkt zu werden. Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel verleihen diesen ROVs ein Wettbewerbsvorsprung. Das Kabel wird durch ein selbst entworfenes mechanische Ablaufsystem ausgespult, das im ROV selbst eingebaut ist. Somit wird die Notwendigkeit eines LWL-Schleifrings vermieden. Tiefsee-ROV enthalten zirka 600 Meter dieses sehr dünnen 900 Mikron Kabel, während Hybrid-AUV/ROV 2.000 Meter enthalten.

Dieses Kabel enthält einen Lichtwellenleiter, besondere Tragorgane und Öl. Der Lichtwellenleiter ist eine typische Monomodefaser mit einem Durchmesser von 255 Mikron, die für Steuerungen und Rückmeldungen eingesetzt wird. Die Tragorgane bieten eine Unterstützung für die Spannungsregelung und für die Haltbarkeit des Kabels. Das Öl verleiht dem Kabel seine inkompressiblen Eigenschaften bei Wassertiefen von 6.100 Metern (20.000 Fuß). Die Außenhülle ist eine spezielle Polymermischung, die benutzt wird, um die richtige Schwimmfähigkeit des Kabels in der Wassersäule zu erreichen. ROVs sind so klein und enthalten derart viele Kabel, daß ein unsachgemäß gewichtetes Kabel verheerenden Schaden an der Steuerung der Schwimmfähigkeit eines ROV anrichten würde.

Dieses Kabel erwies sich sowohl als geeignet bei Verwendung der Standard-Prüfpraxis als auch besonders bei neuen Prüfmethode. Mechanische und umweltbedingte Leistungen wurden getestet und das Kabel wurde den strengsten Anforderungen dreier verschiedener Standards unterzogen. Diese drei Standards waren: ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, GR-20-CORE und EN 187105.

Um sich eine bessere Vorstellung von der Leistung dieses Kabels machen zu können, wurde es einer Fehlerprüfung gemäß den allgemeinen Richtlinien der Spezifikationen unterzogen. Darüber hinaus wurden verschiedene Kundentests entwickelt, um die Zuverlässigkeit des Kabels vorhersagen zu können. Oceaneering setzte einen speziellen hydrostatischen Druckprüfstand ein, um den Druck auf das Kabel bei extremen Ozeantiefen zu simulieren.

Außerdem entwarf Oceaneering eine Prüfungsanforderung bezüglich der Schwimmfähigkeit, um die geeignete Schwimmfähigkeit zu erreichen. Eine spezielle Prüfung für die Verwicklung „hocking“ (Begriff in der Marine für Verknotung) wurde von CommScope kreiert, um jedem Kabel eine Bezugsgröße zur Verwindungsleistung zu geben. Aufgrund der Ergebnisse dieser Prüfungen konnten wir Oceaneering das bestmögliche Kabel für ihre Sonderanwendung versichern.

## 1 Einleitung

Das Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel wurde von den Herstellern sowie von den Endnutzern für zwei unterschiedliche, doch ähnliche, Anwendungen bewertet.

Dieses spezialisierte Kabel wurde bereits für Tiefsee-ROV eingesetzt, mußte jedoch optimiert werden, um in einer neueren Anwendung gute Leistungen zu zeigen. Diese neue Anwendung war ein Hybrid-AUV/ROV mit autonomen sowie normalen ROV-Fähigkeiten. Viele Verkabelungs-, Labor- und Feldtests wurden durchgeführt um den passenden Kabelaufbau zu verbessern.

## 2 Kabelaufbau

### 2.1 Kundenanforderung

Oceaneering fragte forderte einen neuen Kabelaufbau Kabeldesign an, der nur eine Faser mit einem Durchmesser nahe 900 Mikron enthalten sollte. Diese Erfindung war ein Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel der 3. Generation.

#### 2.1.1 Kabel der ersten Generation

Das Kabel der ersten Generation war ein 2-Faser-Kabel, bestehend aus zwei Multimodefaser mit einem Gesamtdurchmesser von ca. 1,4mm. Mit einer Faser sandte man Informationen an das ROV (um das ROV zu steuern) mit der anderen erhielt man vom ROV gesandte Informationen zurück (Live-Videofeedback). Dieses Kabel enthielt viele Enden von Tragorganen für eine erhöhte Zugfestigkeit. Das Team von Oceaneering ersetzte später die Lichtwellenleitersysteme, so daß Informationen in zwei Richtungen über eine Einzelfaser statt über zwei getrennte Fasern gesendet werden konnten.

#### 2.1.2 Kabel der zweiten Generation

Mit dem selben Durchmesser für die mechanische Verträglichkeit, enthielt dieses Kabel der zweiten Generation nur eine Einzelfaser. Das Kabel wies daher immer noch einen Durchmesser von 1,4mm auf, jedoch wurde eine zusätzliche Schutzmantelung hinzugefügt. Zwischen den zwei Mantelschichten befand sich eine Schicht von Tragorganen für eine zusätzliche Zugfestigkeit und Abriebfestigkeit. Die Kabel der ersten sowie jene der zweiten Generation mußten keine Anforderungen an die Schwimmfähigkeit erfüllen, sie mußten lediglich das Absinken garantieren.

#### 2.1.3 Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel

Diese dritte Generation von Kabeln unterscheidet sich von den vorherigen zwei Generationen anhand der nachfolgend beschriebenen verbesserten Eigenschaften:

1 Kleinerer Durchmesser - Dieses Kabel war fast halb so groß wie die beiden vorherigen Versionen, dies ermöglichte eine kompaktere Spule und demzufolge einen kleinerem ROV-Aufbau oder eben potentiell längere Kabeltrassen.

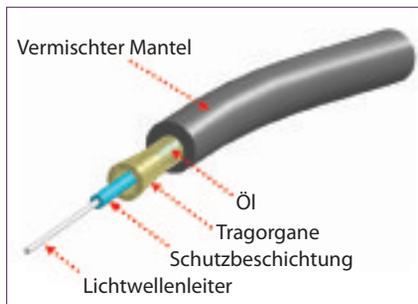


- 2 Neutrale Schwimmfähigkeit - Dieses Kabel wurde aus einem gemischten Polymermantel hergestellt, bestehend aus zwei verschiedenen Materialtypen, die zusammengefügt wurden, um dem Kabel neutrale Schwimmfähigkeitseigenschaften zu verleihen.
- 3 Höhere Verwindungsbeständigkeit - Dieses Kabel hatte eine bessere Möglichkeit sich selbstständig von einer hochbeanspruchenden Verknötungs-Situation zu befreien als seine Vorgänger. Dies wurde dadurch erreicht, daß der Mantel steifer als die vorherigen Mäntel war.

## 2.2 Umsetzung der Erfindung

Dieses Kabel hatte einen 1-Faser-Aufbau, das bedeutet, daß es nur einen Einzellichtwellenleiter für die Datenübertragung zu und vom Fahrzeug enthielt. Der Aufbau war der eines ölgefüllten Pufferrohrs, mit einem Durchmesser von ca. 900 Mikron. Im Rohr enthalten waren Öl, der Lichtwellenleiter und die Tragorgane. Das Öl bestand aus einem Mineralöl mit niedriger Viskosität. Der Lichtwellenleiter war eine unverschiebbare beschichtungsangepaßte Standard-Dispersion-Monomodefaser mit einem Durchmesser von 255 Mikron. Die Tragorgane bestanden aus einem thermoplastischen Multifilamentgarn, mit guten Zugeigenschaften und überdurchschnittlicher Verschleißfestigkeit. Das Pufferrohr bestand aus einer Doppel-Polymermischung.

Siehe Bild 1 für eine schematische Darstellung des Kabelaufbaus.



▲ Bild 1

## 2.3 Zweckbestimmung

Typische ROVs setzten ein dickes Kabel für Strom und Kommunikation ein. Im Gegensatz zu typischen ROVs, wurde in diesem Fall die Stromerzeugung an Bord vorgesehen, mit Einsatz eines Batteriesystems mit hoher Energiedichte. Ein revolutionäres Datenübertragungssystem war notwendig, um die Steuerbefehle zum ROV zu leiten sowie Videobilder zurück zu senden.

Drahtlose Systeme würden als die logische Wahl erscheinen, unter Berücksichtigung der fortschrittlichen Systeme, die man in diesen ROVs fand. In Anbetracht der fortschrittlichen Systeme von ROVs schien es logisch sich für drahtlose Systeme zu entscheiden.

Leider neigen drahtlose Systeme dazu Unterwasser ganz andere Leistungen als im Freien zu bringen. Traditionelle Videosignale können über Funkwellen zum Regler übertragen werden, Unterwasser kommt Funk jedoch nicht weit.

Klang wird Unterwasser gut übertragen, jedoch wären Schallwellen zu langsam und könnten nicht mit der Datenübertragungsrate umgehen, die bei hochaufgelösten Videobildern gefordert wird. Das ist der Augenblick in dem das Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel, als einzige logische Lösung des Kommunikationsdilemmas, fruchtvoll beiträgt. Hier trug der Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel zur logischen Lösung des Kommunikationsdilemmas erfolgreich bei. Bei Verwendung der nicht-traditionellen Methode der angebotenen Verlegung wurde das nicht wiederverwendbare dünne Kabel aus einer Spule zugeleitet, die sich im Fahrzeug befand. Konventionelle Kabel würden vom Versorgungsschiff oder von der Leitstelle ausgespult werden.

Dort wo Standard-Kabel die Beweglichkeit des Fahrzeugs einschränken würden, ermöglicht dieses Kabel dem BOT-Bediener eine unvergleichbare Erkundungsfreiheit. Es würden keine Verwicklungssituationen mehr entstehen, da der ROV einfach das verwickelte Kabel hinter sich lassen und die Erforschung weiterführen könnte. Der ROV würde einfach weiter Kabel über seinen hoch entwickelten mechanischen Abwickler ausspulen. Man braucht also nicht wieder den gleichen Weg zurückfahren, dieses Fahrzeug kann in eine Örtlichkeit einfahren und aus einer anderen wieder herausfahren. Nach einer abgeschlossenen Mission würde das Versorgungskabel einfach abgeschnitten und zurückgelassen werden.

## 3 Tiefsee-ROV

### 3.1 Zweckbestimmung

Die anfängliche Zweckbestimmung des Tiefsee-ROV lag in der Erforschung von Schiffswracks. Die erste offizielle Arbeit des Tiefsee-ROV im Besitz von Oceaneering war ein Dokumentarfilm über die Titanic „Last Mystery of the Titanic“ (das letzte Geheimnis der Titanic), der live im Discovery Channel am 24. Juli 2005 direkt vom Standort des Wracks aus gesendet wurde. Darüber hinaus hat sich der Tiefsee-ROV als erfolgreich erwiesen bei der Fähigkeit, Nahprüfungen von Unterwasserausrüstungen, verbesserte Such- und Rettungsoperationen sowie Sicherheitsprüfungen von Schiffen und Kaianlagen zu leiten.

### 3.2 Beschreibung

Das Tiefsee-ROV war ein kastenförmiges BOT mit einer Länge von 27 Zoll, einer Breite von 15,5 Zoll und einer Höhe von 17,5 Zoll. Diese interessanten interessant ist es, daß diese Abmessungen stammen aus von den Anforderungen der ersten Mission: einer Fahrt in die RMS Titanic, stammen. Das Tiefsee-ROV mußte sich den Bullaugen der Titanic anpassen, die 18 Zoll breit und 24 Zoll hoch sind. Die Außenseite des BOT war mit syntaktischem Schaum imprägniert, bestehend aus Glaskugeln in einem zweiseitigen Epoxidharz. Dank diesem Sonderaufbau verfügte das BOT über eine Schwimmfähigkeit in großen Tiefen.

Innerhalb des Rahmens befand sich ein 600 Meter langes Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel. Im ROV waren auch zwei Videokameras untergebracht:

eine davon war eine hochaufgelöste Kamera, um Segmente zu filmen und die andere eine Schwarz-Weiß-Kamera, die zum Zwecke der Navigation benutzt wurde. Um in diesen Tiefen sehen zu können, wurde das ROV mit zweireihigen Halogenstrahlern und zweireihigen LED-Arrays ausgestattet. Die Halogenstrahler und Spot-Lights wurden während der Filmsequenzen, auf grund ihres niedrigen Stromverbrauchs eingesetzt, während die LED-Lichter, wegen deren niedrigem Stromverbrauchs auf grund ihres niedrigen Stromverbrauchs für das Navigieren benutzt wurden.

Die Kameras und die Beleuchtung wurden auf einer kippbaren Stange montiert, die sich nach oben und unten um 210 Grad drehen konnte. Der Bediener steuerte den Kippwinkel durch einen Druckknopf, der am Joystick des Bedieners angeordnet war. Um die Kameras scheidelwinklig zu positionieren, konnte der Bediener über den Joystick auf die vier Antriebspropeller wirken. Der Bediener war in der Lage das Gieren und Nicken zu steuern, was als sehr ähnlich dem Steuern eines kleinen Flugzeugs beschrieben wurde.

Darüber hinaus konnte der Bediener durch Lösen kleiner Gewichte vom Boden des Fahrzeugs oder von Blöcken aus syntaktischem Schaum vom Oberteil des Fahrzeugs die Schwimmfähigkeit des ROV steuern. Die gesamte hochentwickelte elektronische Ausrüstung im ROV wurde durch ein Batteriesystem mit hoher Energiedichte versorgt, das 12 bis 18 Betriebsstunden sicherte.

Siehe Bild 2 für eine schematische Darstellung des Tiefsee-ROV.



▲ Bild 2

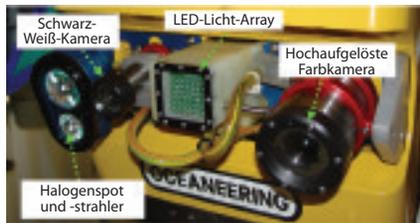
### 3.3 Vorteile

Verglichen mit traditionellen ROVs liegen die wichtigsten Vorteile des Tiefsee-ROV in der geringen Abmessung, in der bordeigenen Hochenergie-Stromversorgung und einem nicht wiederverwendbaren LWL-Kabel (Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel).

Das ROV konnte in kleinen Hohlräumen in einem Wrack manövriert werden, die für bemannte Tauchboote, Taucher oder größere ROVs unzugänglich waren.

Dank der bordeigenen Stromversorgung konnte man auf ein dickes Kabel verzichten, denn dieses hätte sonst das Filmen ziemlich beeinträchtigt, da zu viel Sediment aufgewirbelt worden wäre um eine klare Aufnahme des Gegenstands zu ermöglichen.

Ein weiterer Vorteil des ROV lang in seiner Fähigkeit Echtzeit-Videobilder in hoher Auflösung und mit einer hochentwickelten Lichttechnik über eine hochauflösende Kamera übertragen zu können, wie in *Bild 3* dargestellt.

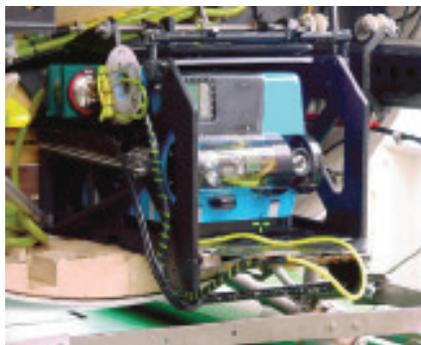


▲ Bild 3

Da die Schwimmfähigkeit, das Gieren und das Nicken des ROV rasch und ohne Vorbereitung geregelt werden können, konnte dieses ROV sehr wirkungsvoll bei solchen Missionen sein, bei denen komplizierte Manöver erforderlich sind.

### 3.4 Nachteile

Das Tiefwasser-ROV-Kabel wurde für Anwendungen in Marktlücken entworfen. Da es ein langsam fahrendes Fahrzeug war (< 3 Knoten) und eine begrenzte Batterielebensdauer aufwies, mußte das ROV in unmittelbarer Nähe des Prüforts sein. Meistens wurde es zum Standort durch ein bemanntes Tauchboot in einem Start- und Bergungsgehäuse gebracht (launch and recovery enclosure - LARE) wie in *Bild 4* dargestellt. Der BOT konnte bei Strömungen von 2 oder unter 2 Knoten operieren.



▲ Bild 4

## 4 Hybrid-AUV/ROV

### 4.1 Zweckbestimmung

Die Zweckbestimmung des Hybridfahrzeugs ist es den Vorteil der Tiefsee-ROV-Technologie zu nutzen und diesen mit den Vorteilen eines autonomen, freischwimmenden Fahrzeugs zu kombinieren. Dies wurde durch den Einsatz eines Myring-Rumpf-Aufbaus erzielt, der das Kastenformat der ersten Generation von Tiefsee-ROVs ersetzte. Hybrid-AUV/ROV kann größere Entfernungen zurücklegen sowie mit stärkeren Wasserströmungen zurecht kommen. Der Hybrid-AUV/ROV weist zwei Betriebsarten auf: (1) autonom und (2) ROV. Im autonomen Modus kann das Fahrzeug über eine Streckenplanungs-Software programmiert werden, um mit Einsatz der Wegpunktnavigation zu funktionieren. In diesem Modus kann das LWL-Kabel benutzt werden, um die Tätigkeiten des Fahrzeugs zu überwachen und ermöglicht dem Bediener

jederzeit die Kontrolle des Fahrzeuges zu übernehmen. das Fahrzeug jederzeit in die Regie des Bedieners nehmen zu können.

Sollte darüber hinaus das LWL-Kabel reißen, ist das Fahrzeug so programmiert, dass es in einen vorausgewählten Standort für die Bergung zurückkehrt. Im ROV-Modus kann der Bediener die Kontrolle über das Fahrzeug übernehmen, um Inspektionen durchzuführen, wie z. B. Schäden an Schiffsrumpfen prüfen, potentielle Mängel bei Dämmen und Leckagen in Trinkwassertunneln.

### 4.2 Beschreibung

Die Form eines Hybrid-AUV/ROV ist völlig anders als jene eines originalen Tiefsee-ROV. Das Profil des Fahrzeuges entspricht den Konturen eines Standard-Unterseeboots oder eines Torpedos. Durch die Form des Gehäuses kann das Fahrzeug schnell (> 3,5 Knoten) durch raues Wasser und starke Strömungen fahren.

Der Hybrid-AUV/ROV hat einen Durchmesser von 6 Zoll und eine Länge von über 62 Zoll. Obwohl er größer als der Tiefsee-ROV ist, wird damit die Beweglichkeit geboten, die beim Positionieren für Nahinspektionen erforderlich ist. Das Fahrzeug hat eine Hauptantriebschraube für Vor- und Rückwärtsbewegungen sowie für die vertikalen und seitlichen Antriebspropeller, die im Vorderteil angeordnet sind. Siehe *Bild 5* für eine schematische Darstellung des AUV/ROV.



▲ Bild 5

Das Hybrid-AUV/ROV ist dem Tiefsee-ROV in dem Sinne ähnlich, daß es eine bordeigene Stromversorgung hat und an der Zentrale über das selbe Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel angebunden ist. Das Kabel wird auf eine einfachere Weise aus dem Fahrzeug abgerollt als dies der Fall beim Original-Tiefsee-ROV ist und es nimmt bis zu 2.000 Meter Kabel in seinem Rumpf auf. Das Kabel verläßt das Fahrzeug über ein kleines Rohr, dem so genannten Stachel (stinger), um zu vermeiden, daß das Kabel vom Antriebsystem eingefangen wird. Das Hybrid-AUV/ROV weist eine verbesserte Elektronik und Sensoren auf, um seiner Rolle als Teil der Inspektionsausrüstung entsprechen zu können.

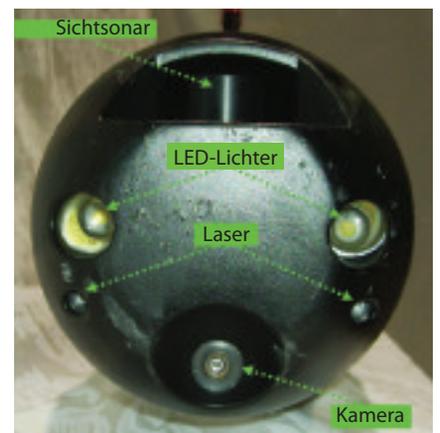
### 4.3 Vorteile

Das Hybrid-AUV/ROV kann dank seines autonomen Betriebsmodus große Entfernungen zurücklegen ohne daß menschliche Eingriffe erforderlich sind.

Die Vorteile des autonomen Modus sind: (1) die Distanzfähigkeit vom Arbeitsstandort und (2) das Laden durch den Bediener zu vereinfachen, da das Fahrzeug nicht bei Hochgeschwindigkeit über eine große Entfernung gesteuert zu werden braucht. Ohne die Distanzfähigkeit vom Arbeitsstandort müßte das Hybrid-AUV/ROV durch ein bemanntes Tauchboot zum Arbeitsplatz gebracht werden, was wieder eher dem Tiefsee-ROV ähnlich wäre.

Darüber hinaus stellt die Autonomie des Fahrzeuges ein Bergungsmittel dar, falls der Lichtwellenleiter während des Betriebs abbricht oder reißt. Das Fahrzeug kann vor dem Betriebsstart vorprogrammiert werden und zwar mit einer geodätischen Ortsvorgabe, um dorthin zurückzufahren falls die Kommunikation abbricht. Das könnte genauso einfach sein wie eine einzelne Anordnung oder Anweisung den gleichen Weg zu fahren, der benutzt wurde um den Arbeitsstandort zu erreichen.

Um eine Unterstützung für die autonome Navigation zu bieten, ist das Hybrid-AUV/ROV mit einem Satellitennavigationssystem (GPS - Global Positioning System) ausgestattet. Das Fahrzeug kann programmiert werden, um während der Fahrt zum Arbeitsstandort an die Oberfläche zu kommen um eine genaue Navigationsposition zu erhalten. Wenn es die Position erhalten hat, kann das Fahrzeug seinen Kurs korrigieren und bis zum nächsten Wegpunkt fahren. Das Fahrzeug ist auch mit einem Hochfrequenzsonar ausgestattet, wie in *Bild 6* dargestellt, das eingesetzt wird um Hindernisse zu umgehen und als Unterstützung dient, um den Arbeitsstandort ausfindig zu machen. Wenn das Hybrid-AUV/ROV seinen Bestimmungsort erreicht hat, schaltet der Bediener auf den ROV-Modus um und überwacht die über die zwei Videokameras verfügbaren hochauflösenden Bilder. Eine Kamera ist am Vordeck angeordnet und die andere am GPS-Mast. Die am GPS-Mast angeordnete Kamera wird sowohl auf- wie untergetaucht benutzt. Aufgetaucht kann die Kamera zur Navigation beitragen und untergetaucht eine andere Perspektive bieten, da das Vordeck des Fahrzeuges im Sichtfeld erkennbar ist. Außerdem hat das Hybrid-AUV/ROV zwei Laser, die am Vordeck angeordnet sind. Somit wird ein fester Bezug geboten, um die durch die Vordeckkamera gesehene Gegenstände vermessen zu können.



▲ Bild 6

### 4.4 Nachteile

Das Hybrid-AUV/ROV wurde nicht dazu bestimmt in Schiffwracks einzudringen oder in kleine Hohlräume; die große Länge des Fahrzeuges hebt den geringen Durchmesser auf. Auch wenn dieses Fahrzeug sehr beweglich ist, eignet es sich eher für äußerliche statt interne Inspektionen. Mit der derzeitigen Technologie war das die kompakteste Einheit, die gebaut werden konnte und bietet immer noch die oben genannten hoch entwickelten Merkmale.



## 5 Nachprüfung der Testergebnisse

### 5.1 Von CommScope durchgeführte Prüfung

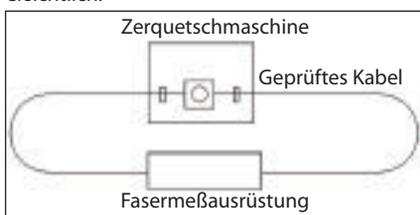
Die Standard-Kabelprüfungen für Außenanlagen wurden in der in Claremont, NC, gelegenen Anlage von CommScope durchgeführt. Die Prüfungen wurden nicht durchgeführt um dieses Kabel für den Alltags Einsatz als terrestrisches Kabel oder als Langstrecken-Tiefseekabel zu qualifizieren, sondern um den Maßstab für den Aufbau zukünftiger Tiefsee-LWL-Kabel zu definieren. Das Kabel wurde den strengsten Anforderungen unterzogen, die in den Standards ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, GR-20-CORE und EN 187105 festgelegt sind, und wurde bis zur Fehlerprüfung gemäß den allgemeinen Richtlinien dieser Spezifikationen geprüft.

#### 5.1.1 Bruch durch Druck

Telcordia GR-20 setzte den höchsten der 3 Maßstäbe. war der strengste der drei Standards. Gefordert wurde ein Druck von 44N/mm für eine Dauer von einer Minute und ein Druck von 22N/mm für zehn Minuten.

Eine ähnliche Prüfung wurde durchgeführt, indem eine vorgeschriebenen Belastung für eine Dauer von zehn Minuten angelegt und dann die Dämpfung des Kabels nach Ablauf dieser Zeit geprüft wurde, während das Kabel immer noch belastet war. Der GR-20-Standard wies die strengsten höchsten Anforderungen aller Dämpfungserhöhungen auf; demzufolge wurde der GR-20-Standard die eingesetzte Richtlinie. Dem Standard entsprechend sollte die Dämpfungsänderung unter 0,05dB für 90% der Faser bleiben, die der Prüfung unterzogen werden und unter 0,15 dB für 100% der geprüften Faser.

Das Kabel wurde mit einer 25mm Stahlplatte mit abgerundeten Ecken und mit einem 10mm Radius zerdrückt. Eine schematische Darstellung des Prüfaufbaus ist aus Bild 7 ersichtlich.



▲ Bild 7: Diagramm Druckversuch

Nach jedem bestandenen Ergebnis wurde die Last erhöht. Dieses Verfahren wurde verfolgt bis ein Kabelausfall eintrat. Die Ergebnisse dieser Prüfung sind in der Tabelle 2 dargestellt.

Wie aus den Ergebnissen ersichtlich ist, agierte das Kabel auf überraschend gute Weise, wenn man bedenkt, daß die Anforderungen eines Standard-Kabels für Außenanlagen 44N/mm entsprechen. Jeder Druck wurde zwei Mal durchgeführt, um ein positives oder negatives Ergebnis zu sichern. Das nicht komprimierbare Fluid im Kabel hat zu den Leistungen unter einer komprimierbaren Last dieses Kabelaufbaus beigetragen.

Druck (N/mm)	Delta (dB)	Bestanden/nicht bestanden
10	0.00	Bestanden
15	0.08	Bestanden
20	0.03	Bestanden
25	0.11	Bestanden
30	0.70	nicht bestanden

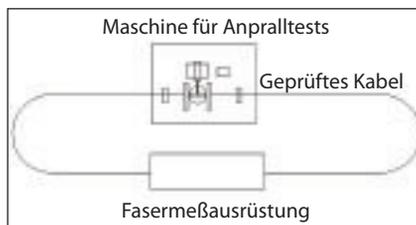
▲ Tabelle 2: Ergebnisse des Druckversuchs

Anzahl der Anpralle	Kraft (Nm)	Δ Dämpfung	Bestanden/nicht bestanden
1	0.1	0	Bestanden
1	0.2	0	Bestanden
1	0.3	0	Bestanden
1	0.4	0	Bestanden
1	0.5	N/A	nicht bestanden

▲ Tabelle 3: Ergebnisse der Anprallprüfung

#### 5.1.2 Anprallbeständigkeit

Der Standard EN-187105 forderte, daß eine spezifische Anprallkraft einmal über drei unterschiedliche Kabelabschnitte angelegt wird. Der ICEA-640 Standard forderte, daß eine spezifische Anprallkraft zweimal über drei unterschiedliche Kabelabschnitte angelegt wird. Der GR-20 Standard forderte, daß eine spezifische Anprallkraft zwanzig Mal in eine Stelle des Kabels angelegt wird. In einem echten Tiefsee-Szenarium würde ein Anprall eher nur einmal in einer Stelle auftreten, demzufolge wurde das Prüfverfahren des GR-20 verfolgt. Der GR-20-Standard wies die strengsten Anforderungen aller Dämpfungserhöhungen auf; demzufolge war der GR-20-Standard die zu verfolgende Richtlinie. Der Standard setzte von neuem fest, daß die Dämpfungsänderung unter 0,05dB für 90% der Faser bleiben sollte, die der Prüfung unterzogen werden sollten und unter 0,15 dB für 100% der geprüften Faser. Eine schematische Darstellung des Prüfaufbaus ist aus Bild 8 ersichtlich.



▲ Bild 8: Diagramm Anpralltest

Das Prüfkabel wurde bei einer spezifischen Kraft für die Dauer eines Zyklus zusammengedrückt. Bei vervollständigtem Anprall wurde die Dämpfung des Kabels geprüft. Dieses Verfahren wurde solange wiederholt bis ein Kabelausfall eintrat. Die Ergebnisse dieser Prüfung sind in der Tabelle 3 dargestellt.

Aus diesen Ergebnissen ist ersichtlich, daß 0,4Nm die höchste Anprallkraft darstellt, der dieses Kabel widerstehen konnte. Bei 0,5Nm war das Kabel völlig abgeflacht mit der gebrochenen Faser, die seitlich des Mantels herausragte.

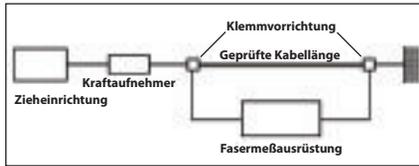
Als Bezug für Standard-Außenanlagen wurde ein Widerstand von 4,4Nm gefordert, bzw. eine viel höher Anprallkraft als jene die bei Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel erzielt wurde. Wie auch immer, dieses Kabel wird bestimmt unter Wasser zusammengedrückt; alle Gegenstände, die absinken, bewegen sich viel langsamer, daher wird viel weniger Kraft auf das Kabel ausgeübt.

#### 5.1.3 Zugbeständigkeit

Bei allen drei Standards ist eine spezifische Zugkraft erforderlich und die Standards ICEA-640 und GR-20 verlangen die höchste kurzfristige Zuglast bei 2670N. EN-187105 fordert eine kurzzeitige Zuglast, was einem Faktor des Kabelgewichts entspricht. Der auf der Arbeitsfläche benutzte Dorndurchmesser wurde als aller strengster in den Unterlagen des GR-20 und ICEA-640 spezifiziert. In diesen Standards wird ein Höchstdurchmesser von 560mm und ein Mindestdurchmesser vom 30fachen des Kabeldurchmessers vorgegeben. Tester haben für diese Prüfung einen Dorndurchmesser von 26mm benutzt.

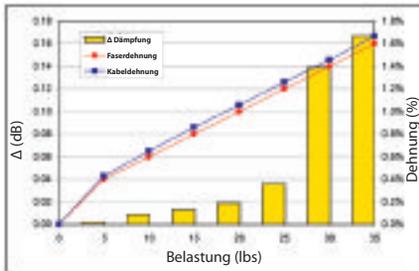
Nach den Unterlagen des ICEA-640 und GR-20, stellt ein Kabelausfall eine Dämpfungserhöhung über 0,05dB bei 1550nm Wellenlänge dar und/oder eine Faserdehnung über oder gleich 60% des höchsten Dehnungswerts der Faser. Diese Studie wird sich natürlich nicht mit den vorgeschriebenen Belastungen befassen, da das Kabel einen Elastizitätsmodul im Bereich von nur 12kgf aufweist.

Tester setzten einen Instron®-Ziehtisch mit eingebautem Dehnungsmesser ein, um dieses Kabel Dehnungsprüfungen zu unterziehen. Der Ziehtisch wurde eingestellt um so langsam wie möglich zu funktionieren, damit die Erfassung der Kabeldämpfung und -dehnung möglich war. Instron bot die Ladedaten, während der Dehnungsmesser die Dehnungsdaten zur Verfügung stellte. Da die Über-Faserlänge in diesem Kabel bedeutungslos war, wurde angenommen, daß die Kabeldehnung und die Faserdehnung sich gleichen. Eine schematische Darstellung des Prüfaufbaus ist aus Bild 9 ersichtlich.



▲ Bild 9: Diagramm Zugprüfung

Die Ergebnisse der Kabeldehnung und jene der Faserdehnung mit entsprechender Dämpfungablesung, sind in Bild 10 dargestellt.



▲ Bild 10: Dehnungsergebnisse

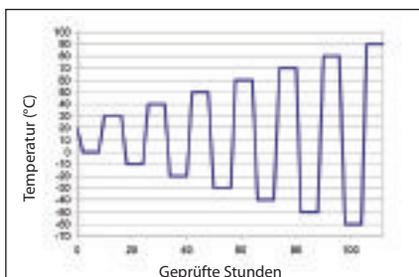
Aus diesen Ergebnissen ist ersichtlich, daß keine wichtigen Dämpfungsänderungen unter 30 Pfund bestehen. Alle Normen, die sich auf Lichtwellenleiterkabel beziehen, fordern, daß die Faser eine Dehnung aufweist, die 60% des höchsten Prüfnivaus der Faser nicht überschreitet, während sich das Kabel in der eigenen zulässigen Belastung befindet. Diese höchste Dehnung wurde von der Studie der Zuverlässigkeit der Faser in einem 20-jährigen Lebenszyklus abgeleitet, insbesondere die Ausbreitung von Spannungsrissen über diesen Zeitraum.

Das Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel wurde nur dazu bestimmt für einen kurzen Zeitraum zu funktionieren, bevor es wieder stillgelegt werden würde, demzufolge sollte die angenommene Belastung wegen der eingeschränkten Lebensdauer dieses Kabels viel höher als 60% des höchsten Dehnungswerts der Faser sein. Eine Belastung von 25 Pfund scheint eine annehmbare Wahl zu sein.

### 5.1.4 Temperaturzyklusbeständigkeit

EN-187105 fordert die niedrigste Prüftemperatur bei -45°C, während GR-20 und ICEA-640 die höchste Prüftemperatur bei +70°C verlangen. Es wurde beschlossen, einem geänderten Temperaturzyklusprofil zu folgen, der die Kabel einem Zyklus bei Temperaturextremen unterstellt hätte, um Kabelauffälle zu initiieren.

Das in diesem Artikel benutzte Temperaturzyklusprofil ist in Bild 11 dargestellt.



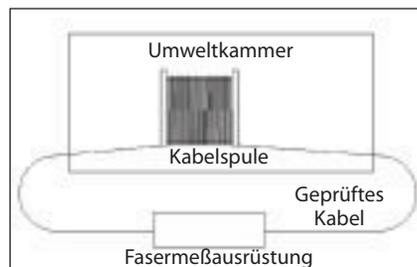
▲ Bild 11

Zyklus	Temperaturextreme (°C)	Delta kalt (dB/km)	Delta warm (dB/km)
1	0/+40	-0.003	0.003
2	-10/+50	-0.002	0.011
3	-20/+60	-0.002	0.010
4	-30/+70	-0.005	0.010
5	-40/+80	-0.004	0.007
6	-50/+85	-0.003	0.005
7	-60/+90	0.043	N/A

▲ Tabelle 4: Ergebnisse der Temperaturzyklusprüfung

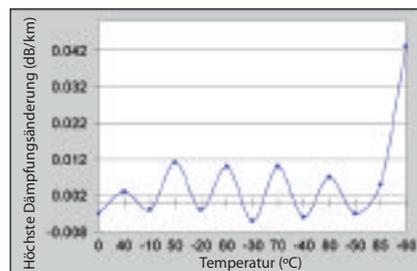
GR-20 weist die strengsten Dämpfungsanforderungen für die durchschnittliche Dämpfungserhöhung aller Fasern, bei 0,05dB/km, auf. EN-187105 hat die strengste Anforderung für die Dämpfungserhöhung einer einzelnen Faser, bei 0,10dB/km. Tester haben eine geänderte Anforderung festgelegt, wonach keine einzelne Faser eine Dämpfungserhöhung über 0,10dB/km haben sollte und daß die durchschnittliche Dämpfungserhöhung aller Fasern 0,05dB/km nicht überschreiten sollte.

Darüber hinaus wurde entschieden, die strengsten Anforderungen des ICEA-640 und GR-20 zu befolgen, während die Dämpfungsmessungen durchgeführt werden. Sämtliche Dämpfungsmessungen sollten bei Temperaturextremen vorgenommen und mit den Nullmessungen verglichen werden, die bei Raumtemperatur vor der Prüfung erfaßt wurden. Eine schematische Darstellung des Prüfaufbaus ist aus Bild 12 ersichtlich.



▲ Bild 12: Diagramm Temperaturzyklusprüfung

Die Ergebnisse dieser Prüfung sind auf dem Bild 13 ersichtlich, wo der Temperaturzyklus auf der X-Achse und die Fluktuation in der Dämpfung auf der Y-Achse dargestellt wurden. Diese Werte stellen die höchste Dämpfungsänderung einer einzelnen Faser bei sämtlichen extremen Temperaturen dar.



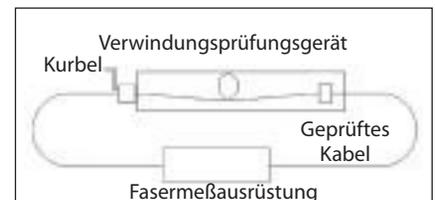
▲ Bild 13: Ergebnisse der Temperaturzyklusprüfung

Aus diesen Ergebnissen ist ersichtlich, daß das Kabel mehr als nur fähig war mit hohen

Temperaturfluktuationen fertig zu werden. auszukommen. Selbst wenn das Kabel für -60°C geeignet ist, wird es wahrscheinlich nie dieser Temperatur widerstehen müssen, da der Gefrierpunkt des Tiefwassers - in dem dieses Kabel eingesetzt wird - bereits kurz unter 0°C liegt. Die Angaben sind tabellarisch in der Tabelle 4 dargestellt.

### 5.1.5 Verwindungstest

Diese Prüfung wurde kreiert, um die Knoten- oder Verwindungsbeständigkeit der Veränderungen des Tiefsee-ROV-Kabels zu prüfen. Die Bezeichnung des Begriffs Verwindung ist: "(von einem Seil Kabel) Garne durch die während des Einsatzes entstandene Verdrillung ausgebreitet und geknotet zu haben". Eine Bezugsgröße wurde benötigt um einzuschätzen, ob die Verfahrens- oder Materialveränderungen im Aufbau dazu beitragen konnten, die Verwindungswirkung am Kabel zu verbessern. Der Prüfaufbau schloß einen Verseiltisch und eine Fasermessvorrichtung ein. Das Kabel wurde durch den Verseiltisch gezogen und dann an beiden Enden an der Faserprüfvorrichtung verbunden, wie in Bild 14 dargestellt.



▲ Bild 14: Diagramm Verwindungsprüfung

Der Abstand zwischen der Kurbel und der Klemme wurde auf in einen vorherbestimmten Entfernung Wert eingestellt. Mit eingestelltem Abstand wurde das Kabel an der Klemme und an der Kurbel befestigt. Die Klemme wurde dann um zwei Drittel des Abstands zurück zur Kurbel gezogen. Die Handkurbel wurde um 10 Umdrehungen erhöht, ab 0. Nach dem Zyklus von 10 Umdrehungen, wurde die Kurbel wieder in ihre festgelegte Position gebracht.

Während des Klemmenrücklaufs, verwindete sich das Kabel und entfernt sich wieder alleine aus einer Verwindung. Die Faser wurde bei der Freilassung der Verwindung geprüft. Bei dieser Prüfung wurde die Standard-Dämpfungsanforderung benutzt.

Dem Standard entsprechend sollte die Dämpfungsänderung unter 0,05dB für 90% der Faser bleiben, die der Prüfung unterzogen



Eingestellter Abstand (m)	Höchste Anzahl an Umdrehungen vor Dämpfungsausfall	Höchste Anzahl an Umdrehungen vor Faserbruch
0.50	20	40
0.75	40	50
1.00	50	60
1.25	70	70
1.50	70	80

▲ **Tabelle 5:** Ergebnisse der Verwindungsprüfung

werden und unter 0,15 dB für 100% der geprüften Faser. Der Norm entsprechend sollte die Dämpfungsänderung während des Tests unter 0,05dB bei 90% der Faser bleiben und unter 0.15 bei 100% der Fasern.

Jedesmal wenn die Faser die Änderung bei den Dämpfungsanforderungen erfüllte, wurde das Verfahren solange wiederholt bis ein Ausfall eintrat.

Aus den Ergebnissen ist ersichtlich, daß das Kabel einer extremen Verwindungssituation widerstehen kann. Die Ergebnisse haben die Erwartungen weit übertroffen und haben die Ergebnisse der vorherigen Kabelaufbauten in den Schatten gestellt.

Mit anderen Kabelaufbauten, würde eine vorhersehbare Anzahl an Verdrehungen eine Verwindung im Kabel bilden. Hätte sich erst eine Verwindung gebildet, so wäre ein Kabelausfall fast sicher.

Im vorliegenden Fall mußte eine Verwindung mit einer übermäßigen Verdrehung kombiniert werden, um einen Ausfall zu bewirken. Es handelte sich um ein sicherlich robusteres Kabel als irgendeines aus den vorangegangenen Schritten.

## 5.2 Prüfung von Oceaneering International

Neben den Prüfungen von CommScope, hat Oceaneering werkseigene Prüfungen durchgeführt, um die Sicherheit im Kabelaufbau zu erhöhen. Eine Verlegung im Meer kann Millionen Dollar kosten, deswegen prüft Oceaneering alle Komponenten des ROVs auf methodischer Weise.

Das Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel war ein kleiner jedoch wesentlicher Bestandteil; daher waren die Ingenieure bei Oceaneering kompromißlos in Bezug auf schwache Testergebnisse.

### 5.2.1 Spezialisierte Prüfung über den hydrostatischen Druck

Um die extremen Tiefen des Ozeans zu simulieren, benutzt das Team von Oceaneering einen hydrostatischen Druckbehälter. Diese Behälter können 9.100Meter (30.000 Fuß) Tiefe mit einem Druck von 92N/mm<sup>2</sup> (13,400psi) Wasserdruck simulieren. Alle Ausrüstungen wurden bei 6.096 Meter (20.000 Fuß) oder 61 N/mm<sup>2</sup> (8.900psi) Wasserdruck geprüft. Oceaneering prüfte das Tiefsee-ROV-Kabel vorort mit einer kleinen hydrostatischen Kammer. Eine sofortige Rückmeldung über die Druckleistungen ermöglichte eine schnellere Antwortzeit für jede erforderliche Aufbau- oder Prozessänderung.

### 5.2.2 Prüfung der Schwimmfähigkeit

Diese Prüfung fand im Werk von Oceaneering statt. Es war dem Team von Oceaneering extrem wichtig, daß das neue Kabel neutral schwimmfähig war, um somit die Schwimmfähigkeit desselben Fahrzeugs nicht zu beeinflussen.

Das gespulte im ROV angeordnete Kabel bildet einen großen Prozentsatz vom Gesamtgewicht des Fahrzeugs. Während das Kabel abgerollt wird, kann es potentiell eine Veränderung der Schwimmfähigkeit im Schiff bewirken.

Die Prüfung wurde durchgeführt, indem die Kabelspule auf einer gravimetrischen Waage gewogen wurde, die sich in einem Salzwasserbad befand.

### 5.2.3 Prüfung des Faserpaketabwickelns

Ein dritter Teil wurde benutzt, um die Faser auf die Spule zu laden, demzufolge erwies es sich als erforderlich eine Abnahmeprüfung bei den fertigen Faserpaketen durchzuführen, die beide einen zweiten und dritten Lieferanten für ein Ausrüstungsteil hatten.

Die Qualität dieses Kabels muß perfekt sein, um die Anforderungen von Oceaneering sowie des Spulenhersellers zu erfüllen.

Selbst wenn das Kabel alle Anforderungen von Oceaneering erfüllte, bedeutete daß nicht, daß es auch vom Spulenherseller genehmigt werden würde.

Das Faserpaket wurde Unterwasser mit einem Aufwickler, der das Kabel ausspult, und einer Dämpfungsmeßvorrichtung geprüft, um die Dämpfungswerte des Kabels zu überprüfen, während es abgerollt wurde.

## 6 Schlussfolgerung

Durch die im Werk von CommScope in Claremont vervollständigten Prüfungen, haben die Entwickler eine gutes Verständnis über Kenntnis in die Fähigkeiten des neuen Kabels bekommen.

Diese Angaben können mit allen zukünftigen Kabelaufbauten verglichen werden, um zu verstehen, ob eine Aufbau- oder Materialänderung die Leistungen dieses Kabels verbessern wird.

Die Prüfergebnisse von Oceaneering haben dem ROV-Team versichert, daß das Kabel die strengen Anforderungen der Tiefwasserumwelt erfüllen wird. ■

## 7 Danksagungen

Ein spezieller Dank geht an das Team des LWL-Produktengineering von CommScope für all deren harte Arbeit, insbesondere an Robert D Paysour Jr, Kevin Sigmon, Chris Rogers und Joe Lichtenwalner. Diese Unterlage wurde während der in Florida 2007 stattgefundenen 56<sup>th</sup> IWCS vorgestellt und ist mit der Genehmigung der Veranstalter vervielfältigt worden.

## 8 Literatur

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- <sup>[2]</sup> GR-20-CORE Issue 2, "Generic requirements for optical fiber and optical fiber cable"
- <sup>[3]</sup> EN 187105:2002, "Single mode optical cable (duct/direct buried installation)"
- <sup>[4]</sup> Random House Unabridged Dictionary, copyright® 1997

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## Сорокалетие технологии Upcast®



▲ Днем рождения изобретения считается день успешного проведения пробной отливки 6 ноября 1968 года

История успеха технологии Upcast® началась в конце 60-х годов XX века, когда использовались многие коммерчески доступные методы литья меди и медных сплавов. Литье обычно велось в наклонной или горизонтальной

технологической оси, отливки имели крупное сечение и требовали дополнительной обработки на нескольких последующих этапах.

На предприятии компании «Оутокумпу» (Outokumpu) в г. Пори (Финляндия) было принято решение найти способ литья катанки или трубных изделий с величиной диаметра более близкой к величине диаметра конечных изделий.

В 1968 году, в самом начале опытно-конструкторских работ была успешно произведена пробная отливка на установке вертикального литья.

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## Новое издание «Синей книги»

Компания «Форт Уэйн уайр дай инк» (Fort Wayne Wire Die Inc) выпустила новое издание своего справочного руководства по проволочно-волоочильному производству «Синяя книга», полностью обновленное и доступное на английском, китайском и русском языках.

Указывается, что руководство позволяет специалистам в области проволочно-волоочильного производства более точно и эффективно определять технические условия и размещать заказы на необходимые им волокна на основании самых последних данных, касающихся допусков на размеры отверстий, имеющихся поликристаллических алмазных материалов и их размерности, инструментов для сравнения материалов для волок и т.д.

Среди других содержащихся в руководстве материалов – таблицы проволочных калибров, детализированные технические чертежи и номенклатура выпускаемых волок, схемы перезаточки волок, математические основы проволочно-волоочильных технологий и прочие материалы, составленные и представленные в упорядоченной форме с тем, чтобы служить инженерам ориентиром в процессе логического выбора волок.

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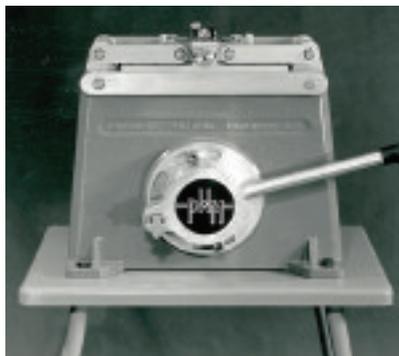
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## «Пи-дабл-ю-эм» отмечает 25-летие своей деятельности

Разработка аппарата холодной сварки для соединения крупных прутковых заготовок и контактной колодки для сварки проволоки сверхмалого сечения – это лишь два ключевых достижения в истории британской компании «Пи-дабл-ю-эм» (PWM), которая в мае 2009 года отмечает 25-летие своей деятельности на международном рынке проволочно-кабельной продукции.

Компания «Пи-дабл-ю-эм», разрабатывающая и выпускающая высокопроизводительное оборудование и контактные колодки для холодной сварки давлением, занимает передовые позиции в области технологий холодной сварки с 1984 года.



▲ Один из аппаратов компании «Пи-дабл-ю-эм» старшего поколения

В линейке выпускаемой «Пи-дабл-ю-эм» продукции – станки для широкого спектра применения: от портативных сварочных аппаратов с ручным управлением, предназначенных для сварки тонкой медной и алюминиевой проволоки диаметром от 0,08 мм и больше, – до крупногабаритных, высокопроизводительных электропневматических и электрогидравлических агрегатов для сварки прутков, способных обрабатывать заготовки диаметром до 30 мм.

Заглядывая в будущее, управляющий директор «Пи-дабл-ю-эм» Стив Мепстед (Steve Mepsted) сказал: «Несмотря на сложные рыночные условия, в прошлом году мы зафиксировали рекордный рост объема продаж. Холодная сварка по-прежнему остается надежным и рентабельным способом сварки цветных металлов, и мы уверены в том, что сможем и в будущем удовлетворять меняющиеся потребности наших заказчиков на международном рынке проволочно-кабельной продукции».

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## Компании «Медек & Шёрнер» – 80 лет

В этом году семейная компания «Медек & Шёрнер» (Medek & Schörner), занимающая ведущие позиции на рынке печатных машин для печатания на изоляции для проводов и кабелей и линий для обработки оптического волокна, отмечает 80-летие со дня своего основания Йозефом Медеком (Josef Medek) и Густавом Шёрнером (Gustav Schörner).

Первоначально существовавшая в виде цеха, занятого прецизионной механической обработкой деталей, в 50-х годах прошлого века компания начала производство станков для маркировки кабельно-проводниковой продукции, трубных изделий и профилей, получаемых методом непрерывной экструзии.

Строительство в 1989 году оборудованного новейшими станками производственного предприятия в Гроссеберсдорфе велось параллельно с активизацией научно-исследовательских и опытно-конструкторских работ, при этом особое внимание уделялось вопросам разработки сложных электронных управляющих устройств. Это позволило продолжить выпуск стандартной продукции исключительно высокого качества, одновременно оставаясь на уровне последних достижений



▲ Компания «Медек & Шёрнер» концентрирует усилия на научно-исследовательских и опытно-конструкторских работах

современных технологий. Особый положительный эффект это имело применительно к технически сложному оборудованию для нанесения цветной маркировки и защитного покрытия на оптические волокна для стекловолоконных кабелей.

Компания «Медек & Шёрнер» считает, что основным ее капиталом является работающая в ее штате группа высококвалифицированных специалистов. Большинство ее инженеров точного машиностроения начинали работу в компании в качестве учеников, постепенно постигая науку изготовления высокопрецизионных механических деталей на современных

металлорежущих станках с ЧПУ. Инженеры, участвующие в научно-исследовательских работах и проектировании, – это те же специалисты, которые занимаются решением широкого спектра вопросов, возникающих перед заказчиками в процессе повседневной эксплуатации установленного оборудования. Это позволяет компании «Медек & Шёрнер» в реализации технических решений оставаться верной своему основному принципу – оказывать заказчикам компании всяческое содействие и в максимально возможной степени соблюдать их требования.

«Медек & Шёрнер» считается единственной компанией, которая предлагает полный ассортимент машин для нанесения печати на кабельные изделия и для цифровой маркировки оптических волокон.

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## «Би-эл-эм груп» приобретает компанию-производителя проволочно-гибочного оборудования

Компания «Би-эл-эм спа» (BLM SPA) из города Канту (Италия), ведущий производитель в области трубогибочного оборудования и формообразующего инструмента для концов труб, приобрела фирму «Оффичина мекканика Монторфано сас» (Officina Meccanica Montorfano Sas). Присоединение «Монторфано», которое вступило в силу с 13 января 2009 года, дает компании «Би-эл-эм спа» возможность пополнить линейку выпускаемого ею трубогибочного оборудования высокопроизводительными станками для гибки проволоки, прутков и труб малого диаметра, полосового и профильного металла, а также армированных нагревательных элементов.

На протяжении более сорока лет «Монторфано» специализируется на производстве многошпиндельных проволочно-гибочных станков. Первый патент на этот тип оборудования был выдан компании в 1965 году, а первый трехкоординатный станок с ЧПУ был выпущен в 1979 году. Сегодня компания предлагает линейку из 18 стандартных станков, предназначенных для гибки проволоки и прутков диаметром от 1 до 33 мм.

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# Кабель для глубоководных ДУПМ

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## Аннотация

Появление кабеля для глубоководных ДУПМ навсегда изменило мир глубоководных исследований. С помощью данной технологии исследователи и историки смогли заглянуть внутрь затонувших судов, таких как «Титаник» и «Бисмарк». Этот уникальный кабель использовался в качестве линии связи между оператором и двумя специально созданными ДУПМ (дистанционно управляемыми подводными манипуляторами), именуемыми глубоководным ДУПМ и гибридным АПА (автономным подводным аппаратом)/ДУПМ. Кабель имеет диаметр 900 микрон и несет в себе одиночную оптоволоконную жилу, предназначенную для передачи информации в оптоволоконную телеметрическую систему и обратно.

Первоначально данная технология была разработана Майком Кэмероном (Mike Cameron) из компании «Дарк мэттер ллс» (Dark Matter LLC) в 1999 году. Майк Кэмерон и его брат Джеймс Кэмерон использовали технологию ДУПМ в съемках документальных фильмов, пока в январе 2005 года она не была приобретена компанией «Оушениэринг интернэшнл» (Oceanering International). «Оушениэринг» планировала дать этой технологии широкое распространение, задействовав уникальные возможности обоих типов ДУПМ, с возможностью использования при выполнении таких задач, как обследование подводного оборудования, контроль состояния безопасности портов и проведение поисково-спасательных операций.

Появление ДУПМ от компании «Оушениэринг» носит революционный характер: оно привело к изменению взглядов на конструкцию ДУПМ. Оба ДУПМ представляют собой автономные аппараты, в которых размещены собственные аккумуляторы,

обеспечивающие электропитание бортовых систем, и устройства для отдачи размещенного на их борту кабеля для обеспечения связи. В стандартном исполнении ДУПМ передает мощность и команды управления через фал большого диаметра, который ограничивает передвижение аппарата и глубину его погружения в останки кораблекрушения. Кроме того, фал обычно стравливается по команде с поста управления с использованием барабана очень большого диаметра. Поскольку волоконно-оптический фал имеет разовое применение, ДУПМ производства компании «Оушениэринг» обладает уникальной способностью проникать в одно отверстие и выходить через другое без каких-либо ограничений по количеству мест входа и выхода, равно как и по глубине проникновения в пустоты. Кабель для глубоководных ДУПМ дает этим аппаратам конкурентное преимущество. Стравливание кабеля производится с помощью разработанного компанией механического отдатчика, встроенного в конструкцию ДУПМ, благодаря чему отпадает необходимость в использовании контактных колец для оптоволоконна. На глубоководном ДУПМ предусмотрен запас порядка 600 метров, а на гибридном АПА/ДУПМ – 2000 метров этого сверхтонкого, 900-мкм кабеля.

Кабель состоит из одиночной оптоволоконной жилы, специальных силовых элементов и заполнен маслом. Оптоволоконно представляет собой стандартное одномодовое волокно диаметром 255 мкм, используемое в цепях управления и на линиях обратной связи. Силовые элементы служат как для контроля натяжения, так и для повышения износостойкости кабеля. Наполнение маслом обеспечивает прочностные характеристики кабеля при сжатии на глубинах до 6100 метров (20 000 футов). Наружная оболочка выполнена из специальной полимерной

смеси для обеспечения необходимого запаса плавучести кабеля в водной толще. ДУПМ столь компактны по размерам и несут такое большое количество кабеля, что при неправильно подобранном весе кабель может полностью нарушить работоспособность систем управления плавучестью ДУПМ.

Данный кабель прошел сертификацию с использованием как стандартных методик испытания, так и совершенно новых методов тестирования. Была проведена проверка механических и экологических характеристик, при этом испытания кабеля проводились в соответствии с самыми жесткими требованиями трех различных стандартов.

В числе этих трех стандартов использовались стандарты ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, GR-20-CORE и EN 187105. Для получения более точного представления об эксплуатационных характеристиках данного кабеля были проведены испытания на стойкость кабеля к разрушению согласно общим рекомендациям, приведенных в технических условиях.

Кроме того, в целях прогнозирования надежности кабеля был разработан ряд специальных испытаний. Для моделирования действия на кабель давления на сверхбольших океанских глубинах компания «Оушениэринг» использовала специальный стенд для испытаний гидростатическим давлением. Для обеспечения необходимого плавучести компанией «Оушениэринг» были также установлены критерии ее определения. Компания «КоммСкоуп» (CommScope) разработала специальную методику испытаний на стойкость к образованию калышек (морской аналог термина «перекручивание») с целью определения контрольных показателей прочности каждого кабеля на продольный изгиб. На основании



полученных данных контрольных испытаний мы могли бы гарантировать компании «Оушениэринг», что этот кабель наилучшим образом соответствует предполагаемым для него особым условиям применения.

## 1 Введение

Оценка кабеля для глубоководных ДУПМ проводилась как производителем, так и конечным пользователем для двух различных сфер применений аналогичного типа. Рассматриваемый кабель уже использовался для глубоководного ДУПМ, но он нуждались в оптимизации, чтобы продемонстрировать хорошие эксплуатационные качества в новой сфере применения. Такой новой сферой применения стал гибридный АПА/ДУПМ, обладающий возможностями как автономного, так и обычного ДУПМ. Для того чтобы определить необходимую кабельную конструкцию, были проведены многочисленные проверки кабельных систем, лабораторные и эксплуатационные испытания.

## 2 Кабельная конструкция

### 2.1 Требования заказчика

Компания «Оушениэринг» заказала новую кабельную конструкцию, состоящую всего из одного волокна и имеющую диаметр около 900 мкм. В результате данной разработки появился кабель для глубоководных ДУПМ третьего поколения.

#### 2.1.1 Кабель первого поколения

Кабель первого поколения представлял собой двухжильный волоконно-оптический кабель, состоящий из двух многомодовых волокон общим диаметром приблизительно 1,4 мм. Одно волокно было предназначено для передачи данных, направляемых в ДУПМ (для управления ДУПМ), а другое – для передачи данных, направляемых обратно из ДУПМ (видеоинформационная обратная связь в режиме реального времени). Для увеличения прочности на разрыв в этот кабель были интегрированы многочисленные нити, выполняющие функцию силовых элементов. Впоследствии специалисты компании «Оушениэринг» заменили волоконно-оптические системы с тем, чтобы они могли передавать данные в обе стороны по одиночному волокну, а не по двум отдельным волокнам.

#### 2.1.2 Кабель второго поколения

Сохранив тот же диаметр для обеспечения механической

совместимости, кабель второго поколения содержал только одиночное волокно. Диаметр кабеля по-прежнему составлял 1,4 мм, однако в нем была предусмотрена дополнительная защитная оболочка. Между двумя слоями оболочки был размещен повив силовых элементов для увеличения прочности на разрыв и стойкости к абразивному истиранию. Каких-либо требований в отношении плавучести для кабелей как первого, так и второго поколений не предусматривалось: гарантировано должно было быть только их погружение.

#### 2.1.3 Кабель для глубоководных ДУПМ

Данный кабель третьего поколения отличался от кабеля первых двух поколений следующими улучшенными характеристиками:

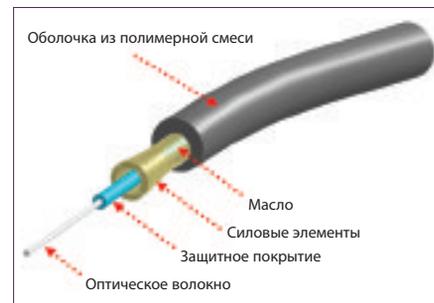
- 1) меньшим диаметром: этот кабель был почти в два раза тоньше, чем кабели предыдущих двух версий, что позволяло использовать катушки меньших размеров, и, следовательно, получить более компактную конструкцию ДУПМ или возможность увеличения длины выпускаемого кабеля;
- 2) нейтральной плавучестью: этот кабель имел выполненную из полимерной смеси оболочку, которая сочетала в себе комбинацию двух типов материалов для обеспечения нейтральной плавучести кабеля;
- 3) повышенной стойкостью к образованию калышек: по сравнению с предшествующими ему модификациями данный кабель предполагал большую вероятность распутивания в случае его перекручивания под воздействием тяжелых нагрузок. Это было обусловлено тем, что его оболочка обладала гораздо большей жесткостью, чем оболочка кабеля, использовавшегося ранее.

#### 2.2 Конструкция изобретения

Этот кабель имел одноволоконную конструкцию, т.е. содержал одиночное оптическое волокно для передачи данных как к аппарату, так и от него. Выполнен он был с использованием маслонеполненной буферной трубки диаметром приблизительно 900 мкм. Трубка была наполнена маслом и содержала оптическое волокно и силовые элементы. Использовалось маловязкое минеральное масло. Оптическое волокно представляло собой стандартное согласованное одномодовое волокно диаметром 255 мкм с несмещенной дисперсией и покрытием. Силовые элементы состояли

из комплексной термопластичной нити, обладающей хорошей прочностью на растяжение и повышенной стойкостью к абразивному истиранию. Буферная трубка была выполнена из смеси двух полимеров.

Схематическое изображение кабельной конструкции приведено на рис. 1.



▲ Рис. 1.

#### 2.3 Цель создания

Для обеспечения электроснабжения и связи в типовом ДУПМ использовался фал большого диаметра. В отличие от типового ДУПМ в данной модели подача питания обеспечивалась бортовой батарейной установкой с высокой плотностью энергии. Для подачи в ДУПМ команд управления, а также передачи из него видеоизображений требовалась линия связи совершенно нового типа. С учетом используемых в этих ДУПМ систем на основе последних технических достижений логично было бы выбрать устройства беспроводной связи. К сожалению, работа устройств беспроводной связи в подводном положении, как правило, коренным образом отличается от их работы на открытом воздухе. Традиционные видеосигналы могли бы передаваться на контроллер в диапазоне радиочастот, однако под водой радиосигналы не могут проходить на большие расстояния.

Звук в воде распространяется хорошо, но распространение звуковых волн было бы слишком медленным, и они не смогли бы обеспечить ту скорость передачи данных, которая требовалась для видеоизображений высокого разрешения. Именно в это время получила реализацию идея создания кабеля для глубоководных ДУПМ, который стал единственным логическим решением проблемы со связью. С помощью нетрадиционного способа развертывания с использованием фала этот небольшой сбрасываемый кабель подавался с размещенной внутри аппарата катушки. Обычные фалы должны были подаваться с катушек с борта судна-носителя или из центра управления.

В условиях, когда стандартный фал ограничивал мобильность аппарата,

рассматриваемый нами кабель давал оператору манипулятора беспрецедентную степень свободы перемещения. Теперь с проблемами, связанными с захлестыванием кабеля, было покончено, поскольку ДУПМ мог просто оставить кабель в том месте, где он запутался, и продолжать исследование глубин! Все, что требовалось в этом случае, – это дополнительно отдать кабель с помощью усовершенствованного смоточного устройства, размещенного на борту ДУПМ. Не нужно было больше возвращаться и ложиться на тот курс, которым вы следовали: этот аппарат можно было направлять в одну точку, а выводить через другую. После выполнения задачи шлангокабель можно просто отрезать и оставить позади себя.

## 3 Глубоководный ДУПМ

### 3.1 Цель создания

Первоначальной целью создания глубоководного ДУПМ было проведение исследований обломков кораблекрушений. Первым официальным заданием для глубоководного ДУПМ в качестве актива компании «Оушениэринг» стала съемка документального фильма о «Титанике» («Последняя тайна «Титаника»»), который 24 июля 2005 года был показан в прямом эфире на канале «Дискавери» непосредственно с места кораблекрушения. Кроме того, глубоководный ДУПМ успешно продемонстрировал свои возможности по проведению инспектирования подводного оборудования с близкого расстояния, выполнению поисково-спасательных работ и проверок безопасности судов и причальных сооружений на более эффективном уровне.

### 3.2 Описание

Глубоководный ДУПМ представлял собой автоматический робот-манипулятор коробчатого типа с габаритами 27 дюймов в длину, 15,5 дюйма в ширину и 17,5 дюйма в высоту. Любопытно, что указанные размеры аппарата были обусловлены требованиями его первого задания – погружение в корпус «Титаника» – пассажирского лайнера Королевской почтовой службы Великобритании. Глубоководный ДУПМ должен был пройти через бортовые иллюминаторы «Титаника», которые имели размеры 18 дюймов в ширину и 24 дюйма в высоту. Наружная оболочка автоматического робота-манипулятора была выполнена из синтаксической пены, состоящей из полых стеклянных шариков, импрегнированных в слой двухкомпонентного эпоксидного

компаунда. Этот специальный состав позволял автоматическому роботу-манипулятору сохранять плавучесть на больших глубинах.

Внутри корпуса размещалось 600 метров кабеля для глубоководных ДУПМ. На борту ДУПМ были установлены две видеокамеры, одна из которых представляла собой камеру с высокой разрешающей способностью для съемки отдельных фрагментов, а другая – камеру черно-белого телевидения, используемую для целей навигации. В целях обеспечения видимости на таких глубинах ДУПМ был оборудован двумя галогенными прожекторами и двумя комплектами светодиодных ламп. Во время киносъемки использовались галогенные прожекторы заливающего и направленного света, а светодиодные лампы по причине низкого энергопотребления использовались для целей навигации.

Камеры и осветительные приборы были смонтированы на регулируемом по углу наклона кронштейне, благодаря которому обеспечивалось изменение направления луча света в вертикальной плоскости на угол до 210 градусов. Регулирование угла наклона осуществлялось оператором с помощью кнопки, расположенной на пульте управления координатными перемещениями. С помощью этого же пульта управления оператор мог задавать направление движения четырьмя подруливающими устройствами для горизонтальной наводки камер. Оператор имел возможность управлять рысканием и дифферентом, что, по имеющимся описаниям, было очень похоже на управление небольшим самолетом. Кроме того, оператор мог регулировать плавучесть ДУПМ, высвобождая небольшие грузы из-под донной части корпуса аппарата или блоки из синтаксической пены с верхней части его корпуса. Электропитание всего комплекса сложного электронного оборудования, установленного на борту ДУПМ, осуществлялось от аккумуляторных батарей с высокой плотностью энергии, которые

▼ Рис. 2.



обеспечивали его работу в течение 12–18 часов.

Схематическое изображение глубоководного ДУПМ представлено на рис. 2.

### 3.3 Преимущества

Основными преимуществами глубоководного ДУПМ перед обычным ДУПМ являлись малые габариты его корпуса, бортовой источник питания большой емкости и сбрасываемый волоконно-оптический фал (кабель для глубоководных ДУПМ). ДУПМ обладал маневренностью, позволявшей ему проникать в отсеки затонувшего судна, в которые не смогли бы попасть пилотируемые подводные аппараты, водолазы или более крупные ДУПМ, а поскольку он использовал бортовой источник питания, отпадала необходимость в тяжелом фале. При использовании тяжелого фала проводить съемку стало бы практически невозможно, так как он взмучивал бы слишком большое количество донных осадков, что не позволило бы добиться четкого изображения снимаемого объекта.

Еще одно преимущество ДУПМ заключалось в том, что с помощью камеры высокого разрешения и сложной системы освещения (см. рис. 3) он позволял получать видеоизображение высокого разрешения в масштабе реального времени.

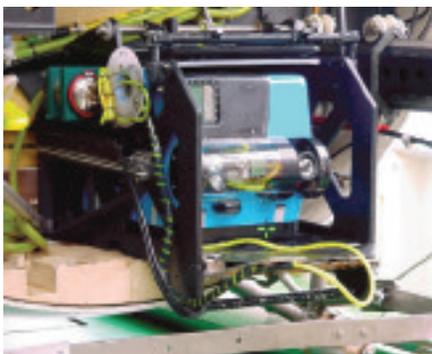


▲ Рис. 3.

Поскольку регулировка плавучести, угла рыскания и дифферента ДУПМ могла производиться «на лету», этот ДУПМ мог стать весьма эффективным инструментом при выполнении задач, требующих искусного маневрирования.

### 3.4 Недостатки

Глубоководный ДУПМ был рассчитан на узкоспециализированную сферу применения. Ввиду того, что модуль обладал малой скоростью передвижения (< 3 узлов), а ресурс аккумуляторов имел свой предел, ДУПМ приходилось размещать в непосредственной близости к месту проведения исследований. В большинстве случаев его доставляли на место с помощью обитаемого подводного аппарата на раме для спуска и поднятия (LARE), изображенной на рис.



▲ Рис. 4.

4. Автоматический робот-манипулятор мог работать при скорости течения не более 2 узлов.

## 4 Гибридный АПА/ДУПМ

### 4.1 Цель создания

Цель создания гибридного аппарата заключалась в том, чтобы использовать технические преимущества глубоководного ДУПМ и объединить их с преимуществами автономного, свободно перемещающегося аппарата. Это было достигнуто за счет использования конструкции корпуса Майринга вместо конструкции коробчатого типа, которую имел глубоководный ДУПМ первого поколения. Гибридный АПА/ДУПМ способен перемещаться на большие расстояния, а также в условиях сильных подводных течений. Гибридный АПА/ДУПМ работает в двух режимах: (1) автономном и (2) в режиме ДУПМ. В автономном режиме аппарат с помощью программирования обеспечения для планирования заданий может программироваться для работы с использованием навигации по ортодромии. В этом режиме волоконно-оптический фал может использоваться для осуществления контроля за выполняемыми аппаратом операциями и для передачи управления аппаратом в любой момент в руки оператора.

Кроме того, на случай обрыва волоконно-оптического фала аппарат заранее запрограммирован на возвращение в выбранный пункт для его поднятия. В режиме ДУПМ оператор может взять на себя управление аппаратом для обследования объектов, например, с целью осмотра повреждений в корпусе судов, выявления вероятных дефектов в конструкции дамб и проверки герметичности водоводов пресной воды.

### 4.2 Описание

По своей форме гибридный АПА/ДУПМ коренным образом отличается от первого глубоководного ДУПМ. Контур аппарата

повторяет обводы корпуса стандартной подводной лодки или торпеды. Благодаря форме своего корпуса аппарат может идти полным ходом (со скоростью > 3,5 узла) в условиях бурного волнения и сильных течений.

Диаметр гибридного АПА/ДУПМ составляет 6 дюймов, а длина превышает 62 дюйма. Несмотря на более крупные размеры, чем у глубоководного ДУПМ, этот аппарат обладает необходимой маневренностью, чтобы выходить на позицию в ближней зоне исследуемого участка. Аппарат снабжен гребным винтом для движения вперед и назад, а также расположенными в носовой части вертикальным и горизонтальным подруливающими устройствами. Схематическое изображение АПА/ДУПМ показано на рис. 5.



▲ Рис. 5.

Сходство с глубоководным ДУПМ гибриднему АПА/ДУПМ придает то, что на нем установлен бортовой источник питания, и он связан с постом управления посредством такого же кабеля для глубоководных ДУПМ. Разматывание кабеля с борта аппарата производится по более упрощенной схеме, чем на обычном глубоководном ДУПМ, при этом внутри корпуса хранится до 2000 метров кабеля. Спуск фала с борта аппарата производится через небольшую трубчатую направляющую, которая называется «стингер», таким образом, чтобы не допустить попадания кабеля в гребную установку. Гибридный АПА/ДУПМ оборудован усовершенствованными электронными приборами и датчиками, позволяющими ему выполнять свою функцию инспекционного аппарата.

### 4.3 Преимущества

Гибридный АПА/ДУПМ способен передвигаться на большие расстояния без участия человека при работе в автономном режиме. Автономный режим имеет следующие преимущества: (1) он обеспечивает функционирование на удалении от места проведения работ и (2) снижает нагрузку оператора, которому не надо управлять перемещением аппарата с большой скоростью и на большие расстояния. В отсутствие функции дистанционного управления гибридный АПА/ДУПМ пришлось бы доставлять на место производства работ с помощью пилотируемого подводного аппарата почти так же, как и глубоководный ДУПМ.

Кроме того, автономность аппарата позволяет провести его поднятие при повреждении или обрыве волоконно-оптического фала во время работ. Перед началом работ аппарату может быть программно задано геодезическое положение для возврата в случае потери связи. Это может быть одиночная точка или команда для выхода тем же маршрутом, который использовался для того, чтобы попасть на место производства работ.

Для обеспечения навигации в автономном режиме гибридный АПА/ДУПМ оборудован системой GPS (глобальной спутниковой системой определения местоположения). Аппарат может программироваться на всплытие на поверхность во время следования к месту производства работ для определения своих навигационных координат. После того, как местоположение определено, аппарат может внести курсовые поправки и продолжить следование к следующему пункту маршрута. Аппарат также оборудован высокочастотным гидролокатором (см. рис. 6), который используется для предотвращения столкновения с препятствиями и для определения места производства работ. После прибытия гибридного АПА/ДУПМ к месту назначения оператор переходит в режим ДУПМ и ведет наблюдение за изображениями высокого разрешения, получаемыми от двух видеокамер. Одна камера расположена в носовой части, а вторая – на стойке антенны GPS.

Камера, расположенная на стойке антенны GPS, используется как в надводном, так и в подводном положении. В надводном положении эта камера помогает следить за навигационной обстановкой, а в подводном положении – получить дополнительный ракурс, так как носовая часть аппарата находится в поле обзора. Кроме того, в носовой части гибридного АПА/ДУПМ расположены два лазерных дальномера, которые используются для

▼ Рис. 6.



Давление (Н/мм)	Разница (дБ)	Прошел/Не прошел
10	0.00	Прошел
15	0.08	Прошел
20	0.03	Прошел
25	0.11	Прошел
30	0.70	Не прошел

▲ Таблица 2: Результаты испытаний на сжатие

обеспечения фиксированной системы отчета при определении размеров объектов, наблюдаемых через носовую камеру.

#### 4.4 Недостатки

Гибридный АПА/ДУПМ конструктивно не был рассчитан на проникновение внутрь затонувших кораблей или в небольшие пустоты: значительная длина корпуса аппарата сводит на нет преимущества его малого диаметра. Несмотря на свою высокую маневренность, этот аппарат лучше подходит для проведения внешних осмотров, нежели внутренних. Благодаря сегодняшнему уровню технического прогресса он стал самым компактным аппаратом, который только можно было создать, и сохранил при этом все те самые современные функциональные возможности, которые описаны выше.

## 5 Обзор результатов испытаний

### 5.1 Испытания, проведенные компанией «КоммСкоуп»

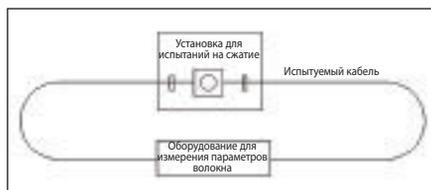
Стандартные заводские испытания кабеля были проведены на предприятии компании «КоммСкоуп», расположенном в г. Клэрмонте (шт. Северная Каролина). Испытания проводились не с целью сертификации данного кабеля для повседневного использования на наземных объектах или океанских линиях дальней связи, а с тем, чтобы определить контрольные показатели, которые можно было бы впоследствии применять при разработке конструкций глубоководного волоконно-оптического кабеля. Кабель проверялся на соответствие самым жестким требованиям, установленным стандартами ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, GR-20-CORE и EN 187105, а также прошел испытание на стойкость к разрушению в соответствии с общими указаниями, содержащимися в данных технических условиях.

#### 5.1.1 Испытания на прочность при сжатии

Из трех указанных стандартов стандарт GR-20 компании «Телкордия» (Telcordia) предъявлял наиболее жесткие требования: кабель должен был

выдерживать давление величиной 44 Н/мм в течение одной минуты и 22 Н/мм в течение десяти минут. Была принята аналогичная методика испытаний, которая предусматривала приложение заданной нагрузки в течение десяти минут, после чего в конце это временного отрезка, пока кабель находился под нагрузкой, проверялась величина затухания в кабеле. Стандартом GR-20 предусматривались самые жесткие требования, касающиеся любого увеличения значений затухания, поэтому GR-20 стал основным нормативным документом, которым руководствовались при проведении испытаний. В соответствии с этим стандартом изменение величины затухания не должно превышать 0,05 дБ для 90 % исследуемых волокон и 0,15 дБ для 100 % исследуемых волокон.

Кабель подвергался сжатию с использованием стальной пластины толщиной 25 мм со скругленными кромками радиусом 10 мм. Принципиальная схема испытательного стенда приведена на рис. 7.



▲ Рис. 7. Схема испытаний на сжатие

После успешного прохождения каждой серии испытаний нагрузка увеличивалась. Указанная процедура повторялась до тех пор, пока не происходило нарушение целостности кабеля. Результаты испытаний наглядно представлены в таблице 2.

Как можно увидеть по результатам, кабель продемонстрировал удивительно хорошие показатели, особенно если учитывать то, что согласно требованиям стандартных заводских испытаний кабель должен выдерживать нагрузку в 44 Н/мм. Испытания при каждом значении нагрузки проводились дважды для подтверждения того, что образец выдержал или не выдержал испытания. Показатели, полученные

при приложении сжимающей нагрузки к данной кабельной конструкции, возможно, могут быть объяснены наличием несжимаемой текучей среды внутри кабеля.

#### 5.1.2 Испытания на стойкость к ударным нагрузкам

Стандарт EN-187105 предусматривал однократное прикладывание определенной ударной нагрузки к трем разным отрезкам кабеля. В соответствии со стандартом ICEA-640 определенную ударную нагрузку требовалось прикладывать к трем разным отрезкам кабеля двукратно. Стандарт GR-20 предусматривал 20-кратное приложение определенной ударной нагрузки в одной точке на отрезке кабеля. В реальной ситуации под водой ударное воздействие, скорее всего, имело бы место лишь однократно, причем в одной точке, поэтому испытания проводились по методике стандарта GR-20. Стандартом GR-20 предусматривались самые жесткие требования, касающиеся любого увеличения значений затухания, поэтому GR-20 стал основным нормативным документом, которым руководствовались при проведении испытаний. Повторно отметим, что в соответствии с этим стандартом изменение величины затухания не должно превышать 0,05 дБ для 90 % исследуемых волокон и 0,15 дБ для 100 % исследуемых волокон. Принципиальная схема испытательного стенда приведена на рис. 8.



▲ Рис. 8. Схема испытаний на стойкость к ударным нагрузкам

Испытываемый кабель был подвергнут воздействию ударной нагрузки определенной величины в течение одного цикла. После завершения ударного воздействия определялось значение затухания в кабеле. Указанная процедура повторялась до тех пор, пока не происходило нарушение целостности кабеля. Результаты испытаний наглядно представлены в таблице 3.

Из приведенных результатов видно, что максимальное значение ударной нагрузки, которую мог выдержать данный кабель, составляет 0,4 Н/м. При 0,5 Н/м кабель полностью расплющивался с выходом из-под оболочки концов разорванного волокна. Для справки: при проведении стандартных заводских испытаний кабель должен выдерживать ударную нагрузку в 4,4 Н/м, что намного

больше, чем смог продемонстрировать кабель для глубоководных ДУПМ. Тем не менее, этот кабель, вероятнее всего, может подвергнуться ударному воздействию в подводных условиях, в которых любой расположенный под водой предмет при падении будет перемещаться с гораздо меньшей скоростью, и, следовательно, величина прилагаемого к кабелю усилия будет существенно ниже.

## 5.1.3 Предел прочности на растяжение

Все три стандарта содержат требование, касающееся величины удельной растягивающей нагрузки. При этом требованиями стандартов ICEA-640 и GR-20 предусматривается самое высокое значение кратковременной растягивающей нагрузки, составляющее 2670 Н. Стандарт EN-187105 предусматривает приложение кратковременной растягивающей нагрузки с поправкой на вес кабеля. Диаметр оправки, используемой на испытательном стенде, был определен с учетом самых жестких требований, содержащихся в стандартах GR-20 и ICEA-640. В соответствии с указанными стандартами максимальный диаметр установлен в пределах 560 мм, а минимальный – в пределах 30-кратного значения диаметра кабеля. При проведении данных испытаний использовалась оправка диаметром 26 мм.

Согласно требованиям стандартов ICEA-640 и GR-20, увеличение значения затухания более чем на 0,05 дБ при длине волны 1550 нм и (или) деформация волокна, составляющая или превышающая 60 % от допустимой величины его растяжения, свидетельствуют о нарушении целостности кабеля. Безусловно, в рамках данных испытаний использование указанных нагрузок не предусматривалось, поскольку модуль упругости кабеля находится в пределах всего 12 кгс.

Для испытания данного кабеля на растяжение использовался соответствующий стенд Instron® со встроенным тензометром для определения величины деформации растяжения кабеля. Настройка стенда для испытания на растяжение была произведена таким образом, чтобы обеспечить минимально возможную скорость выполнения тестов и регистрацию значений затухания в кабеле и деформации растяжения. Стенд Instron обеспечивал данные по нагрузке, тогда как тензометр фиксировал данные по деформации растяжения. Ввиду того, что избыточность длины волокна в данном кабеле была слишком незначительна,

Количество ударов	Момент силы (Н/м)	Δ затухания	Прошел/Не прошел
1	0.1	0	Прошел
1	0.2	0	Прошел
1	0.3	0	Прошел
1	0.4	0	Прошел
1	0.5	н/д	Не прошел

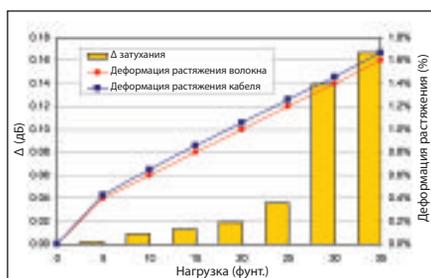
▲ Таблица 3: Результаты испытаний на стойкость к ударным нагрузкам

величина деформации растяжения кабеля и волокна была принята одинаковой. Принципиальная схема испытательного стенда представлена на рис. 9.



▲ Рис. 9. Схема испытаний на растяжение

Результаты испытаний кабеля и волокна на растяжение с соответствующими показаниями затухания наглядно представлены на рис. 10.



▲ Рис. 10. Результаты испытаний на растяжение

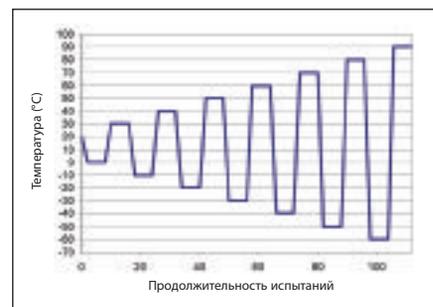
Из приведенных результатов видно, что при нагрузке менее 30 фунтов существенного изменения величины затухания не наблюдается. Согласно требованиям всех стандартов на волоконно-оптические кабели, деформация растяжения волокна не должна превышать 60 % от допустимой величины его растяжения в условиях воздействия на кабель максимальной для него расчетной нагрузки. Указанная допустимая величина растяжения была получена по результатам исследования надежности волокна в течение 20-летнего срока его службы и, в частности, развития в указанный период времени возникающих под действием напряжений трещин.

Кабель для глубоководных ДУПМ был рассчитан на использование в течение короткого промежутка времени до вывода его из эксплуатации, поэтому допустимая нагрузка с учетом ограниченного эксплуатационного

ресурса данного кабеля могла быть существенно выше уровня в 60 % от допустимой величины растяжения волокна. Нагрузка в 25 фунтов, судя по всему, является приемлемым вариантом.

## 5.1.4 Испытание на сохранение целостности при циклическом изменении температуры

Стандартом EN-187105 установлено самое низкое значение температуры при проведении испытаний, равное -45 °С, тогда как стандарты GR-20 и ICEA-640 предусматривают самое высокое значение температуры при проведении испытаний, составляющее +70 °С. Было принято решение использовать модифицированный режим термоциклирования, при котором кабель подвергался бы циклическому термовоздействию при крайних значениях температуры для того, чтобы вызвать нарушение целостности кабеля. Эпюра циклического изменения температурного режима, использованного при проведении данных испытаний, приведена на рис. 11.



▲ Рис. 11. Эпюра циклического изменения температурного режима

Стандарт GR-20 устанавливает самые жесткие требования относительно величины затухания, согласно которым среднее значение увеличения затухания для всех волокон не должно превышать 0,05 дБ/км. Стандартом EN-187105 предусматриваются наиболее жесткие требования по значению увеличения затухания для отдельных волокон, которое не должно превышать 0,10 дБ/км. При проведении испытаний была достигнута договоренность о том, что рост затухания для отдельных волокон не должен превышать 0,10 дБ/км, и что

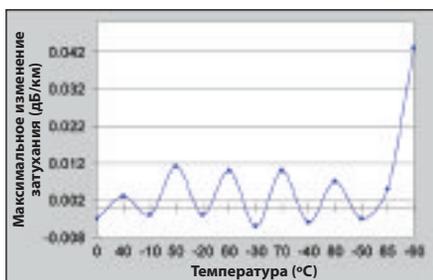
среднее значение увеличения затухания для всех волокон не должно превышать 0,05 дБ/км.

Было принято решение при измерении затухания использовать более строгие требования стандартов ICEA-640 и GR-20. Все измерения затухания должны были проводиться при крайних значениях температуры и сравниваться с базисными данными измерений, полученными при комнатной температуре до проведения испытаний. Принципиальная схема испытательного стенда представлена на рис. 12.



▲ Рис. 12. Схема испытаний на стойкость к термоциклированию

Результаты данных испытаний можно посмотреть на рис. 13, на котором значения температурного цикла представлены на оси абсцисс, а изменения характеристик затухания показаны на оси ординат. Указанные данные отображают максимальное изменение затухания для одиночного волокна при каждом крайнем значении температуры.



▲ Рис. 13. Результаты испытаний на стойкость к термоциклированию

Из приведенных результатов видно, что кабель продемонстрировал высокую стойкость к воздействию значительных перепадов температур. Несмотря на то что кабель способен выдерживать температуру  $-60^{\circ}\text{C}$ , ему, вероятнее всего, никогда не придется столкнуться с такой температурой, так как морская вода, в которой он эксплуатируется, замерзает при температуре чуть ниже  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Данные представлены в виде таблицы 4.

### 5.1.5 Испытания на стойкость к образованию калышек

Данные испытания были подготовлены с целью определения стойкости к перекручиванию, или стойкости к образованию калышек, различных

Цикл	Крайние значения температуры ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	Разница при отрицательных температурах (дБ/км)	Разница при положительных температурах (дБ/км)
1	0/+40	-0.003	0.003
2	-10/+50	-0.002	0.011
3	-20/+60	-0.002	0.010
4	-30/+70	-0.005	0.010
5	-40/+80	-0.004	0.007
6	-50/+85	-0.003	0.005
7	-60/+90	0.043	N/A

▲ Таблица 4: Результаты испытаний на стойкость к термоциклированию

Заданное расстояние (м)	Максимальное число оборотов до появления неоднородности затухания	Максимальное число оборотов до обрыва волокна
0.50	20	40
0.75	40	50
1.00	50	60
1.25	70	70
1.50	70	80

▲ Таблица 5: Результаты испытаний на стойкость к образованию калышек

видов кабеля для глубоководных ДУПМ. Образование калышек определяется как «(применительно к канатам) расслоение и образование перегибов прядей вследствие скручивания в процессе использования». Для того чтобы определить, существуют изменения в технологии производства или характеристиках используемых материалов кабельных конструкций повышению стойкости кабеля к образованию калышек или нет, требовалось провести сравнительный анализ контрольных показателей. В схему испытаний включили стенд для испытаний на скручивание и устройство для измерения параметров волокна. Кабель закреплялся на стенде для испытаний на скручивание, а затем с двух концов подсоединялся к оборудованию для испытания волокна, как показано на рис. 14.



▲ Рис. 14. Схема испытаний на стойкость к образованию калышек

Расстояние между кривошипом и зажимом было выставлено на предварительно заданную величину. После установки расстояния кабель был закреплен в зажиме и на кривошипе. Затем зажим был смещен на две

трети установленного расстояния по направлению к кривошипу. Поворот кривошипной рукоятки производился на 10 оборотов за один раз, начиная с 0. После скручивания за один 10-оборотный цикл зажим возвращался в свое исходное положение.

В процессе возврата зажима на кабеле образовывались калышки, после чего происходило высвобождение кабеля из образовавшихся петель. После выпуска петель выполнялась проверка параметров волокна.

В ходе этих испытаний использовались стандартные требования к величине затухания. В соответствии с требованием стандарта изменение величины затухания должно оставаться на уровне, не превышающем 0,05 дБ для 90 % исследуемых волокон и 0,15 дБ для 100 % исследуемых волокон. В случае если волокно удовлетворяло требованиям, установленным в отношении изменения величины затухания, процедура повторялась до тех пор, пока не происходило нарушение целостности.

Из приведенных результатов видно, что кабель выдержит экстремальные ситуации, связанные с образованием калышек. Полученные результаты превысили все ожидания и превзошли результаты испытаний предыдущих кабельных конструкций.

В случае с другими кабельными конструкциями образование калышек на кабеле имело место при прогнозируемом



количестве скруток. После образования калышек нарушение целостности кабеля было практически гарантировано.

В рассматриваемом нами случае для того, чтобы вызвать нарушение целостности кабеля, образование калышек должно было сопровождаться избыточным перекручиванием кабеля. Данный кабель, безусловно, обладал лучшими прочностными характеристиками, чем любой из предшествующих ему аналогов.

## 5.2 Испытания, проведенные компанией «Оушениэринг интернэшнл»

В дополнение к испытаниям, выполненным компанией «КоммСкоуп», компания «Оушениэринг» также провела ряд подготовленных ею собственных тестов для обеспечения уверенности в надежности кабельной конструкции. Использование аппарата в морских условиях может обойтись в миллионы долларов, поэтому компания «Оушениэринг» систематически проводит испытания всех компонентов ДУПМ.

Кабель для глубоководных ДУПМ – небольшой, но важный компонент аппарата, и по этой причине в отношении каких-либо неудовлетворительных результатов испытаний инженеры «Оушениэринг» занимали бескомпромиссную позицию.

### 5.2.1 Специальные испытания гидростатическим давлением

Для моделирования условий на экстремальных глубинах мирового океана группа специалистов из компании «Оушениэринг» использовала резервуар для испытаний гидростатическим давлением. Такие резервуары позволяют моделировать условия на глубине 9100 метров (30 000 футов) при давлении воды 92 Н/мм<sup>2</sup> (13 400 фунт./кв. дюйм). Все оборудование было испытано в режиме эксплуатации на глубине 6096 метров (20 000 футов) или при давлении воды 61 Н/мм<sup>2</sup> (8900 фунт./кв. дюйм). Компания «Оушениэринг» провела испытания кабеля для глубоководных ДУПМ на месте, используя небольшую гидростатическую камеру. Оперативно полученные результаты по эксплуатационным характеристикам кабеля под действием давления позволили сократить время на внесение необходимых изменений в конструкцию или технологию производства.

### 5.2.2 Испытание на сохранение плавучести

Данные испытания были проведены на производственном предприятии «Оушениэринг». Для специалистов компании «Оушениэринг»

представлялось чрезвычайно важным обеспечить нейтральную плавучесть нового кабеля, чтобы он не оказывал влияния на плавучесть самого аппарата. На долю намотанного на катушку кабеля на борту ДУПМ приходится значительная доля общей массы аппарата. При отдаче кабеля существует потенциальная опасность смещения центра плавучести аппарата.

Испытания проводились путем взвешивания катушки с кабелем на гравиметрических весах, размещенных в ванне с соленой водой.

### 5.2.3 Испытания на размотку волокна с катушки

Намотка волокна на катушку выполнялась сторонними поставщиками, поэтому необходимо было провести приемочные испытания готового волокна в катушках от поставщиков второго уровня и поставщиков третьего уровня, предназначенного для одного и того же оборудования.

Качество этого кабеля должно быть безупречным, чтобы соответствовать требованиям как компании «Оушениэринг», так и изготовителя катушек. Даже если бы кабель соответствовал всем требованиям компании «Оушениэринг», это не означало получения разрешения со стороны изготовителя катушек.

Готовое волокно в катушках испытывалось в подводных условиях с использованием намоточного устройства, отдающего кабель, и устройства для измерения затухания, позволяющего вести контроль за значениями затухания в кабеле в процессе его отдачи.

## 6 Выводы

По результатам испытаний, проведенных на предприятии компании «КоммСкоуп» в г. Клэрмонте, разработчики получили отличное представление о возможностях нового кабеля. Эти данные можно использовать при сопоставительном анализе любых последующих кабельных конструкций с тем, чтобы определить, действительно ли то или иное изменение в конструкции или материалах улучшит эксплуатационные характеристики данного кабеля.

Результаты испытаний, полученные компанией «Оушениэринг», дают разработчикам ДУПМ основания быть уверенными в том, что кабель будет соответствовать тем жестким требованиям, которые предъявляет глубоководная среда. ■

## 7 Выражение признательности

Авторы выражают особую признательность сотрудникам отдела инженерного проектирования оптоволоконных систем компании «КоммСкоуп», в частности, Роберту Д.

Пейсауру-младшему, Кевину Сигмону, Крису Роджерсу и Джо Лихтенвалнеру, за ту огромную работу, которую они проделали.

Настоящая работа была представлена на 56-ой Конференции Международного симпозиума по кабелям и проводам (IWCS), состоявшейся в шт. Флорида в 2007 году, и перепечатывается с разрешения организаторов.

## 8 Справочная литература

- <sup>[1]</sup> ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-1999, "Standard for optical fiber outside plant communications cable"
- <sup>[2]</sup> GR-20-CORE Issue 2, "Generic requirements for optical fiber and optical fiber cable"
- <sup>[3]</sup> EN 187105:2002, "Single mode optical cable (duct/direct buried installation)"
- <sup>[4]</sup> Random House Unabridged Dictionary, copyright© 1997

**CommScope, Inc**  
Fiber optic cable division  
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**Web-страница:** [www.commscope.com](http://www.commscope.com)

**Oceaneering International, Inc**  
Hanover, Maryland, США  
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## BLM Group rachète une société spécialisée dans le pliage du fil

BLM SpA situé à Cantù, Italie, producteur leader dans le secteur des machines et des systèmes pour les pliages des tubes et le formage, a racheté la société Officina Meccanica Montorfano Sas. Grâce à ce rachat, à dater du 13 janvier 2009, BLM peut compléter sa technologie dans le secteur des cintreuses avec des machines haute performance pour le pliage de fil machine, de barres et de tubes ayant des diamètres réduits, de bandes et de profils ainsi que d'éléments de chauffage armés.

Pendant plus de quarante ans d'activité, la société Montorfano s'est spécialisée dans la production de machines multi-têtes pour le pliage de fil machine. En 1965 elle a obtenu son premier brevet pour ce type de machine et en 1979 sa première machine CNC à trois axes a été lancée sur le marché.

### BLM Group UK Ltd – Royaume-Uni

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### BLM Montorfano – Italie

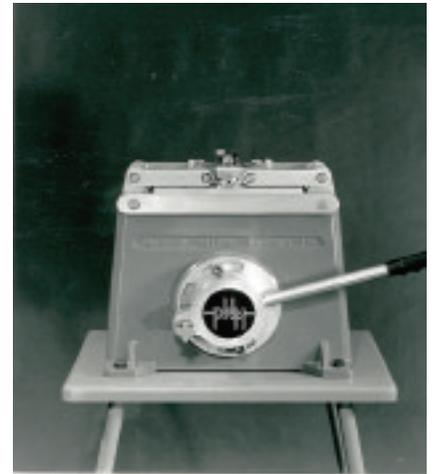
**Website:** www.montorfano.net

## PWM célèbre 25 ans d'activité

Le développement d'une soudeuse à froid pour unir des sections de barres de grandes dimensions et d'une filière pour unir le fil machine très fin ne représente que deux des étapes significatives dans l'histoire de la société britannique PWM, qui célèbre 25 ans d'activité dans le secteur international du fil et du câble en mai 2009.

La société est considérée comme étant l'un précurseur dans le processus de soudage à froid pour des sections de barres très grandes, avec l'introduction de sa première soudeuse pour barres en 1985. La EP500 électro-pneumatique, développée pour répondre aux exigences du secteur pour une machine en mesure de contenir des barres en cuivre d'un diamètre jusqu'à 12,5mm et en aluminium jusqu'à un diamètre de 15mm, est actuellement en cours de production ; il s'agit du produit le plus commercialisé de PWM. D'autre part le travail de recherche et de développement incessant a consenti à PWM de produire des filières en mesure d'unir des fils machines de 0,08mm de diamètre.

En regardant le futur, Steve Mepsted, directeur général de PWM, a déclaré: "Malgré le marché exigeant, l'année dernière nous avons eu le plaisir d'enregistrer une augmentation des ventes. Le soudage à froid continue à



▲ Une des premières machine de PWM

offrir une méthode uniforme, fiable et économique pour souder des matériaux ferreux et non ferreux, et nous sommes persuadés qu'au cours des prochaines années nous serons en mesure de répondre aux demandes en évolution constante de nos clients dans le secteur de l'industrie internationale du fil et du câble."

### Pressure Welding Machines – Royaume-Uni

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## Quarante ans de technologie Upcast®



▲ L'anniversaire de l'invention a été fixé le 6 novembre 1968, jour de la première coulée d'essai couronnée de succès

L'histoire du succès de la technologie Upcast® a débuté pendant les dernières années 60 lorsque de nombreuses méthodes commerciales de coulée pour le cuivre et les alliages en cuivre étaient utilisées. Généralement, la coulée était effectuée en direction descendante ou horizontale. Les produits présentaient

une section ample et exigeaient un traitement supplémentaire au cours de plusieurs phases successives.

Dans l'établissement de Outokumpu à Pori en Finlande, on a décidé d'explorer la possibilité de couler des barres ou des tuyaux ayant des dimensions proches des dimensions du produit final. Le travail de développement initial abouti à la première coulée d'essai ascendante réalisée avec succès en 1968.

Deux ans plus tard la première ligne de production fut installée dans la fonderie de Pori. La première unité de production

Upcast® est encore en fonction et a été mise à jour avec l'apport de plusieurs perfectionnements et modifications. La seconde ligne pour alliages en cuivre a été mise en service pour un client extérieur seulement un an après la mise en marche de la première ligne.

Le système Upcast® a fait un long parcours dès sa création et son développement est toujours en cours. La technologie Upcast® continue d'être un système de coulée continue avancé pour la production de barres en cuivre sans oxygène (OFC) et alliages de cuivre.

À présent, plus de 170 lignes ont été vendues pour une capacité annuelle totale de 1,5 millions de tonnes.

### Upcast Oy – Finlande

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## Bruker HTS et Nexans complètent leur projet européen de câble supraconducteur

Nexans et Bruker HTS GmbH ont annoncé leur succès dans la conclusion du projet Super 3C (Superconducting Coated Conductor Cable) au cours duquel un câble de distribution d'énergie supraconducteur à haute température a été développé et testé par un consortium européen. Le projet Super3C a démarré en juin 2004 et a abouti en décembre 2008 au test concluant d'un système de câble supraconducteur monophasé d'une longueur de 30 mètres, atteignant l'objectif de puissance transmise de 17 MW.

Il s'agit de l'un des premiers câbles au monde utilisant les rubans supraconducteurs de deuxième génération (2G) comme éléments porteurs de courant. Ces rubans comportent une mince couche supraconductrice qui constitue un conducteur électrique parfait une fois refroidie à  $-200^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Bruker HTS a développé un conducteur hybride spécifique, associant supraconducteur et cuivre, qui facilite la fabrication et l'exploitation des nouveaux câbles d'énergie employant la technologie supraconductrice. Le conducteur hybride 2G combine les avantages de la supraconductivité et du cuivre, ce qui lui permet de fonctionner et de s'interconnecter facilement avec

les composants classiques du réseau. Durant le projet, Nexans et Bruker HTS ont conjointement élaboré et mis en œuvre des méthodes sophistiquées pour l'assemblage des conducteurs hybrides 2G à l'intérieur du câble. Au total, Bruker HTS a fabriqué et testé près de 4000 mètres de supraconducteurs hybrides 2G pour le câble Super 3C.

Nexans a fabriqué le câble, y compris l'enveloppe cryogénique qui permet de maintenir le cœur du câble à  $-200^{\circ}\text{C}$  par un flux d'azote liquide. Le Groupe a également conçu et réalisé des extrémités de câble spécifiques pour ce projet.

Les 5,2 millions d'euros du projet ont été en partie financés par une subvention de 2,7 millions d'euros de l'Union Européenne au titre du sixième programme-cadre pour la recherche et le développement technologique. Nexans a assuré la coordination du projet.

Bruker HTS étant chargé de la tâche unitaire la plus importante, à savoir le développement et la fourniture des conducteurs 2G destinés au câble.

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**Email:** nexans.web@nexans.com  
**Website:** www.nexans.com

## Nouvelle édition de Blue Book

Fort Wayne Wire Die Inc a publié la nouvelle édition de son guide de consultation sur le tréfilage de fil Blue Book, complètement mis à jour et disponible en anglais, chinois et russe.

Le guide permet aux spécialistes du secteur du tréfilage de spécifier et de réaliser des filières pour fil plus précises et performantes, grâce à la disponibilité d'informations plus récentes concernant la tolérance des dimensions des trous, les matériaux de diamants polycristallins et les dimensions disponibles, les instruments de comparaison des matériaux à filière.

Le guide comprend également des diagrammes concernant les jauges pour fils, des dessins techniques détaillés et la terminologie concernant les filières pour fils, des options de reconditionnement des filières, des principes mathématiques pour le tréfilage du fil et plus encore, le tout élaboré et organisé pour orienter les techniciens à travers un processus logique de sélection des filières.

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## M&S célèbre son 80ème anniversaire

Cette année l'entreprise familiale Medek & Schörner, leader dans la production de machines pour le marquage des câbles et de lignes de traitement à fibres optiques, célèbre le 80ème anniversaire de sa fondation par Josef Medek et Gustav Schörner.

La société, née comme atelier d'ingénierie de précision, a démarré la production de machines pour le marquage de câbles, fils, tubes et produits extrudés en continu dans les années 50.

La construction d'une installation de production à Grossebersdorf en 1989, équipée des machines-outils les plus avancées vont de pair avec la recherche et le développement en accordant une attention particulière aux contrôles électroniques complexes. Cela a permis de poursuivre la fabrication de produits traditionnels de qualité extraordinaire tout en allant à la même allure que des derniers développements de la technologie moderne.



▲ La société Medek & Schörner est penchée sur la recherche et le développement

Cela s'est révélé particulièrement avantageux pour les installations très sophistiquées pour la coloration et le revêtement des fibres optiques pour les câbles en fibre de verre.

La société considère son équipe d'employés hautement qualifiés comme le vrai capital de la société. Most of the

firm's precision engineers were first employed as apprentices, learning the production of high-precision mechanical components on modern CNC machine tools. Les ingénieurs qui s'occupent de la recherche, du développement et de la construction sont ceux qui se mesurent avec les nombreux problèmes rencontrés au quotidien sur le terrain par le client.

Cela garantit que la technologie de Medek & Schörner a pour devise offrir un support complet aux clients et répondre à leurs exigences de la meilleure façon possible.

Medek & Schörner est considérée la seule société en mesure d'offrir la gamme entière de machines pour le marquage des câbles et le codage des fibres optiques.

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# Câbles pour véhicules sous-marins ROV pour grandes profondeurs

Par Jarrett S Shinoski Research & Development, CommScope Claremont, NC;  
Dave Weaver et Tom Tolman Oceaneering International Inc, Hanover, MD

## Résumé

Le câble pour ROV destiné aux interventions en eaux profondes a définitivement changé le monde de l'exploration sous-marine en eaux profondes. Grâce à cette technologie, les explorateurs et les historiens sont en mesure d'étudier l'intérieur d'une épave de bateau comme le Titanic et le Bismarck. Ce câble unique en son genre a été utilisé comme liaison de communication entre l'opérateur et les deux véhicules sous-marins filoguidés spécifiques dénommés ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) pour grandes profondeurs et le système hybride AUV (Véhicule sous-marin autonome)/ROV. Caractérisé par un diamètre de 900 microns, ce câble transmet les informations du et vers le système de télémétrie à fibres optiques au moyen d'une seule fibre.

La technologie ROV a été originairement développée par Mike Cameron de la société Dark Matter LLC en 1999. Mike Cameron et son frère James Cameron ont utilisé cette technologie dans les films documentaires avant qu'elle ne soit achetée par Oceaneering International en janvier 2005. Oceaneering prévoit d'augmenter la commercialisation de cette technologie en utilisant les potentialités extraordinaires des ROVs pour des applications telles que l'inspection d'équipements sous-marins et le contrôle de la sécurité dans les ports ainsi que pour les missions de recherche et de sauvetage.

Les systèmes ROV de Oceaneering sont à l'avant-garde et ont entraîné une révolution scientifique dans la conception des ROVs. Les deux systèmes sont des unités autonomes équipées de batteries pour l'alimentation de l'énergie et d'un système de déroulement du câble pour les télécommunications. Un véhicule ROV conventionnel transmet l'énergie et les commandes au moyen d'un câble de grandes dimensions, qui en délimite le parcours et la profondeur de pénétration à l'intérieur de l'épave de bateau. En outre, le câble est généralement déroulé à partir de l'unité de contrôle au moyen d'une bobine de grandes dimensions. Le câble à fibres optiques étant dépensable, les ROVs de Oceaneering ont une capacité extraordinaire de passer à travers les cavités sans aucune limitation ni dans les points d'entrée et de sortie, ni en ce qui concerne la profondeur de pénétration.

Le câble pour les véhicules sous-marins ROVs pour grandes profondeurs offre à ces systèmes un avantage concurrentiel. Le déroulement du câble s'effectue au moyen d'un système de déroulement mécanique breveté incorporé dans le ROV qui élimine la nécessité d'une bague collectrice à fibres optiques. Le système ROV pour grandes profondeurs contient environ 600 mètres de câbles très fins de 900 microns, alors que le système hybride AUV/ROV en contient 2000 mètres.

Ce câble contient une fibre optique, des éléments de renfort spécifiques et de l'huile. La fibre optique est une fibre monomodale conventionnelle d'un diamètre de 255 microns, utilisée pour le contrôle et le feedback. Les éléments de renfort contribuent à améliorer le contrôle de la tension et la durée du câble. L'huile donne au câble des propriétés d'incompressibilité jusqu'à une profondeur de 6 100 mètres (20 000 pieds). Le revêtement extérieur est constitué d'un mélange de polymères spécifique utilisé pour obtenir une flottabilité correcte du câble dans la colonne d'eau. Les ROVs sont tellement petits et contiennent une quantité tellement élevée de câble qu'un câble non correctement équilibré en endommagerait sérieusement les commandes de flottement.

Ce câble a été qualifié en utilisant des procédés d'essai standard ainsi que des méthodes tout à fait inédites. Les performances mécaniques et environnementales ont été essayées et le câble a été soumis aux spécifications les plus strictes de trois normes différentes: ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, GR-20-CORE et EN 187105.

Pour un meilleur aperçu de ses performances, le câble a été soumis à un essai de défaillance conformément aux directives générales des spécifications.

En outre, plusieurs essais personnalisés ont été développés pour prévoir la fiabilité de ce câble. Oceaneering a utilisé le banc d'essai pour la pression hydrostatique afin de simuler la pression sur le câble aux profondeurs maximales de l'océan. Oceaneering a également créé une spécification de flottement pour obtenir un flottement correct. Un essai spécifique pour l'entortillement (terme de marine pour désigner l'enchevêtrement) a été créé par CommScope pour évaluer les performances d'entortillement de chaque câble.

Des résultats de ces essais, le câble de Oceaneering s'est démontré le meilleur câble pour ses applications spécifiques.

## 1 Introduction

Le câble ROV pour grandes profondeurs a été évalué par le producteur et par l'utilisateur final dans deux applications différentes bien que similaires. Ce câble spécifique était déjà utilisé pour les systèmes ROV destinés aux applications en eaux profondes, mais devait être optimisé pour obtenir des performances satisfaisantes pour une nouvelle application.

Cette nouvelle application est représentée par le système hybride AUV/ROV caractérisée par les performances d'un véhicule sous-marin autonome et d'un ROV traditionnel. De nombreux essais de câblage, des essais de laboratoire et des essais pratiques ont été effectués pour réaliser une conception plus adéquate du câble.

## 2 Conception du câble

### 2.1 Spécifications du client

Oceaneering a demandé une nouvelle conception de câble contenant une seule fibre et un diamètre d'environ 900 microns. Cette invention est représentée par le câble ROV destiné aux interventions en profondeur de troisième génération.

#### 2.1.1 Câble de première génération

Le câble de première génération était un câble de 2 fibres composé de deux fibres multimodales et d'un diamètre total d'environ 1,4mm.

Une fibre était destinée à la transmission des informations aux ROVs (pour contrôler le ROV) et l'autre pour les informations envoyées par le ROV (feedback par vidéo en direct).

Ce câble contenait de nombreuses terminaisons des éléments de renfort ayant la fonction d'augmenter la résistance à la traction. Ensuite, l'équipe de Oceaneering remplaça les systèmes à fibres optiques afin de transmettre les informations bidirectionnellement au moyen d'une seule fibre au lieu d'utiliser deux fibres séparées.

## 2.1.2 Câble de deuxième génération

Tout en maintenant encore le même diamètre pour la compatibilité mécanique, cette deuxième génération de câble contenait une fibre unique. Le câble avait toujours un diamètre de 1,4mm, mais était équipé d'un revêtement de protection additionnel. Le câble présentait, parmi les deux couches de revêtement, une couche d'éléments de renfort assurant une résistance supérieure à la traction et à l'abrasion. Tant les câbles de première génération que ceux de deuxième génération ne présentaient aucune spécification de flottement, mais ils devaient uniquement garantir leur capacité d'immersion en profondeur.

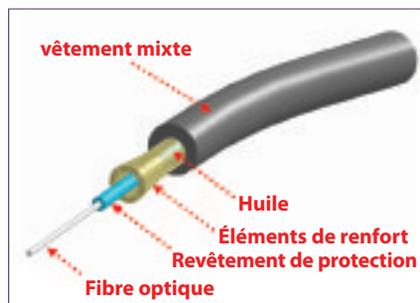
## 2.1.3 Câbles pour véhicules sous-marins ROV pour grandes profondeurs

Cette troisième génération de câbles différait des générations précédentes du fait des caractéristiques de perfectionnement suivantes:

- 1 Diamètre inférieur – Les dimensions de ce câble étaient presque la moitié de deux versions précédentes, permettant une bobine plus compacte, et donc une structure du ROV plus petite ou des longueurs de câble potentiellement supérieures
- 2 Flottabilité neutre – Ce câble a été réalisé avec un revêtement constitué d'un mélange de polymères, c'est-à-dire deux types de matériaux différents pour conférer au câble la propriété de flottement neutre
- 3 Résistance à l'entortillement supérieure – Ce câble avait une majeure possibilité d'éliminer les situations de torsion à des tensions élevées par rapport aux versions précédentes, grâce à un revêtement beaucoup plus rigide

## 2.2 Réalisation de l'invention

Ce câble présentait une structure à une fibre, c'est-à-dire il contenait une seule fibre optique pour la transmission des données du et vers le véhicule. La structure était composée d'un tuyau tampon rempli d'huile, d'un diamètre d'environ 900 microns. Le tube contenait de l'huile, la fibre optique et les éléments de renfort. L'huile était une huile minérale à viscosité réduite. La fibre optique était une fibre standard monomodale, du type "dispersion-unshifted", à gaine adaptée, d'un diamètre de 255 microns. Les éléments de renfort étaient constitués d'un fil thermoplastique à plusieurs filaments, avec des propriétés de résistance à la traction satisfaisantes, et une résistance à l'abrasion supérieure. Le tube tampon consistait en un mélange de deux polymères.



▲ Figure 1

Voir la Figure 1 pour un schéma de la conception du câble.

## 2.3 Utilisation

Les ROVs conventionnels utilisaient un câble de grandes dimensions pour la transmission de l'énergie et pour les communications. Au contraire des ROV traditionnels, l'alimentation, dans ce cas, était fournie à bord au moyen d'un système de batteries à densité d'énergie élevée. Une liaison de communication révolutionnaire était nécessaire pour alimenter les commandes aux ROVs et pour renvoyer les images vidéo. Les systèmes sans fils sembleraient être la solution logique, compte tenu des systèmes avancés que l'on rencontre dans les ROVs. Malheureusement, les systèmes sous-marins sans fils ont tendance à offrir des performances tout à fait différentes par rapport aux performances en plein air. Les signaux vidéo traditionnels pourraient être transmis au dispositif de contrôle au moyen d'ondes radioélectriques, mais ces dernières ne voyagent pas en grande profondeur.

Le son est caractérisé par une bonne propagation sous-marine, mais les ondes sonores seraient trop lentes et ne pourraient gérer la vitesse de transfert des données requise pour les images vidéo à haute résolution. C'est pourquoi le câble pour ROV pour grandes profondeurs a été réalisé comme la seule solution logique pour résoudre le problème des communications. En utilisant une méthode non traditionnelle pour l'installation du câble, le petit câble dépensable était alimenté par une bobine placée à l'intérieur du véhicule. Les câbles traditionnels seraient déroulés du navire hôte ou du centre de commande.

Alors que les câbles standards limiteraient la mobilité du véhicule, ce câble permettait à l'opérateur du BOT une liberté d'exploration sans précédent. D'éventuelles situations d'embrouillement seraient ainsi évitées, le système ROV pouvant simplement laisser le câble derrière soi et poursuivre l'opération. Le système ROV pourrait simplement dérouler une longueur de câble supérieure au moyen de son système de déroulement mécanique sophistiqué. Sans retourner sur le même parcours d'allée, le véhicule peut être guidé dans un site et hors d'un autre. Une fois la mission complétée, le câble ombilical est simplement coupé et laissé derrière.

## 3 Véhicules sous-marins filoguidés (ROV) pour grandes profondeurs

### 3.1 Utilisation

L'objectif initial des ROVs pour intervention en profondeur était l'exploration des épaves de bateaux. La première mission officielle de ce véhicule comme propriété de Oceaneering était un film documentaire du Titanic (Le dernier mystère du Titanic) qui fut transmis sur Discovery Channel le 24 juillet 2005 du site du naufrage. En outre, le ROV pour grandes profondeurs a démontré avec succès sa capacité de conduire des explorations rapprochées d'équipements sous-marins, des recherches perfectionnées et des opérations

de secours ainsi que des inspections de bateaux et de quais.

### 3.2 Description

Le ROV pour eaux profondes était un robot en forme de boîte de 27" de longueur, 15,5" de largeur et 17,5" de hauteur. Il faut remarquer que ces dimensions sont dues aux spécifications de sa première mission officielle, un voyage à l'intérieur du RMS Titanic.

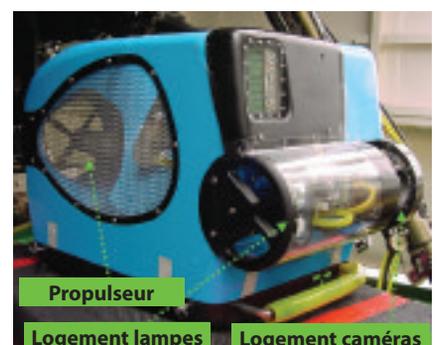
Le véhicule devait passer à travers les hublots du Titanic ayant une largeur de 18" et une hauteur de 24". La partie extérieure du BOT était réalisée avec de la mousse syntactique composée de sphères de verre imprégné de résine époxydique consistant en deux composants. Cette formulation spécifique a permis au BOT de flotter à de très grandes profondeurs.

La structure contenait à l'intérieur 600 mètres de câble pour véhicule ROV pour grande profondeur. Le véhicule logeait deux caméras vidéo, une à haute résolution pour filmer des séquences et l'autre noir et blanc utilisée pour la navigation. Pour avoir la visibilité à ces profondeurs, le ROV était équipé de deux jeux de projecteurs halogènes et de deux jeux de DELs. Les réflecteurs et les projecteurs halogènes furent utilisés durant les séquences du film alors que les lumières à diodes électroluminescentes, étant donné leur consommation réduite, furent utilisées pour la navigation.

Les caméras vidéos furent installées sur une barre permettant une excursion vers le haut et vers le bas arrivant jusqu'à 210 degrés. L'opérateur contrôlait l'angle d'oscillation d'un bouton poussoir situé sur le levier de commande de l'opérateur. Pour positionner les caméras vidéo en direction azimutale, l'opérateur pouvait manipuler les quatre propulseurs au moyen du levier de commande et pouvait contrôler l'embarquée et le tangage, qui fut décrit comme très similaire au vol d'un petit avion.

En outre, il avait la possibilité de contrôler le flottement du ROV en relâchant de petits poids de la partie inférieure du véhicule ou des blocs de mousse syntactique du sommet du véhicule. Les équipements électroniques sophistiqués installés sur ce ROV étaient alimentés par un système de batteries à haute densité d'énergie, garantissant le fonctionnement pour 12-18 heures.

Voir la Figure 2 pour le schéma du ROV.



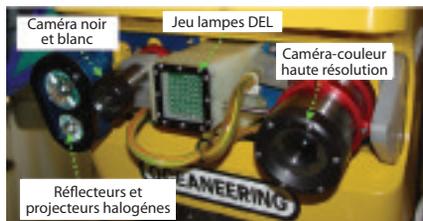
▲ Figure 2

### 3.3 Avantages

Les principaux avantages du ROV pour grandes profondeurs par rapport aux ROV traditionnels étaient représentés par les dimensions réduites de l'ensemble, par l'alimentation d'énergie à haute densité à bord, et par un câble à fibres optiques dépensable (câble ROV pour grandes profondeurs).

Le ROV était en mesure d'effectuer des manœuvres dans des cavités à l'intérieur d'une épave inaccessibles aux sous-marins pilotés, aux plongeurs ou aux ROV de dimensions supérieures. En outre, l'utilisation d'une alimentation d'énergie à bord de la machine n'exigeait pas l'utilisation d'un câble volumineux. Ce dernier, en effet, rendrait quasiment impossible le filmage à cause de la quantité excessive de sédiments qui serait soulevée et qui empêcherait une prise de vue claire.

Un autre avantage du ROV était représenté par la possibilité de fournir des images vidéo à haute résolution en temps réel au moyen d'une caméra vidéo haute résolution et d'un éclairage sophistiqué, comme illustré à la Figure 3.



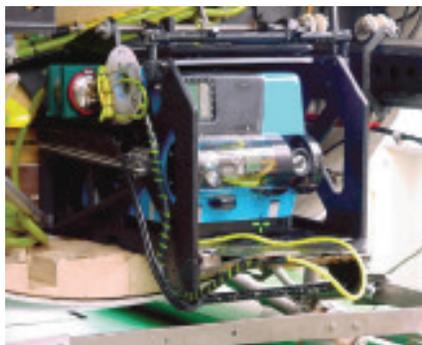
▲ Figure 3

Le flottement, l'embarquée et le tangage du ROV pouvant être réglés à l'instant, ce véhicule pourrait se révéler très efficace dans les missions exigeant des manœuvres compliquées.

### 3.4 Désavantages

Le ROV pour grandes profondeurs a été projeté pour une application spécialisée. Étant donné qu'il s'agissait d'un véhicule à mouvement lent (<3 nœuds) pourvu de batteries de durée limitée, il a été nécessaire de placer le ROV très près du site d'inspection.

Pour la plupart du temps, il était transporté au site établi au moyen d'un sous-marin à l'intérieur d'une capsule de lancement et récupération (LARE = launch and recovery enclosure) comme illustré à la Figure 4. Le BOT peut fonctionner avec des courants de 2 nœuds ou moins.



▲ Figure 4

## 4 Systèmes hybrides AUV/ROV

### 4.1 Emploi

Le but du véhicule hybride consiste à utiliser la technologie des systèmes ROV pour grandes profondeurs et à l'associer aux avantages d'un véhicule autonome se déplaçant librement dans l'eau. Cet objectif a été atteint grâce à l'utilisation du modèle de coque Myring au lieu de la forme en boîte de la première génération de ROV pour grandes profondeurs. Le système hybride AUV/ROV est conçu pour couvrir de longues distances et résister aux courants marins très forts.

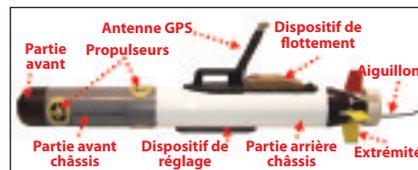
Le fonctionnement peut être de deux types: (1) autonome et (2) ROV. Dans le mode autonome, le véhicule peut être programmé au moyen d'un logiciel de programmation de la mission en utilisant une navigation vers des points de cheminement intermédiaires. Dans ce mode, le câble à fibres optiques peut être utilisé pour monitorer les activités du véhicule et consentir à l'opérateur d'assumer le contrôle à tout moment.

En outre, dans le cas d'endommagement du câble à fibres optiques, le véhicule est pré-programmé pour retourner à un point pré-établi pour la récupération. Dans le mode ROV, l'opérateur peut assumer le contrôle du véhicule pour conduire l'exploration comme le contrôle d'éventuels dommages sur les coques des bateaux, des voies d'eau dans les digues et des pertes dans les tunnels de l'eau potable.

### 4.2 Description

La forme du système hybride AUV/ROV est tout à fait différente du système original ROV pour grandes profondeurs. Le profil du véhicule évoque les contours d'un sous-marin standard ou la structure d'une torpille. La forme du corps permet au véhicule d'atteindre des vitesses élevées (> 3,5 nœuds) en conditions de mer difficiles et des courants forts.

Le système hybride AUV/ROV a un diamètre de 6" et une longueur d'ordre 62". Bien que de dimensions supérieures par rapport au ROV pour grandes profondeurs, ce système présente l'agilité nécessaire pour se positionner pour des inspections de champ rapprochées. Le véhicule est équipé d'une hélice de propulsion principale pour le mouvement d'avancement et de rétrocession et de propulseurs verticaux et latéraux installés sur la partie antérieure du corps. Voir la Figure 5 pour le schéma du système AUV/ROV.



▲ Figure 5

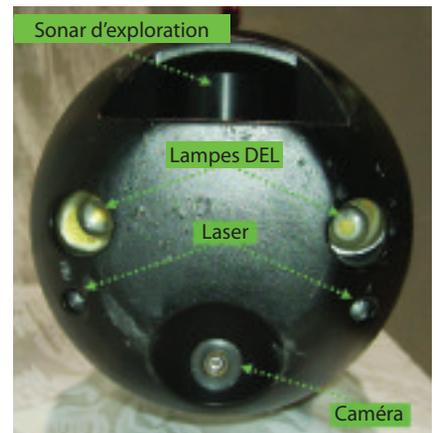
Le système hybride AUV/ROV est similaire au ROV pour grandes profondeurs puisqu'il est caractérisé par une alimentation à bord de la machine et il est connecté à une station de contrôle moyennant le même câble pour ROV pour grandes profondeurs. Le câble est déroulé du véhicule d'une façon plus simple

par rapport au ROV pour grandes profondeurs traditionnel, et il abrite jusqu'à 2 000 mètres de câbles à l'intérieur de la coque. Le câble quitte le véhicule au moyen d'un petit tube dénommé aiguillon (stinger) qui empêche son accrochage dans le système de propulsion. Le système hybride AUV/ROV est équipé de composants électroniques perfectionnés permettant son utilisation comme équipement d'inspection.

### 4.3 Avantages

Le système hybride AUV/ROV a la possibilité de couvrir de longues distances sans l'intervention humaine grâce à son mode de fonctionnement autonome. Les avantages du mode autonome sont les suivants: (1) il offre la possibilité de maintenir une certaine distance du site de travail et (2) il facilite le chargement de l'opérateur n'exigeant pas un pilotage à grande vitesse du véhicule sur de longues distances. En l'absence de cette capacité de maintenir une certaine distance, le système hybride AUV/ROV devrait être envoyé au point d'exploration au moyen d'un sous-marin piloté, comme dans le cas du ROV pour grandes profondeurs.

En outre, cette capacité autonome du véhicule offre la possibilité de le récupérer au cas où le câble à fibres optiques devrait se détacher ou se casser durant l'opération. Avant l'envoi de l'opération, le véhicule peut être programmé préalablement pour le retour avec une position géodésique à laquelle retourner en cas de perte de la communication. Ce procédé pourrait être comme une location individuelle ou l'instruction pour naviguer sur le même parcours utilisé pour atteindre le site de travail.



▲ Figure 6

En ce qui concerne l'assistance avec la localisation autonome, le système hybride AUV/ROV est équipé d'un système de localisation satellitaire GPS (Global Positioning System). Le véhicule peut être programmé pour arriver à la surface durant le voyage au site de travail pour identifier un point de localisation. Une fois la position déterminée, le véhicule peut corriger son propre cours et procéder au prochain point de cheminement.

Le véhicule est également équipé d'un sonar haute fréquence (comme représenté à la Figure 6) utilisé pour éviter tout obstacle et pour localiser le site de travail.

Après que le système hybride AUV/ROV a atteint sa destination, l'opérateur passe au mode ROV et contrôle les images à haute résolution disponibles des deux caméras vidéo. Une caméra est située sur la partie intérieure et l'autre sur le châssis du GPS. La caméra positionnée sur le châssis du GPS est utilisée tant durant la navigation en surface que pour la navigation sous-marine. Cette caméra peut aider la navigation de surface et offrir une perspective différente lorsque immergée, la partie antérieure du véhicule étant visible dans la zone d'observation. En outre, le système hybride AUV/ROV est équipé de deux lasers installés sur la partie antérieure, utilisés pour fournir un cadre de référence fixe pour la classification des objets affichés selon leurs dimensions, à travers la caméra de la partie antérieure.

#### 4.4 Désavantages

Le système hybride AUV/ROV a été conçu pour pénétrer dans les épaves ou dans des cavités de petites dimensions; la longueur considérable du véhicule compense les dimensions réduites du diamètre. Bien qu'extrêmement maniable, ce véhicule est plus indiqué pour les inspections externes que pour celles internes. Avec la technologie actuelle, cette unité est la plus compacte pouvant être réalisée et maintenant les caractéristiques sophistiquées décrites plus haut.

## 5 Révision des résultats des essais

### 5.1 Essais effectués par CommScope

Des essais du câble pour installation extérieure standards ont été complétés auprès des établissements de CommScope à Claremont, NC. Ces essais n'ont pas été effectués pour homologuer le câble pour un usage terrestre quotidien ou en tant que câble de traction océanique longue, mais dans le but d'établir un paramètre de référence pour les prochains projets de câbles à fibres optiques pour grandes profondeurs. Le câble devait satisfaire les exigences les plus strictes prévues par les normes ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, GR-20-CORE et EN 187105 et devait être soumis à un essai de rupture selon les directives générales de ces spécifications.

#### 5.1.1 Résistance à la rupture par compression

La norme Telcordia GR-20 était la plus stricte des trois normes mentionnées plus haut, puisqu'elle exigeait une pression de 44N/mm en une minute et de 22N/mm en dix minutes. Un essai analogue a été adopté en appliquant une charge spécifique pour une période de dix minutes et ensuite en évaluant l'atténuation du câble à la fin du temps prévu alors que le câble était encore sous charge. La norme GR-20 présentait les spécifications les plus strictes pour toute augmentation d'atténuation; par conséquent, elle a été adoptée comme ligne directrice. La norme établissait que la variation d'atténuation devrait rester inférieure à 0,05dB pour 90% des fibres essayées et inférieure à 0,15dB pour 100% des fibres essayées.

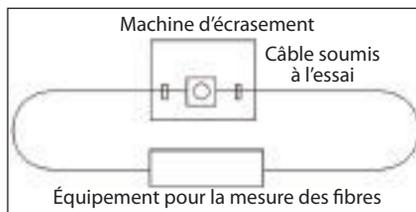
Pression (N/mm)	Delta (dB)	Passer/Échouer
10	0,00	Passer
15	0,08	Passer
20	0,03	Passer
25	0,11	Passer
30	0,70	Échouer

▲ **Tableau 2:** Résultats de l'essai de compression

Nombre de chocs	Force (Nm)	Δ Atténuation	Passer/Échouer
1	0,1	0	Passer
1	0,2	0	Passer
1	0,3	0	Passer
1	0,4	0	Passer
1	0,5	N/A	Échouer

▲ **Tableau 3:** Résultats de l'essai de résistance au choc

Le câble a été écrasé en utilisant une plaque d'acier de 25mm avec les bords arrondis et un rayon de 10mm. Voir la Figure 7 pour le schéma de la configuration d'essai.



▲ **Figure 7:** Diagramme essai de compression

À chaque résultat positif, la charge était augmentée. Ce procédé a été suivi jusqu'à obtenir l'affaissement du câble. Les résultats de ces essais sont représentés au Tableau 2.

Comme illustré par les résultats, de façon inattendue les performances du câble ont été satisfaisantes, compte tenu que la spécification d'un câble pour installation extérieure est de 44N/mm. Chaque pression a été exercée deux fois afin d'assurer un résultat positif ou négatif.

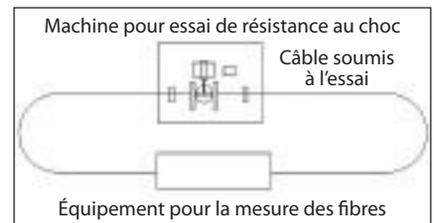
Les performances de cette structure de câble soumise à une charge compressible peuvent être associées au fluide incompressible à l'intérieur du câble.

#### 5.1.2 Résistance à la rupture causée par choc

La norme EN-187105 exigeait l'application d'une force de choc spécifique sur trois sections différentes de câble. La norme EN-640 exigeait l'application d'une force de choc spécifique deux fois sur trois sections différentes du câble. La norme EN-20 exigeait l'application d'une force de choc spécifique 20 fois dans un point du câble. Dans un contexte sous-marin réel, très probablement un choc aurait lieu une seule fois dans un seul point; par conséquent on a adopté le procédé d'essai de la norme GR-20.

La norme GR-20 présentait les spécifications les plus strictes pour toute augmentation d'atténuation et a donc été adoptée comme ligne directrice.

Encore, la norme établissait que la variation d'atténuation devrait être inférieure à 0,05dB pour 90% des fibres essayées et inférieure à 0,15dB pour 100% des fibres soumises à l'essai. Voir la Figure 8 pour le schéma de la configuration d'essai.



▲ **Figure 8:** Diagramme essai de résistance au choc

Le câble d'essai a été soumis à un choc avec une force spécifique pour la durée d'un cycle. Une fois le choc complété, l'atténuation du câble a été essayée. Ce procédé a été répété jusqu'à obtenir l'affaissement du câble. Les résultats de ces essais sont illustrés au Tableau 3.

Ces résultats montrent que la valeur 0,4Nm représente la force de choc maximale pouvant être supportée par le câble. À 0,5Nm le câble résultait complètement aplati avec la fibre endommagée sortant de la partie latérale du revêtement. Comme référence, les installations extérieures standard exigent la résistance à une force de choc de 4,4Nm, une valeur considérablement supérieure à la valeur pouvant être obtenue avec le câble ROV pour grandes profondeurs. Toutefois, très probablement ce câble subira des chocs sous l'eau; tout objet qui précipite sous l'eau bouge à une vitesse considérablement inférieure, et donc la force exercée sur le câble sera considérablement inférieure.

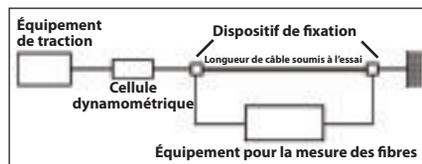
#### 5.1.3 Résistance à la traction

Les trois normes exigent une charge de traction spécifique tandis que les normes ICEA-640 et GR-20 exigent une charge de traction à court terme supérieure de 2670N. La norme EN-187105 exige une charge de traction à court terme représentant un facteur de poids du câble.

En ce qui concerne le diamètre du mandrin utilisé sur le banc d'essai, les normes GR-20 et ICEA-640 étaient les plus strictes. Ces normes spécifient un diamètre maximum de 560mm et minimum de 30 fois le diamètre du câble. Pour cet essai, les opérateurs ont utilisé un mandrin d'un diamètre de 26mm.

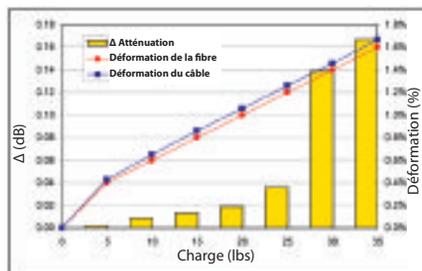
Selon les normes ICEA-640 et GR-20, l'affaissement d'un câble entraîne une augmentation de l'atténuation supérieure à 0,05dB à une longueur d'onde de 1550nm et/ou une déformation de la fibre supérieure ou égale à 60% de la valeur de déformation maximale de la fibre. Évidemment, cet essai ne s'approcherait pas des charges spécifiées, le câble ayant un module d'élasticité dans l'ordre de 12kf seulement.

Les opérateurs chargés des essais ont utilisé un banc Instron® pour les essais de traction avec extensomètre incorporé pour soumettre le câble à l'essai de déformation. Le banc pour les essais de traction a été préparé de façon à fonctionner le plus lentement possible, pour consentir d'enregistrer l'atténuation et la déformation du câble. Le banc d'essai Instron a fourni les données de charge, alors que l'extensomètre a fourni les données de déformation. La longueur additionnelle de la fibre étant tellement insignifiante, on a supposé que la déformation du câble et la déformation de la fibre étaient égales. Voir la Figure 9 pour le schéma de la configuration d'essai.



▲ Figure 9: Diagramme essai de traction

Les résultats de la déformation du câble et de la déformation de la fibre ainsi que les lectures de l'atténuation correspondantes sont illustrées à la Figure 10.



▲ Figure 10: Résultats de déformation

Les résultats montrent que l'atténuation ne présente aucune variation significative en dessous de 30 livres. Les normes relatives aux câbles à fibres optiques exigent que la déformation de la fibre ne dépasse pas 60% du niveau d'essai maximum de la fibre avec le câble soumis à la charge nominale maximale. Cette déformation maximale a été tirée d'une étude sur la fiabilité de la fibre durant un cycle de vie de 20 ans, et notamment la propagation des criques de tension dans cet intervalle de temps.

Les performances du câble ROV pour grandes profondeurs n'étaient prévues que pour un

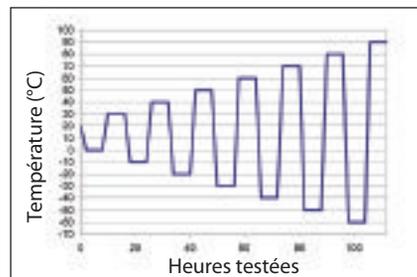
Cycle	Valeurs extrêmes de température (°C)	Delta froid (dB/km)	Delta chaud (dB/km)
1	0/+40	-0,003	0,003
2	-10/+50	-0,002	0,011
3	-20/+60	-0,002	0,010
4	-30/+70	-0,005	0,010
5	-40/+80	-0,004	0,007
6	-50/+85	-0,003	0,005
7	-60/+90	0,043	N/A

▲ Tableau 4: Résultats de l'essai de variation cyclique de la température

bref intervalle de temps avant de le retirer du service. Par conséquent, étant donné le cycle de vie limité de ce câble, la charge acceptable pouvait être considérablement supérieure à la valeur de déformation maximale de 60% de la fibre. Une charge de 25 livres semble être une solution acceptable.

### 5.1.4 Résistance à la variation cyclique de la température

La norme EN-187105 exige la température la plus basse (-45°C), tandis que les normes GR-20 et ICEA-640 prévoient la température la plus élevée (+70°C). Il a été établi de suivre un profil de la variation cyclique de la température modifié pour soumettre les câbles à des variations de température extrêmes pour commencer l'affaissement du câble. Le profil de la variation cyclique de la température utilisé dans cet essai est illustré à la Figure 11.

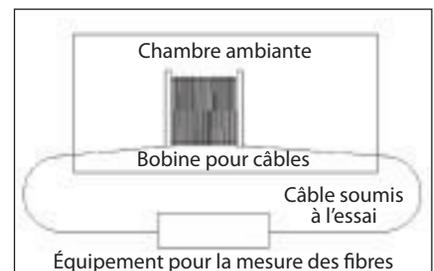


▲ Figure 11: Profil de la variation cyclique de la température

La norme GR-20 prévoit les spécifications d'atténuation les plus strictes pour une augmentation moyenne de l'atténuation de la totalité de fibres à 0,05dB/km.

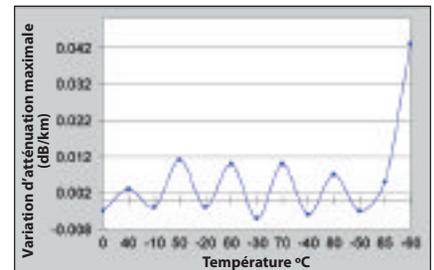
La norme EN-187105 prévoit les exigences les plus strictes pour une augmentation de l'atténuation sur une fibre individuelle à 0,10dB/km. Les opérateurs ont décidé d'adopter une spécification modifiée selon laquelle aucune fibre individuelle ne peut présenter une augmentation d'atténuation supérieure à 0,10dB/km et l'augmentation d'atténuation moyenne de la totalité des fibres ne doit dépasser 0,05dB/km.

Il a été également établi de suivre les exigences les plus strictes des normes ICEA-640 et GR-20 durant les mesures de l'atténuation. Les mesures de l'atténuation ont été effectuées à des températures extrêmes et comparées avec les mesures de base effectuées à une température ambiante avant d'exécuter l'essai. Voir la Figure 12 pour le schéma de la configuration d'essai.



▲ Figure 12: Diagramme essai de la variation cyclique de la température

Les résultats de cet essai sont illustrés à la Figure 13, où le cycle de température est représentée avec l'axe X alors que la fluctuation de l'atténuation est représentée par l'axe Y. Ces valeurs représentaient la variation de l'atténuation maximale d'une seule fibre à toute valeur extrême de la température.



▲ Figure 13: Résultats de l'essai de variation cyclique de la température

Ces résultats montrent que le câble était en mesure de supporter de grandes fluctuations de température. Bien que le câble puisse résister à -60°C, il est probable qu'il n'est jamais soumis à cette température puisque l'eau de la mer se glace à une température immédiatement inférieure à 0°C. Les données sont illustrées sous forme tabulaire au Tableau 4.

### 5.1.5 Essai de résistance à l'entortillement

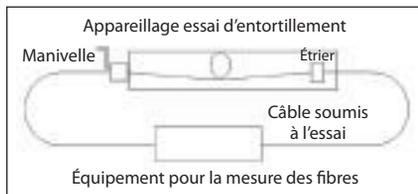
Cet essai a été créé pour effectuer l'essai de résistance aux déformations ou à l'entortillement de différents types de câble ROV pour grandes profondeurs. L'entortillement (d'un câble) est défini comme l'ouverture et la torsion des fils causées par la torsion durant l'utilisation. Un paramètre de référence était nécessaire pour vérifier si les variations de processus ou de matériaux dans la conception contribuaient à améliorer les effets de l'entortillement sur le câble.

La configuration de l'essai comprenait un banc de torsion et un dispositif de mesure des fibres.

Distance pré-établie (m)	Nombre maximum de tours avant la perte d'atténuation	Nombre maximum de tours avant la rupture de la fibre
0,50	20	40
0,75	40	50
1,00	50	60
1,25	70	70
1,50	70	80

▲ **Tableau 5:** Résultats essai d'entortillement

Le câble a été tiré à travers un banc de torsion et ensuite relié à l'équipement d'essai des fibres sur les deux côtés, comme illustré à la Figure 14.



▲ **Figure 14:** Diagramme essai d'entortillement

La distance entre la manivelle et l'étrier a été fixée à un intervalle pré-établi. Une fois la distance déterminée, le câble a été connecté à l'étrier et à la manivelle. L'étrier a été ensuite déplacé de deux tiers de la distance vers la manivelle. La poignée de la manivelle a été tournée de 10 degrés. Une fois la torsion effectuée avec le cycle de 10 tours, l'étrier a été reporté à sa propre position.

Durant le parcours de retour, le câble forme un anneau et qu'il défait lui-même par la suite. La fibre a été testée suivant la dissolution de l'anneau. Pour cet essai on a utilisé la spécification d'atténuation standard. La norme établissait que la variation d'atténuation devait rester inférieure à 0,05dB pour 90% des fibres testées et inférieure à 0,15dB pour 100% des fibres testées. Si la fibre répondait aux exigences de la variation d'atténuation, le procédé était répété jusqu'à l'affaissement.

Les résultats montrent que le câble peut supporter une condition d'entortillement extrême. Les résultats ont dépassé significativement les attentes, en terrissant les résultats obtenus des conceptions de câble précédentes. Avec les autres conceptions de câble, un nombre prévisible de torsions causait la formation d'anneaux dans le câble. Une fois l'anneau formé, l'affaissement du câble était quasiment garanti.

Dans le cas en question, un anneau devait être associé à une torsion excessive pour provoquer un affaissement. Il s'agissait d'un câble décidément plus robuste par rapport à toute version de câble précédente.

## 5.2 Essai effectué par Oceaneering International

Outre les tests effectués par CommScope, Oceaneering a effectué quelques essais créés au sein de l'entreprise pour augmenter la fiabilité des câbles. Une pose de câbles en mer peut coûter plusieurs millions de dollars, c'est pourquoi Oceaneering essaie systématiquement les composants des ROV.

Le câble du ROV pour grandes profondeurs était un composant petit mais essentiel; par conséquent, les techniciens de Oceaneering étaient intransigeants en cas de résultats insuffisants.

### 5.2.1 Essai spécifique sur la pression hydrostatique

Pour simuler les profondeurs extrêmes de l'océan, un réservoir à pression hydrostatique a été utilisé par l'équipe de Oceaneering. Ces réservoirs sont conçus pour simuler des profondeurs de 9 100m (30 000 pieds) avec une pression de l'eau de 92N/mm<sup>2</sup> (13 400psi). L'équipement a été essayé à une pression de l'eau de 6 096m (20 000 pieds ou 61N/mm<sup>2</sup> (8 900psi)). Oceaneering a testé le câble du ROV pour grandes profondeurs sur place en utilisant une petite chambre hydrostatique. Un feedback immédiat des performances du véhicule soumis à pression a permis un temps de réponse plus rapide pour des variations éventuelles de conception ou altérations du processus de fabrication.

### 5.2.2 Essai de flottement

Ce test a été effectué auprès des établissements de Oceaneering. Pour l'équipe de Oceaneering le flottement neutre du nouveau câble était essentiel, pour éviter ainsi d'influencer le flottement du véhicule. Le câble enroulé installé à bord du ROV, représente un grand pourcentage du poids global du véhicule. Par conséquent, durant le déroulement, le câble pourrait causer une variation du flottement du navire. Cet essai a été effectué en pesant la bobine du câble sur une balance gravimétrique immergée dans un bain d'eau salée.

### 5.2.3 Essai de déroulement du paquet des fibres

Attendu qu'un troisième fournisseur a été utilisé pour le déroulement des fibres sur la bobine, il a été nécessaire d'effectuer l'essai de réception sur les paquets de fibres finis, qui avaient tous les deux un deuxième et un troisième fournisseur pour une pièce de l'équipement. La qualité de ce câble doit être sans défauts pour répondre aux exigences de Oceaneering et du fabricant de bobines. Bien que le câble soit conforme aux exigences de Oceaneering, cela n'entraîne pas nécessairement l'approbation du fabricant de bobines.

Le paquet de fibres a été testé sous l'eau en utilisant un dérouleur pour le déroulement du câble et un dispositif de mesure de l'atténuation pour contrôler les valeurs d'atténuation du câble durant son déroulement.

## 6 Conclusions

Les essais complétés auprès de l'établissement de Claremont de CommScope ont permis aux développeurs de bien comprendre les potentialités du nouveau câble. Ces données peuvent être comparées à tout modèle de câble futur pour vérifier si une variation de la conception ou du matériau peut effectivement améliorer les performances de ce câble.

Les résultats des essais effectués par Oceaneering garantissent à l'équipe spécialisée en ROV que le câble sera conforme aux spécifications rigoureuse en matière d'environnement sous-marin de grande profondeur. ■

## 7 Remerciements

Nous souhaitons remercier tout particulièrement pour son travail précieux le personnel du département de conception des fibres optiques de CommScope et en particulier Robert D Paysour Jr, Kevin Sigmon, Chris Rogers et Joe Lichtenwalner.

Cet article a été présenté à la 56ème foire IWCS, qui s'est tenue en Floride en 2007, et a été reproduit avec l'autorisation des organisateurs.

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- <sup>[3]</sup> EN 187105:2002, "Single mode optical cable (duct/direct buried installation)"
- <sup>[4]</sup> Random House Unabridged Dictionary, copyright 1997

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## BLM Group rileva società nel settore della curvatura del filo

BLM SpA con sede a Cantù, Italia, produttore leader nel settore di macchine e sistemi per curvatubi e sagomatura, ha acquisito la società Officina Meccanica Montorfano Sas.

Grazie a questa acquisizione, con decorrenza dal 13 gennaio 2009, BLM può completare la sua tecnologia nell'ambito dei curvatubi con macchine altamente produttive per la curvatura di vergella, barre e tubi con diametri ridotti, nastro/profilati ed elementi di riscaldamento armati.

In oltre quarant'anni di attività, la società Montorfano si è specializzata nella realizzazione di macchine multitestate per la curvatura di vergella. Nel 1965 è stato concesso il primo brevetto per questo tipo di macchina e nel 1979 è stata introdotta la sua prima macchina CNC a tre assi. Attualmente la società offre una gamma di 18 macchine standard capaci di piegare vergella e barre del diametro compreso tra 1mm e 33mm.

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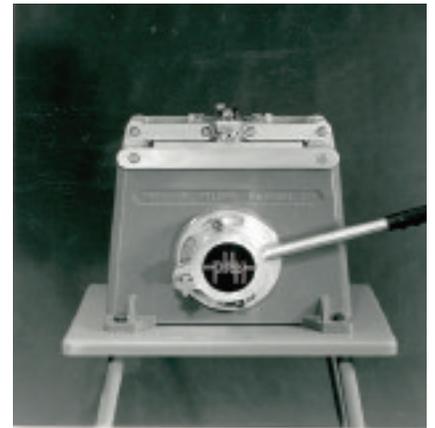
**Website:** www.blmgroup.uk.com

## PWM celebra 25 anni di servizio

Lo sviluppo della saldatrice a freddo per unire sezioni di barre di grandi dimensioni e la trafilatura per unire vergella molto sottile sono solo due delle tappe importanti nella storia della società britannica PWM, che nel maggio del 2009 celebra 25 anni di servizio nel settore dell'industria internazionale del filo e del cavo.

PWM, società specializzata nella progettazione e realizzazione di equipaggiamenti per la saldatura a freddo e per trafilatura ad alta prestazione, è dal 1984 all'avanguardia nella tecnologia della saldatura a freddo. La gamma dei prodotti PWM comprende macchine adatte ad un'ampia varietà di applicazioni, dalle saldatrici portatili a funzionamento manuale per unire vergella sottile in rame/alluminio del diametro di 0,08mm alle saldatrici grandi e robuste per barre, ad azionamento elettro-idraulico ed elettro-pneumatico con capacità che raggiungono i 30mm di diametro.

Le recenti innovazioni dei prodotti comprendono la P1000, una saldatrice di barre estremamente compatta e potente, ed una versione automatica del suo modello più venduto HP100, portatile ad azionamento areoidraulico. Guardando al futuro, Steve Mepsted, direttore generale di PWM, ha dichiarato: "Nonostante il



▲ Una delle prime macchine di PWM

mercato esigente, l'anno scorso abbiamo avuto il piacere di registrare un aumento record delle vendite. La saldatura a freddo continua ad offrire un metodo uniforme, affidabile ed economico per saldare materiali non ferrosi e siamo certi che nei prossimi anni sapremo soddisfare le richieste in costante evoluzione dei nostri clienti nell'ambito dell'industria internazionale del filo e del cavo."

### Pressure Welding Machines – Regno-Unito

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## Quarant'anni di tecnologia Upcast®



▲ L'anniversario dell'invenzione è stato fissato il 6 novembre 1968, giorno in cui è stata effettuata con successo la prima colata di prova

La storia del successo della tecnologia Upcast® ebbe inizio negli ultimi anni '60, quando erano in uso numerosi metodi commerciali di colata per il rame e le leghe di rame. Generalmente, la colata veniva effettuata in direzione

discendente o orizzontale. I prodotti colati presentavano una sezione ampia e richiedevano ulteriore trattamento in numerose fasi successive.

Nello stabilimento di Outokumpu a Pori in Finlandia, si decise di esplorare la possibilità di colare barre o tubi che si avvicinassero alle dimensioni del prodotto finale. Il lavoro di sviluppo iniziale culminò con

la prima colata di prova ascendente realizzata con esito positivo nel 1968.

Un paio di anni dopo fu installata la prima linea di produzione nella

fonderia di Pori. Questa prima unità di produzione Upcast® è tuttora in funzione ed è stata aggiornata con l'apporto di vari ammodernamenti e modifiche. La seconda linea per leghe di rame è stata collaudata per un cliente esterno solo un anno dopo la messa in marcia della prima linea.

Il sistema Upcast® ha fatto molta strada dalla sua creazione ed è tuttora in corso di sviluppo. La tecnologia Upcast® continua ad essere un sistema di colata continua avanzato per la produzione di barre in rame senza ossigeno (OFC) e leghe di rame. Ad oggi sono state vendute oltre 170 linee per una capacità annuale totale di 1,5 milioni di tonnellate.

### Upcast Oy – Finlandia

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## Bruker HTS e Nexans completano il progetto europeo per cavi superconduttori

Nexans e Bruker HTS GmbH hanno annunciato di aver concluso con successo il Progetto Cavi Superconduttori (Super 3C) in cui un cavo di alimentazione a livello di distribuzione superconduttore a temperatura elevata (HTS) è stato sviluppato e testato da un consorzio europeo.

Il progetto Super 3C è iniziato nel giugno del 2004 ed è terminato nel dicembre del 2008 con il test con esito positivo di un sistema di cavo HTS monofase della lunghezza di 30 metri. Il cavo HTS ha raggiunto il suo obiettivo di trasmissione di potenza di 17 megawatt.

Super 3C è uno dei primi cavi al mondo che utilizza dei nastri HTS di seconda generazione (2G) come elementi di supporto della corrente. Questi nastri comprendono un sottile strato HTS, che costituisce un perfetto conduttore dell'elettricità se raffreddato a -200°C.

Bruker HTS ha sviluppato un conduttore ibrido in rame brevettato HTS, che migliora l'affidabilità della fabbricazione e del funzionamento dei nuovi cavi di alimentazione equipaggiati con la tecnologia HTS. Il conduttore ibrido 2G associa i vantaggi della superconduttività e del rame, consentendo di funzionare e collegarsi facilmente con componenti

di rete convenzionali. Nel corso del progetto, Nexans e Bruker HTS hanno elaborato e realizzato insieme metodi per montare i conduttori ibridi 2G all'interno del cavo. Complessivamente, Bruker HTS ha prodotto e testato circa 4.000 metri di superconduttori ibridi 2G per il cavo Super 3C.

Nexans ha fabbricato il cavo Super 3C, inclusa la guaina criogenica, che consente di mantenere la temperatura dell'anima del cavo a -200°C mediante un flusso di azoto liquido. Nexans ha inoltre sviluppato e realizzato specifiche terminazioni dei cavi per questo progetto.

Il progetto da 5,2 Milioni di Euro è stato finanziato da una sovvenzione di 2,7 milioni di Euro concessi dall'Unione europea nell'ambito del Sesto Programma Quadro di Ricerca e Sviluppo Tecnologico. Nexans ha assicurato il coordinamento del progetto, mentre Bruker HTS ha assunto la responsabilità della parte singola più consistente del progetto, ovvero lo sviluppo e la fornitura dei conduttori HTS di 2G per il cavo.

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## Nuova edizione Blue Book

Fort Wayne Wire Die Inc ha pubblicato la nuova edizione della sua guida di consultazione sulla trafilatura del filo Blue Book, completamente aggiornata e disponibile in lingua inglese, cinese e russa.

La guida consente ai professionisti del settore della trafilatura del filo di specificare e realizzare trafilature per filo più precise ed efficienti, grazie alla disponibilità di informazioni aggiornatissime sulla tolleranza delle dimensioni dei fori, ai materiali di diamanti policristallini e alle dimensioni disponibili, agli strumenti di comparazione dei materiali per trafilature ecc.

La guida comprende inoltre diagrammi sui calibri per filo, disegni tecnici dettagliati e terminologia sulle trafilature per filo, opzioni di ricondizionamento delle trafilature, principi matematici per la trafilatura di filo e altro ancora, il tutto elaborato ed organizzato per guidare gli ingegneri attraverso un processo logico di selezione delle trafilature.

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## M&S celebra il suo 80esimo anniversario

Quest'anno la società a conduzione familiare Medek & Schörner, leader nella produzione di macchine per la marcatura dei cavi e linee di trattamento per fibre ottiche, festeggia il suo 80esimo anniversario dalla sua fondazione da parte di Josef Medek e Gustav Schörner.

La società, che nasce come officina per ingegneria di precisione, iniziò negli anni '50 la produzione di macchine per la marcatura di cavi, fili, tubi e prodotti estrusi in continuo.

La costruzione di un impianto di produzione a Grossebersdorf nel 1989, equipaggiato con le più moderne macchine utensili, è andata di pari passo con la ricerca e lo sviluppo e con particolare attenzione ai controlli elettronici complessi. Ciò ha reso possibile continuare a fabbricare prodotti tradizionali ad altissima qualità, mantenendo il passo con i recenti sviluppi della tecnologia moderna. Questo è stato di particolare beneficio



▲ Medek & Schörner è orientata alla ricerca e allo sviluppo

per gli impianti tecnicamente molto sofisticati per la colorazione ed il rivestimento di fibre ottiche per cavi di fibre in vetro.

Cela s'est révélé particulièrement avantageux pour les installations très sophistiquées pour la coloration et le revêtement des fibres optiques pour les câbles en fibre de verre.

Medek & Schörner ritiene che la propria squadra di dipendenti altamente qualificati rappresenti il vero capitale della società. Gran parte degli ingegneri di precisione della società furono dapprima impiegati come apprendisti, per familiarizzare con il processo di produzione dei componenti meccanici di alta precisione su macchine utensili CNC moderne.

Gli ingegneri che si occupano della ricerca, dello sviluppo e della costruzione sono gli stessi che si confrontano con i numerosi problemi incontrati quotidianamente dai clienti sul campo. Ciò garantisce che la tecnologia di Medek & Schörner segua il principio di offrire un supporto completo ai propri clienti e soddisfare al meglio le loro richieste.

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# Cavi ROV per alte profondità

A cura di Jarrett S Shinoski Research & Development, CommScope Claremont, NC;  
Dave Weaver e Tom Tolman Oceanering International Inc, Hanover, MD

## Sommario

Il cavo ROV per alte profondità ha cambiato definitivamente il mondo dell'esplorazione sottomarina in acque profonde. Grazie a questa tecnologia, esploratori e storici possono studiare gli interni di relitti come il Titanic e il Bismarck. Questo cavo unico nel suo genere, è stato utilizzato come collegamento di comunicazione fra l'operatore e due speciali veicoli subacquei floguidati denominati ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) per alte profondità e il sistema ibrido AUV (Veicolo subacqueo autonomo)/ROV. Questo cavo presenta un diametro di 900 micron e trasmette informazioni da e verso il sistema telemetrico a fibre ottiche mediante una sola fibra. La tecnologia ROV è stata originariamente sviluppata da Mike Cameron della società Dark Matter LLC nel 1999. Mike Cameron ed il fratello James Cameron utilizzarono questa tecnologia nei film documentaristici prima che fosse acquistata da Oceanering International nel gennaio 2005. Oceanering intende aumentare la commercializzazione di questa tecnologia utilizzando le straordinarie potenzialità dei ROV sia per applicazioni come l'ispezione di attrezzature sottomarine e il monitoraggio della sicurezza nei porti, sia per missioni di ricerca e di salvataggio.

I sistemi ROV di Oceanering sono rivoluzionari ed hanno segnato una svolta fondamentale nella progettazione di questi veicoli subacquei. I due sistemi ROV sono unità autonome equipaggiate di proprie batterie per l'alimentazione dell'energia e di un sistema di svolgimento del cavo per le telecomunicazioni. Un veicolo ROV tipo trasmette l'energia e i comandi tramite un cavo di grandi dimensioni, che delimita il percorso del veicolo e la profondità di penetrazione all'interno del relitto. Inoltre, questo cavo viene generalmente svolto a partire dall'unità di controllo tramite una bobina di grandi dimensioni.

Siccome il cavo a fibre ottiche non è recuperabile, i ROV di Oceanering hanno una capacità straordinaria di passare attraverso le cavità senza alcuna limitazione nei punti di ingresso ed uscita, né per quanto riguarda la profondità di penetrazione in una cavità. Il cavo per i ROV destinati all'impiego in acque profonde conferisce a questi sistemi un vantaggio competitivo. Lo svolgimento del cavo avviene tramite un sistema di svolgimento meccanico brevettato, incorporato nel sistema ROV, che elimina la necessità di un anello collettore per fibre ottiche. Il sistema ROV per alte profondità contiene circa 600 metri di questo cavo molto sottile da 900 micron, mentre il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV ne contiene 2000 metri.

Questo cavo contiene una fibra ottica, speciali elementi di rinforzo ed olio. La fibra ottica è una fibra monomodale tradizionale del diametro di 255 micron, utilizzata per il controllo e il feedback. Gli elementi di rinforzo contribuiscono a migliorare il controllo della tensione e la durata del cavo. L'olio conferisce al cavo proprietà di incompressibilità fino a profondità di 6.100 metri (20.000 piedi).

Il rivestimento esterno è costituito da una speciale miscela di polimeri utilizzata per ottenere una corretta galleggiabilità del cavo nella colonna d'acqua. I ROV sono così piccoli e contengono una tale quantità di cavo che un cavo non correttamente equilibrato danneggerebbe seriamente i comandi di galleggiamento.

Questo cavo è stato qualificato utilizzando sia procedure di prova standard, sia metodi di prova completamente nuovi. Sono state collaudate le prestazioni meccaniche ed ecologiche ed il cavo è stato sottoposto ai più rigidi requisiti di tre norme diverse: ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, GR-20-CORE e EN 187105. Per avere una visione più chiara delle sue prestazioni, il cavo è stato sottoposto ad una prova di cedimento conformemente alle direttive delle specifiche.

Inoltre, sono stati sviluppati numerosi test personalizzati per prevedere l'affidabilità di questo cavo. Oceanering ha utilizzato un particolare banco di prova per la pressione idrostatica per simulare la pressione sul cavo alle massime profondità oceaniche. Inoltre, Oceanering ha creato un requisito di galleggiamento per ottenere il galleggiamento corretto. Un test specifico per l'attorcigliamento (termine marino per la deformazione o attorcigliamento ad occhiello) è stato creato da CommScope per valutare le prestazioni di attorcigliamento di ciascun cavo. Dai risultati di queste prove il cavo di Oceanering è apparso come il migliore cavo possibile per le sue specifiche applicazioni.

## 1 Introduzione

Il cavo ROV per alte profondità è stato valutato sia dal produttore che dall'utilizzatore finale in due diverse, sebbene simili, applicazioni. Questo cavo speciale era già in uso per i sistemi ROV per alte profondità, ma doveva essere ottimizzato per ottenere delle buone prestazioni per una nuova applicazione. Questa nuova applicazione è rappresentata dal sistema ibrido AUV/ROV caratterizzato dalle prestazioni di un veicolo subacqueo autonomo e di un ROV tradizionale. Sono state effettuate numerose prove di cablaggio, prove di laboratorio e prove sul campo per realizzare una struttura più adeguata del cavo.

## 2 Struttura del cavo

### 2.1 Requisiti del cliente

Oceanering ha richiesto una nuova concezione di cavo che contenesse una sola fibra ed un diametro di circa 900 micron. Da questa invenzione è nato il cavo ROV per alte profondità di terza generazione.

#### 2.1.1 Cavo di prima generazione

Il cavo di prima generazione era un cavo di 2 fibre composto da due fibre multimodali con un diametro complessivo di circa 1,4mm.

Una fibra era destinata alla trasmissione delle informazioni al ROV (per controllare il ROV) e l'altra per le informazioni inviate dal ROV (feedback tramite video in diretta). Questo cavo conteneva numerose terminazioni di elementi di rinforzo per aumentare la resistenza alla trazione. Successivamente, l'équipe di Oceanering sostituì i sistemi a fibre ottiche in modo che potessero trasmettere informazioni bidirezionalmente tramite una sola fibra anziché tramite due fibre separate.

#### 2.1.2 Cavo di seconda generazione

Pur mantenendo ancora lo stesso diametro per la compatibilità meccanica, questo cavo di seconda generazione conteneva una fibra singola. Il cavo aveva sempre un diametro di 1,4mm, ma era equipaggiato con una guaina di protezione aggiuntiva. Fra i due strati del rivestimento, vi era uno strato di elementi di rinforzo per una maggiore resistenza alla trazione e all'abrasione.

Sia i cavi di prima generazione che quelli di seconda generazione non presentavano alcun requisito di galleggiamento; dovevano solo garantire l'immersione in profondità.

#### 2.1.3 Cavi ROV per alte profondità

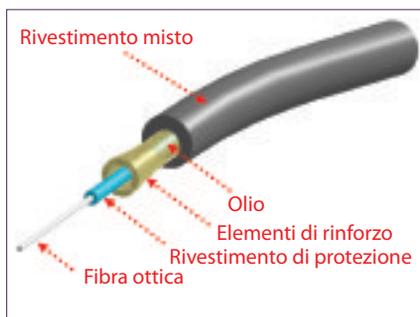
Questa terza generazione di cavi differiva dalle precedenti due generazioni per le seguenti caratteristiche di perfezionamento:

- 1 Diametro inferiore – Le dimensioni di questo cavo erano quasi la metà delle due precedenti versioni, consentendo una bobina più compatta, e conseguentemente una struttura del ROV più piccola o tratti di cavo potenzialmente più lunghi
- 2 Galleggiabilità neutra – Questo cavo è stato realizzato con un rivestimento costituito da una miscela di polimeri, ovvero due diversi tipi di materiali uniti per conferire al cavo proprietà di galleggiabilità neutra
- 3 Maggiore resistenza all'attorcigliamento – Questo cavo aveva una maggiore possibilità di eliminare situazioni di deformazione ad elevate tensioni rispetto alle versioni precedenti grazie ad un rivestimento molto più rigido

## 2.2 Realizzazione dell'invenzione

Questo cavo presentava una struttura ad una fibra, ovvero conteneva una sola fibra ottica per la trasmissione dei dati da e verso il veicolo. La struttura era costituita da un tubo buffer riempito di olio, del diametro di circa 900 micron. Il tubo conteneva olio, la fibra ottica e gli elementi di rinforzo. L'olio era un olio minerale a bassa viscosità. La fibra ottica era una fibra standard monomodale, del tipo *dispersion-unshifted*, a mantello continuo, del diametro di 255 micron. Gli elementi di rinforzo consistevano di un filo termoplastico a più filamenti, con buone proprietà di resistenza a trazione ed una resistenza all'abrasione superiore. Il tubo buffer era costituito da una miscela di due polimeri.

Vedere *Figura 1* per lo schema della struttura del cavo.



▲ **Figura 1**

## 2.3 Utilizzo

I ROV tradizionali utilizzavano un cavo di grandi dimensioni per la trasmissione dell'energia e per le comunicazioni. Diversamente dai ROV convenzionali, l'alimentazione, in questo caso, era fornita a bordo mediante un sistema di batterie ad elevata densità di energia. Era necessario un collegamento di comunicazione rivoluzionario per alimentare i comandi al ROV e per rinviare le immagini video. I sistemi senza fili sembrerebbero essere la soluzione logica, considerando i sistemi avanzati che si incontrano nei ROV.

Sfortunatamente, i sistemi senza fili sottomarini tendono a dare prestazioni molto diverse rispetto alle prestazioni all'aperto. I segnali video tradizionali potrebbero essere trasmessi al dispositivo di controllo tramite onde radio, ma queste non viaggiano molto in profondità sott'acqua.

Il suono ha una buona propagazione sott'acqua, ma le onde sonore sarebbero troppo lente e non potrebbero gestire la velocità di trasferimento dei dati richiesta per le immagini video ad alta risoluzione. Ecco perché il cavo ROV per alte profondità è stato realizzato come l'unica logica soluzione per risolvere il problema delle comunicazioni. Utilizzando un metodo non tradizionale per l'installazione del cavo, il piccolo cavo non recuperabile veniva alimentato da una bobina posta all'interno del veicolo. I cavi tradizionali verrebbero invece svolti dalla nave ospitante o dal centro di controllo.

Mentre i cavi standard limiterebbero la mobilità del veicolo, questo cavo consentiva all'operatore del BOT una libertà di

esplorazione senza precedenti. Si sarebbero così evitate situazioni di impigliamento poiché il sistema ROV può semplicemente lasciare il cavo alle spalle e proseguire l'esplorazione. Il sistema ROV potrebbe semplicemente svolgere una lunghezza di cavo superiore mediante il suo sofisticato sistema di svolgimento meccanico. Senza ritornare sullo stesso percorso di andata, il veicolo può essere guidato dentro un sito e fuori da un altro. Una volta completata la missione, il cavo ombelicale viene semplicemente tagliato e lasciato indietro.

## 3 Veicoli subacquei filoguidati (ROV) per alte profondità

### 3.1 Utilizzo

Lo scopo iniziale dei veicoli subacquei ROV per alte profondità era l'esplorazione dei relitti di imbarcazioni. La prima missione ufficiale di questo veicolo come proprietà di Oceanering è rappresentata da un film documentario del Titanic (L'ultimo mistero del Titanic), trasmesso in diretta su Discovery Channel il 24 luglio 2005 dal luogo del naufragio. Inoltre, il ROV per alte profondità ha dimostrato con successo l'abilità di condurre esplorazioni ravvicinate di equipaggiamenti sottomarini, una ricerca perfezionata e operazioni di soccorso nonché ispezioni sulla sicurezza delle imbarcazioni e delle banchine.

### 3.2 Descrizione

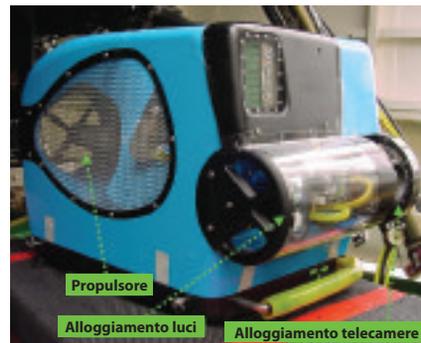
Il ROV per alte profondità era un BOT a forma di scatola di 27" di lunghezza, 15,5" pollici di larghezza e 17,5" di altezza. È da rilevare che queste dimensioni derivano dai requisiti della sua prima missione, un viaggio all'interno del RMS Titanic. Il veicolo doveva passare attraverso gli oblò del Titanic che avevano una larghezza di 18" e un'altezza di 24". L'esterno del BOT era realizzato con schiuma sintattica composta di sfere di vetro impregnate di una resina epossidica costituita da due componenti. Questa speciale formulazione ha consentito al BOT di galleggiare a notevoli profondità.

La struttura conteneva internamente 600 metri di cavo ROV per alte profondità. Il ROV alloggiava due videocamere, una ad alta risoluzione per filmare sequenze, e l'altra in bianco e nero utilizzata a scopo di navigazione. Per poter vedere a queste profondità, il ROV era equipaggiato con due serie di proiettori alogeni e due serie di LED. I riflettori ed i proiettori alogeni furono utilizzati durante le sequenze del filmato, mentre le luci a LED, dato il loro basso consumo, furono utilizzate per navigare.

Le telecamere e le luci furono installate su di una barra oscillante che consentiva un'escursione verso l'alto e verso il basso fino a 210 gradi. L'operatore controllava l'angolo di oscillazione da un pulsante posizionato sulla leva di comando dell'operatore. Per posizionare le telecamere in direzione azimutale, l'operatore poteva manipolare i quattro propulsori mediante la leva di comando e aveva la possibilità di controllare

la strazata e il beccheggio, che fu descritto come molto simile al volo di un piccolo aeroplano. Inoltre, poteva controllare il galleggiamento del ROV rilasciando piccoli pesi dalla parte inferiore del veicolo o blocchi di schiuma sintattica dalla sommità del veicolo. Tutti i sofisticati equipaggiamenti elettronici collocati su questo ROV erano alimentati da un sistema di batterie ad elevata densità di energia che garantivano il funzionamento per 12-18 ore.

Si veda la *Figura 2* per lo schema del ROV per alte profondità.

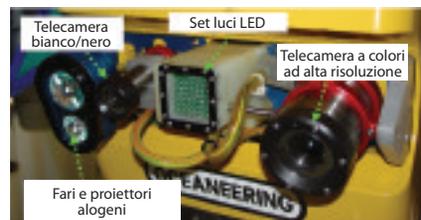


▲ **Figura 2**

### 3.3 Vantaggi

I principali vantaggi del ROV per alte profondità rispetto ai ROV tradizionali erano rappresentati dalle ridotte dimensioni dell'insieme, dall'alimentazione ad alta energia a bordo, e da un cavo a fibre ottiche non recuperabile (cavo per ROV per alte profondità).

Il ROV era in grado di effettuare delle manovre in piccole cavità all'interno di un relitto che sarebbero inaccessibili a sommergibili pilotati, sommozzatori o ROV di dimensioni maggiori; inoltre, l'utilizzo di un'alimentazione di energia a bordo macchina non richiedeva un cavo voluminoso. Quest'ultimo, infatti, renderebbe quasi impossibile filmare, poiché solleverebbe una quantità eccessiva di sedimenti compromettendo una ripresa chiara del soggetto. Un altro vantaggio del ROV era rappresentato dalla possibilità di fornire immagini video ad alta risoluzione in tempo reale tramite una telecamera ad alta risoluzione ed un'illuminazione sofisticata, come illustrato nella *Figura 3*.



▲ **Figura 3**

Poiché il galleggiamento, la strazata e il beccheggio del ROV potevano essere regolati al volo, questo veicolo potrebbe rivelarsi molto efficace in missioni che richiedono manovre complicate.

### 3.4 Svantaggi

Il ROV per alte profondità è stato progettato per un'applicazione di nicchia. Trattandosi di un veicolo a movimento lento (<3 nodi)

con batterie di durata limitata, è necessario collocare il ROV molto vicino al luogo di perlustrazione. Per gran parte del tempo, veniva trasportato al sito prescelto per mezzo di un sommergibile pilotato in una capsula di lancio e recupero (LARE = *launch and recovery enclosure*) come illustrato nella *Figura 4*. Il BOT può funzionare con correnti di 2 nodi o meno.



▲ Figura 4

## 4 Sistemi ibridi AUV/ROV

### 4.1 Utilizzo

Lo scopo del veicolo ibrido consiste nell'utilizzare la tecnologia dei sistemi ROV per alte profondità e nell'associarla ai vantaggi di un veicolo autonomo, che si muove nell'acqua liberamente. Questo obiettivo è stato raggiunto grazie all'utilizzo del modello di scafo Myring al posto della forma a scatola della prima generazione di ROV per alte profondità. Il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV è in grado di coprire lunghe distanze e di resistere a correnti marine molto forti. Il funzionamento è di due tipi: (1) autonomo e (2) ROV. Nella modalità autonoma, il veicolo può essere programmato mediante un software di programmazione della missione utilizzando una navigazione verso punti di rotta intermedi. In questa modalità, il cavo a fibre ottiche può essere utilizzato per monitorare le attività del veicolo e consentire all'operatore di assumerne il controllo in qualunque momento.

Inoltre, se il cavo a fibre ottiche dovesse danneggiarsi, il veicolo è pre-programmato per ritornare ad un punto prestabilito per il recupero. Nella modalità ROV, l'operatore può assumere il controllo del veicolo per condurre l'esplorazione come il controllo di eventuali danni sugli scafi delle imbarcazioni, falle nelle dighe e perdite nelle tubazioni dell'acqua potabile.

### 4.2 Descrizione

La forma del sistema ibrido AUV/ROV è assolutamente diversa da quella del sistema originale ROV per alte profondità. Il profilo del veicolo ricorda i contorni di un sottomarino standard o la struttura di un siluro. La forma della carcassa permette al veicolo di raggiungere alte velocità (> 3,5 nodi) in condizioni di mare difficili e di forti correnti.

Il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV ha un diametro di 6" e una lunghezza di oltre 62". Sebbene di dimensioni superiori rispetto al ROV per alte profondità, questo sistema ha l'agilità

necessaria per posizionarsi per ispezioni di campo ravvicinate. Il veicolo è equipaggiato con un'elica di propulsione principale per il movimento di avanzamento e di retrocessione e con spintori verticali e laterali installati sulla parte anteriore del corpo. Si veda la *Figura 5* per lo schema del sistema AUV/ROV.



▲ Figura 5

Il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV è simile al ROV per alte profondità poiché è caratterizzato da un'alimentazione a bordo macchina ed è collegato ad una stazione di controllo mediante lo stesso cavo per ROV per alte profondità. Il cavo viene svolto dal veicolo in modo più semplice rispetto al ROV per alte profondità originale ed alloggia fino a 2.000 metri di cavo all'interno dello scafo. Il cavo lascia il veicolo tramite un piccolo tubo denominato pungiglione (*stinger*) che ne impedisce l'impigliamento nel sistema di propulsione. Il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV è equipaggiato con componenti elettronici e sensori perfezionati che ne consentono l'utilizzo come equipaggiamento d'ispezione.

### 4.3 Vantaggi

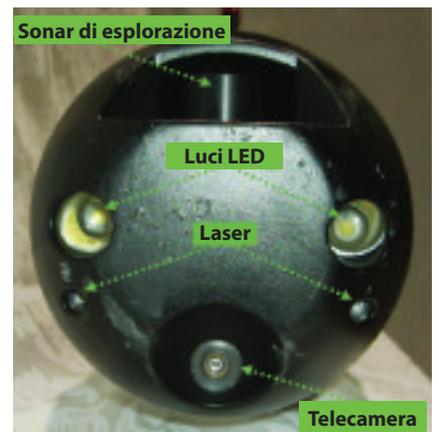
Il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV ha la possibilità di percorrere lunghe distanze senza l'intervento dell'uomo grazie alla propria modalità di funzionamento autonoma. I vantaggi della modalità autonoma sono i seguenti: (1) offre la possibilità di mantenere una certa distanza dal sito di lavoro e (2) facilita il caricamento da parte dell'operatore non richiedendo il pilotaggio del veicolo ad alta velocità su lunghe distanze. Senza questa capacità di mantenere una certa distanza, il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV dovrebbe essere inviato al punto di esplorazione tramite un sommergibile pilotato, come nel caso del ROV per alte profondità.

Inoltre, questa capacità di autonomia del veicolo offre la possibilità di recuperarlo qualora il cavo a fibre ottiche dovesse staccarsi o rompersi durante l'operazione. Il veicolo può essere programmato preliminarmente prima dell'avvio dell'operazione per il ritorno con una posizione geodetica alla quale fare ritorno in caso di perdita della comunicazione. Questo potrebbe essere semplice come un'ubicazione singola o l'istruzione per navigare sul medesimo percorso utilizzato per raggiungere il luogo di lavoro.

Per l'assistenza con la navigazione autonoma, il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV è equipaggiato con un sistema di navigazione satellitare GPS (*Global Positioning System*). Il veicolo può essere programmato per raggiungere la superficie durante il transito verso il luogo di lavoro per individuare la posizione di navigazione. Una volta determinata la posizione, il veicolo può correggere il proprio corso e procedere al prossimo punto di rotta. Il veicolo è inoltre equipaggiato con un sonar ad alta frequenza (come illustrato nella *Figura 6*) utilizzato per evitare gli ostacoli e per localizzare il sito di lavoro.

Dopo che il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV ha raggiunto la propria destinazione, l'operatore passa alla modalità ROV e controlla le immagini ad alta risoluzione disponibili dalle due videocamere. Una telecamera è posizionata sulla parte anteriore e l'altra sul telaio del GPS. La telecamera posizionata sul telaio del GPS è utilizzata sia durante la navigazione in superficie sia sott'acqua.

Questa telecamera può assistere la navigazione in superficie e offrire una diversa prospettiva in posizione sommersa essendo la parte anteriore del veicolo visibile nell'area di osservazione. Inoltre, il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV presenta due laser installati sulla parte anteriore, utilizzati per fornire un quadro di riferimento fisso per la classificazione degli oggetti visualizzati secondo le dimensioni attraverso la telecamera della parte anteriore.



▲ Figura 6

### 4.4 Svantaggi

Il sistema ibrido AUV/ROV è stato progettato per penetrare nei relitti o in cavità di piccole dimensioni; la considerevole lunghezza del veicolo compensa le dimensioni ridotte del diametro.

Da un lato estremamente manovrabile, questo veicolo è più indicato per ispezioni esterne che interne. Con la tecnologia attuale, questa è l'unità più compatta che possa essere realizzata e che tuttora conserva le sofisticate caratteristiche sopra descritte.

## 5 Revisione dei risultati delle prove

### 5.1 Test eseguiti da CommScope

Alcuni test del cavo per installazione esterna standard sono stati completati presso gli stabilimenti di CommScope a Claremont, NC. Questi test non sono stati eseguiti per omologare il cavo per l'utilizzo terrestre quotidiano o come lungo cavo di trazione oceanico, ma al fine di stabilire un parametro di riferimento per i futuri progetti di cavi a fibre ottiche per alte profondità.

Il cavo doveva soddisfare i requisiti più rigorosi stabiliti nelle norme ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, GR-20-CORE ed EN 187105 e doveva essere sottoposto ad una prova di rottura secondo le direttive generali di tali specifiche.

## 5.1.1 Resistenza alla rottura da compressione

La norma Telcordia GR-20 era la più rigorosa delle tre norme sopra citate, poiché richiedeva una pressione di 44N/mm nell'arco di un minuto e 22N/mm di pressione in dieci minuti. Un test analogo è stato adottato applicando un carico specifico per un periodo di dieci minuti, e quindi valutando l'attenuazione del cavo alla fine del tempo previsto mentre il cavo era ancora sotto carico. La norma GR-20 presentava i requisiti più rigorosi per qualsiasi aumento di attenuazione; pertanto è stata adottata come linea direttiva. La norma stabiliva che il cambio di attenuazione dovrebbe restare inferiore a 0,05dB per il 90% delle fibre testate ed inferiore a 0,15dB per il 100% delle fibre testate.

Il cavo è stato schiacciato utilizzando una piastra d'acciaio di 25mm con bordi arrotondati ed un raggio di 10mm. Si veda la *Figura 7* per il grafico della configurazione di prova.



▲ **Figura 7:** Diagramma test di compressione

Ad ogni risultato positivo, il carico veniva aumentato. Questa procedura è stata seguita fino ad ottenere il cedimento del cavo. I risultati di queste prove sono illustrati nella *Tabella 2*.

Come evidenziato dai risultati, le prestazioni del cavo sono state sorprendentemente buone, considerando che il requisito per un cavo per installazione esterna standard è di 44N/mm. Ciascuna pressione è stata esercitata due volte al fine di assicurare un risultato positivo o negativo. Le prestazioni di questa struttura di cavo sotto un carico compressibile possono essere associate al fluido incompressibile all'interno del cavo.

## 5.1.2 Resistenza alla rottura causata da urto

La norma EN-187105 richiedeva l'applicazione di una forza d'impatto specifica su tre diverse sezioni del cavo. La norma EN-640 richiedeva l'applicazione di una forza d'impatto specifica due volte su tre diverse sezioni del cavo. La norma EN-20 richiedeva l'applicazione di una forza d'impatto specifica 20 volte in un punto del cavo. In un contesto sottomarino reale, un impatto si verificherebbe molto probabilmente una sola volta in un unico punto; pertanto è stata adottata la procedura di prova della norma GR-20.

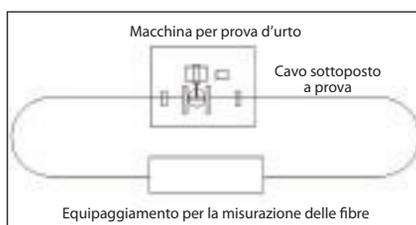
La norma GR-20 presentava i requisiti più rigorosi per qualsiasi aumento di attenuazione ed è stata quindi adottata come linea direttiva. Ancora, la norma stabiliva che il cambio di attenuazione restasse inferiore a 0,05dB per il 90% delle fibre testate ed inferiore a 0,15dB per il 100% delle fibre sottoposte alla prova. Si veda la *Figura 8* per il grafico della configurazione di prova.

Pressione (N/mm)	Delta (dB)	Positivo/Negativo
10	0,00	Positivo
15	0,08	Positivo
20	0,03	Positivo
25	0,11	Positivo
30	0,70	Negativo

▲ **Tabella 2:** Risultati della prova di compressione

Numero di urti	Forza (Nm)	Δ Attenuazione	Positivo/Negativo
1	0,1	0	Positivo
1	0,2	0	Positivo
1	0,3	0	Positivo
1	0,4	0	Positivo
1	0,5	N/A	Negativo

▲ **Tabella 3:** Risultati della prova d'urto



▲ **Figura 8:** Diagramma prova d'urto

Il cavo di prova fu sottoposto ad un impatto con una forza specifica per la durata di un ciclo. Una volta completato l'impatto, fu testata l'attenuazione del cavo. Questa procedura fu ripetuta fino ad ottenere il cedimento del cavo. I risultati di queste prove sono illustrati nella *Tabella 3*.

Questi risultati evidenziano che il valore 0,4Nm rappresenta la massima forza d'impatto che il cavo potrebbe sopportare. A 0,5Nm il cavo risultava completamente appiattito con la fibra danneggiata che sporgeva dalla parte laterale del rivestimento.

Come riferimento, le installazioni esterne standard, richiedono la resistenza ad una forza d'impatto di 4,4Nm, un valore di gran lunga superiore al valore che si poteva ottenere con il cavo ROV per alte profondità. Tuttavia, è più probabile che questo cavo subisca degli urti sott'acqua; qualsiasi oggetto che precipita sott'acqua si muove con una velocità di gran lunga inferiore, e pertanto la forza esercitata sul cavo sarà di gran lunga inferiore.

## 5.1.3 Resistenza alla trazione

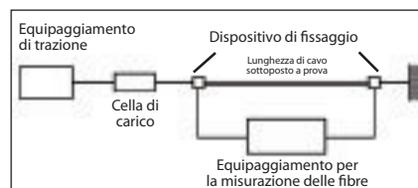
Tutte e tre le norme richiedono un carico di trazione specifico mentre le norme ICEA-640 e GR-20 prevedono il carico di trazione a breve termine più elevato di 2670N.

La norma EN-187105 richiede un carico di trazione a breve termine che costituisce un fattore del peso del cavo. Per quanto riguarda il diametro del mandrino utilizzato sul banco di prova, le norme GR-20 e ICEA-640 erano le più severe. Queste norme specificano un diametro massimo di 560mm ed un minimo di 30 volte il diametro del cavo.

Gli operatori utilizzarono per questa prova un mandrino del diametro di 26mm. Secondo le norme ICEA-640 e GR-20, il cedimento di un cavo comporta un aumento dell'attenuazione superiore a 0,05dB ad una lunghezza d'onda di 1550nm e/o una deformazione della fibra superiore o uguale al 60% del valore di deformazione massima della fibra. Ovviamente, questa prova non si avvicinerrebbe ai carichi specificati, poiché il cavo presenta un modulo di elasticità nell'ordine di solo 12kgf.

Gli operatori incaricati delle prove utilizzarono un banco Instron® per prove di trazione con estensimetro incorporato per sottoporre il cavo alla prova di deformazione. Il banco per prove di trazione fu allestito in modo da funzionare il più lentamente possibile, per consentire di registrare l'attenuazione e la deformazione del cavo. Il banco di prova Instron fornì i dati di carico, mentre l'estensimetro fornì i dati di deformazione.

Essendo la lunghezza aggiuntiva della fibra in questo cavo così insignificante, si suppone che la deformazione del cavo e la deformazione della fibra fossero uguali. Si veda la *Figura 9* per il grafico della configurazione di prova.

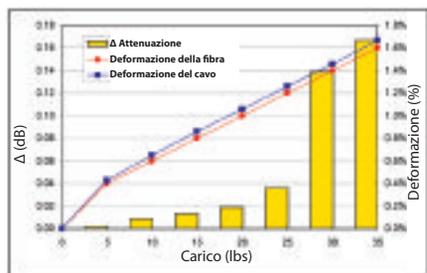


▲ **Figura 9:** Diagramma test di trazione

I risultati della deformazione del cavo e della deformazione della fibra con le corrispondenti letture dell'attenuazione sono illustrate nella *Figura 10*.

I risultati evidenziano che l'attenuazione non presenta variazioni significative al di sotto di 30 libbre. Tutte le norme relative ai cavi a fibre ottiche richiedono che la deformazione della fibra non superi il 60% del valore di prova massimo della fibra con il cavo sottoposto al carico nominale massimo.

Questa deformazione massima fu ottenuta da uno studio sull'affidabilità della fibra durante un ciclo di vita di 20 anni, in particolare la propagazione delle cricche di tensione in questo arco di tempo.

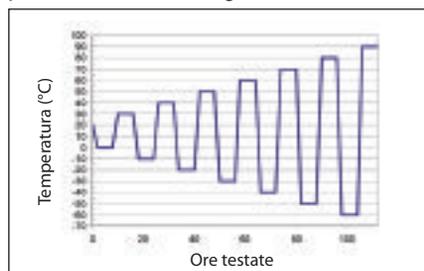


▲ **Figura 10:** Risultati deformazione

Le prestazioni del cavo ROV per alte profondità erano previste solo per un breve periodo di tempo prima che fosse ritirato dal servizio. Pertanto, dato il limitato ciclo di vita di questo cavo, il carico accettabile poteva essere notevolmente superiore al valore di deformazione massima della fibra del 60%. Un carico di 25 libbre sembra essere una soluzione accettabile.

**5.1.4 Resistenza alla variazione ciclica della temperatura**

La norma EN-187105 richiede la temperatura di prova più bassa (-45°C), mentre le norme GR-20 e ICEA-640 prevedono una temperatura più elevata (+70°C). Fu stabilito di seguire un profilo della variazione ciclica della temperatura modificato per sottoporre i cavi a variazioni di temperature estreme per avviare il cedimento del cavo. Il profilo della variazione ciclica della temperatura utilizzato in questa prova è illustrato nella Figura 11.



▲ **Figura 11:** Profilo del ciclo della temperatura

La norma GR-20 prevede i requisiti di attenuazione più rigorosi per un aumento medio di attenuazione di tutte le fibre a 0,05dB/km. La norma EN-187105 prevede i requisiti più rigorosi per un aumento di attenuazione su una fibra singola a 0,10dB/km.

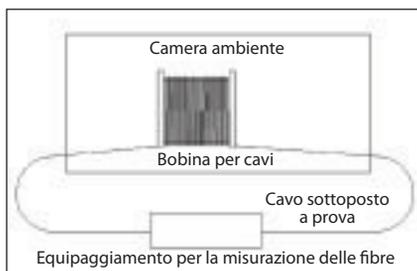
Gli operatori decisero di adottare un requisito modificato in base al quale nessuna fibra singola poteva presentare un aumento di attenuazione superiore a 0,10dB/km e l'aumento di attenuazione medio di tutte le fibre non doveva essere superiore a 0,05dB/km.

Fu inoltre stabilito di seguire i requisiti più rigorosi delle norme ICEA-640 e GR-20 durante le misurazioni dell'attenuazione.

Tutte le misurazioni dell'attenuazione furono effettuate a temperature estreme e comparate con le misurazioni di base effettuate a temperatura ambiente prima della prova. Si veda la Figura 12 per il grafico della configurazione di prova.

Ciclo	Estremi di temperatura (°C)	Delta freddo (dB/km)	Delta caldo (dB/km)
1	0/+40	-0,003	0,003
2	-10/+50	-0,002	0,011
3	-20/+60	-0,002	0,010
4	-30/+70	-0,005	0,010
5	-40/+80	-0,004	0,007
6	-50/+85	-0,003	0,005
7	-60/+90	0,043	N/A

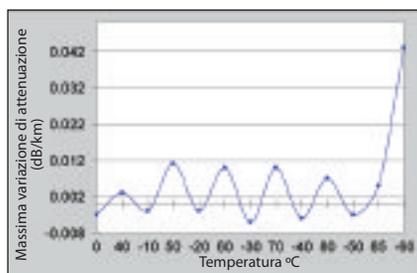
▲ **Tabella 4:** Risultati del test del ciclo di temperatura



▲ **Figura 12:** Diagramma test di variazione ciclica della temperatura

I risultati di questa prova sono illustrati nella Figura 13, ove il ciclo di temperatura è rappresentato con l'asse X mentre la fluttuazione dell'attenuazione è rappresentato dall'asse Y.

Questi valori rappresentavano la variazione di attenuazione massima di una singola fibra a qualsiasi valore estremo di temperatura.



▲ **Figura 13:** Risultati del test del ciclo di temperatura

Questi risultati mostrano che il cavo era in grado di sopportare ampie fluttuazioni di temperatura. Sebbene il cavo possa resistere a -60°C, è probabile che non si trovi mai a tale temperatura poiché l'acqua del mare in cui opera gela ad una temperatura immediatamente inferiore a 0°C. I dati sono illustrati in forma tabulare nella Tabella 4.

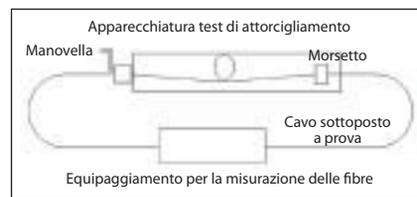
**5.1.5 Prova di resistenza all'attorcigliamento**

Questa prova è stata creata per effettuare la prova di resistenza alla deformazione o resistenza all'attorcigliamento dei vari tipi del cavo ROV per alte profondità.

Per attorcigliamento (di un cavo) si intende l'apertura e l'annodamento dei fili mediante torsione durante l'utilizzo.

Era necessario un parametro di riferimento per giudicare se le variazioni di processo o dei materiali nella progettazione potessero contribuire a migliorare gli effetti dell'attorcigliamento sul cavo.

La configurazione della prova includeva un banco di torsione ed un dispositivo per la misurazione delle fibre.



▲ **Figura 14:** Diagramma test di attorcigliamento

Il cavo fu tirato attraverso un banco di torsione e quindi collegato all'equipaggiamento di prova delle fibre su entrambi i lati, come illustrato nella Figura 14.

La distanza fra la manovella e il morsetto fu fissata ad un intervallo prestabilito. Una volta determinata la distanza, il cavo fu attaccato al morsetto e alla manovella. Il morsetto fu quindi spostato di due terzi della distanza verso la manovella.

L'impugnatura della manovella fu ruotata di 10 scatti. Una volta effettuata la torsione con il ciclo di 10 giri, il morsetto fu riportato alla propria posizione.

Durante il percorso di ritorno, il cavo formava un anello e lo scioglieva da solo. La fibra fu testata seguendo lo scioglimento dell'anello. Per questa prova fu adottato il requisito di attenuazione standard.

La norma stabiliva che il cambio di attenuazione doveva restare inferiore a 0,05dB per il 90% delle fibre testate ed inferiore a 0,15dB per il 100% delle fibre testate. Se la fibra soddisfaceva i requisiti della variazione di attenuazione, la procedura veniva ripetuta fino a quando si verificava il cedimento.

I risultati mostrano che il cavo può sopportare una condizione di attorcigliamento estrema. I risultati hanno superato di molto le aspettative, offuscando i risultati ottenuti dalle precedenti concezioni di cavo.

Con altre strutture di cavo, un numero prevedibile di torsioni causava la formazione di anelli nel cavo. Una volta formatosi l'anello il cedimento del cavo era quasi garantito.

Nel caso in questione un anello doveva essere associato ad un'eccessiva torsione per provocare un cedimento.

Si trattava di un cavo decisamente più robusto di qualunque versione precedente.



Distanza impostata (m)	Numero massimo di giri prima della perdita di attenuazione	Numero massimo di giri prima della rottura della fibra
0,50	20	40
0,75	40	50
1,00	50	60
1,25	70	70
1,50	70	80

▲ **Tabella 5:** Risultati test attorcigliamento

## 5.2 Collaudo effettuato da Oceaneering International

Oltre ai test effettuati da CommScope, Oceaneering ha eseguito alcuni test creati internamente per aumentare l'affidabilità dei cavi. Una posa in mare può costare milioni di dollari, pertanto Oceaneering collauda sistematicamente tutti i componenti dei ROV.

Il cavo ROV per alte profondità era un componente piccolo ma vitale; pertanto i tecnici di Oceaneering erano intransigenti in caso di risultati scarsi.

### 5.2.1 Test specifico sulla pressione idrostatica

Per simulare le estreme profondità dell'oceano, l'équipe di Oceaneering utilizzò un serbatoio di pressione idrostatico. Questi serbatoi sono progettati per simulare profondità di 9.100m (30.000 piedi) con una pressione dell'acqua pari a 92N/mm<sup>2</sup> (13.400psi).

Tutto l'equipaggiamento fu collaudato ad una pressione dell'acqua di 6.096m (20.000 piedi) o 61N/mm<sup>2</sup> (8.900psi). Oceaneering collaudò il cavo ROV per alte profondità sul posto con una piccola camera idrostatica.

Un feedback immediato delle prestazioni del veicolo sottoposto a pressione consentì un tempo di risposta più rapido per eventuali variazioni di progetto o alterazioni del processo di fabbricazione.

### 5.2.2 Test di galleggiamento

Questo test fu eseguito presso gli stabilimenti di Oceaneering. Per l'équipe di Oceaneering era estremamente importante la galleggiabilità neutra del nuovo cavo, in modo da non influenzare il galleggiamento del veicolo. Il cavo bobinato installato a bordo del ROV rappresenta un'elevata percentuale del peso complessivo del veicolo.

Pertanto, durante lo svolgimento, il cavo potrebbe causare una variazione nel galleggiamento del natante.

Questo test fu eseguito pesando la bobina del cavo su una bilancia gravimetrica immersa in un bagno d'acqua salata.

### 5.2.3 Test di svolgimento del pacco di fibre

Essendo stato utilizzato un terzo fornitore per avvolgere le fibre sulla bobina, fu necessario eseguire la prova di accettazione sui pacchi di fibra finiti, che avevano entrambi un secondo ed un terzo fornitore per un componente

degli equipaggiamenti. La qualità di questo cavo deve essere priva di difetti per soddisfare i requisiti di Oceaneering e del fabbricante di bobine.

Anche se il cavo è conforme a tutti i requisiti di Oceaneering, ciò non comporta necessariamente l'approvazione del fabbricante di bobine.

Il pacco di fibre fu collaudato sott'acqua con un avvolgitore per lo svolgimento del cavo ed un dispositivo di misurazione dell'attenuazione per controllare i valori di attenuazione del cavo durante lo svolgimento.

## 6 Conclusioni

I test completati presso lo stabilimento di Claremont di CommScope hanno consentito ai progettatori una buona comprensione delle potenzialità del nuovo cavo.

Questi dati possono essere comparati a qualsiasi modello di cavo futuro per verificare se una variazione della concezione o del materiale possa effettivamente migliorare le prestazioni di questo cavo.

I risultati dei test effettuati da Oceaneering assicurano l'équipe specializzata nei ROV che il cavo sarà conforme ai rigorosi requisiti dell'ambiente sottomarino di alta profondità. ■

## 7 Ringraziamenti

Un particolare ringraziamento per il prezioso contributo prestato va al personale del reparto di progettazione fibre ottiche di CommScope e in particolare a Robert D Paysour Jr, Kevin Sigmon, Chris Rogers e Joe Lichtenwalner.

Il presente articolo, la cui riproduzione è stata autorizzata dagli organizzatori, fu presentato alla 56a fiera IWCS, tenutasi in Florida nel 2007.

## 8 Riferimenti bibliografici

- <sup>[1]</sup> ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-1999, "Standard for optical fiber outside plant communications cable"
- <sup>[2]</sup> GR-20-CORE Issue 2, "Generic requirements for optical fiber and optical fiber cable"
- <sup>[3]</sup> EN 187105:2002, "Single mode optical cable (duct/direct buried installation)"
- <sup>[4]</sup> Random House Unabridged Dictionary, copyright® 1997

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## El Grupo BLM adquiere empresa del sector del doblado

La empresa italiana BLM de Cantù, productor líder de máquinas y sistemas de doblado de tubos y conformado de extremos de tubos, ha adquirido Officina Meccanica Montorfano Sas. Con la compra de Montorfano, con efecto a partir del 13 de enero de 2009, BLM podrá complementar su tecnología en el campo del doblado de tubos con máquinas altamente productivas para doblar varillas, barras y tubos de diámetro pequeño, bandas/perfiles y elementos de calefacción armados.

Montorfano se ha especializado durante más de cuarenta años en la producción de dobladoras de varillas y barras de cabezales múltiples. En 1965 se le otorgó la primera patente para este tipo de máquinas y en 1979 presentó su primera máquina CNC de 3 ejes. Actualmente la empresa ofrece una gama de 18 máquinas estándares capaces de doblar varillas y barras de diámetro comprendido entre 1mm y 33mm.

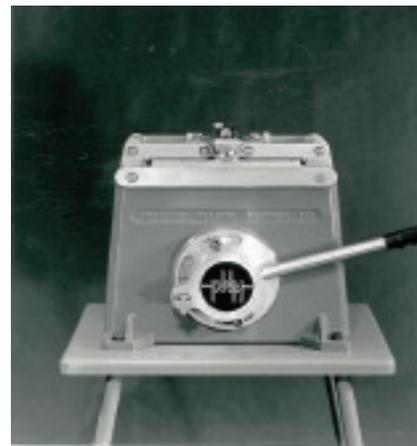
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## PWM celebra 25 años de actividad en el sector

El desarrollo de una soldadora en frío para unir secciones de varilla grandes y de una hilera para unir alambre súper fino son sólo dos de los acontecimientos que marcan un hito en la historia de la empresa británica PWM, que celebra 25 años de actividad en el sector internacional del alambre y del cable en mayo de 2009.

PWM, que se dedica al diseño y fabricación de hileras y equipos de soldar a presión en frío de alto rendimiento, ha estado al frente de la tecnología de la soldadura en frío desde 1984. La gama de productos de PWM comprende máquinas para una gran variedad de aplicaciones, desde soldadoras de mano de funcionamiento manual para soldar hilo de cobre-aluminio desde 0,08mm de diámetro hasta soldadoras de varillas grandes de accionamiento electro-hidráulico y electro-neumático para uso industrial con capacidad de hasta 30mm de diámetro.

Entre las últimas innovaciones de productos figura la P1000, una soldadora de varillas sumamente compacta y potente, y una versión automática de su modelo más vendido de HP100 portátil de accionamiento aire-hidráulico. Mirando al futuro, el director general de PWM, Steve Mepsted, comentó: "A pesar del desafiante mercado, el año



▲ Una de las primeras máquinas de PWM

pasado tuvimos el placer de registrar un incremento de ventas récord. La soldadura en frío sigue ofreciendo un método de soldar materiales no ferrosos rentable, fiable y de calidad constante y estamos seguros de que podremos responder a las necesidades en constante evolución de nuestros clientes del sector global del alambre y del cable en los próximos años".

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## Cuarenta años de tecnología Upcast®



▲ El aniversario de la invención está fijado el día en que se efectuó con éxito la primera colada de prueba, el 6 de noviembre de 1968

La historia del éxito de la tecnología Upcast® inició a finales de los años 60, cuando se hacía uso de numerosos métodos de colada de cobre y de aleaciones de cobre. La colada solía hacerse en sentido descendente o en

horizontal. Los productos colados eran de sección grande y necesitaban ser elaborados posteriormente en numerosas fases.

En la planta finlandesa de Outokumpu en Pori, se decidió buscar el modo de colar productos de sección redonda o tubular de dimensiones cercanas a las del producto final. El trabajo de desarrollo inicial culminó con la primera colada de prueba en sentido ascendente realizada

con éxito en 1968. Un par de años después se instaló la primera línea de producción en la fundición Pori. La primera línea productiva Upcast® sigue en funcionamiento todavía hoy y ha sido actualizada aportándole varias mejoras

y modificaciones. La segunda línea que se proyectó era para colar aleaciones de cobre y fue encargada por un cliente de fuera tan sólo un año después de poner en marcha la primera línea.

El sistema Upcast® lleva andado mucho camino desde que nació y actualmente se sigue desarrollando su tecnología.

La tecnología Upcast® sigue siendo un sistema de colada continua de punta para la producción de barras de cobre libre de oxígeno y aleaciones de cobre. Hasta la fecha se han vendido más de 170 líneas, lo que equivale a una capacidad anual total de unos 1,5 millones de toneladas.

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## Bruker HTS y Nexans anuncian el éxito del proyecto europeo del cable superconductor

Nexans y Bruker HTS GmbH han anunciado la conclusión con éxito del proyecto Super 3C (Superconducting Coated Conductor Cable) en el que un consorcio europeo ha desarrollado y probado un cable energético de distribución superconductor de alta temperatura (HTS). El Proyecto Super 3C comenzó en junio de 2004 y finalizó en diciembre de 2008 con el éxito de la prueba de un sistema de cable superconductor monofásico, de 30 metros de longitud, alcanzando el objetivo de potencia transmitida de 17 megavatios.

Se trata de uno de los primeros cables en el mundo que usan cintas superconductoras de segunda generación (2G) como elementos portadores de corriente. Estas cintas comprenden una fina capa superconductor que constituye un perfecto conductor eléctrico una vez enfriada a -200°C.

Bruker HTS ha desarrollado un conductor híbrido de propiedad de HTS, asociando superconductor y cobre, que facilita la fabricación y el funcionamiento fiable de cables eléctricos nuevos que usan la tecnología superconductor. El conductor híbrido 2G combina las ventajas tanto de la superconductividad como del cobre, permitiéndole trabajar

e interconectar fácilmente con los componentes de redes convencionales. En el transcurso del proyecto, Nexans y Bruker HTS han elaborado y puesto en práctica métodos para el montaje de los conductores híbridos 2G en el interior del cable. En total, Bruker HTS ha fabricado y comprobado cerca de 4.000 metros de superconductores híbridos 2G para el cable Super 3C.

Nexans ha fabricado el cable Super 3C, incluida la envuelta criogénica que permite mantener el centro del cable a -200°C con un flujo de nitrógeno líquido. Nexans también ha desarrollado y fabricado las terminaciones del cable específicas para este proyecto.

El proyecto de 5,2 millones de euros fue financiado con una subvención de 2,7 millones de euros por la Unión Europea, conforme a su 6º Programa Marco para la Investigación y el Desarrollo Tecnológico. Nexans actuó como coordinador del proyecto. Bruker HTS se encargó de la parte más consistente del proyecto, concretamente del desarrollo y entrega de los superconductores 2G de los cables.

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## Nueva edición de la guía Blue Book

Fort Wayne Wire Die Inc ha publicado la última edición de su guía de referencia para el trefilado de alambre Blue Book, que llega completamente actualizada y disponible en inglés, chino y ruso.

La guía permite a los profesionales del trefilado de alambre especificar y conseguir hileras para alambre de mayor precisión y eficiencia gracias a la disponibilidad de información actualizada sobre tolerancias del tamaño del foro, materiales de diamante policristalino y dimensiones disponibles, herramientas de comparación de materiales para hileras.

La guía incluye también diagramas de calibres para alambres, croquis técnicos detallados de hileras para alambre y nomenclatura, opciones de recorte con hilera, principios matemáticos para el trefilado de alambre y más, todo ello elaborado y organizado para guiar a los ingenieros a la hora de seleccionar las hileras.

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## M&S celebra su 80 aniversario

Este año la empresa familiar Medek & Schörner, líder en la producción de máquinas de impresión de cables y líneas de procesamiento de fibra óptica, celebra el 80 aniversario de su fundación por Josef Medek y Gustav Schörner.

La empresa, que nació como taller de ingeniería de precisión, inició su producción de marcadoras de cables, hilos, tuberías y productos extruídos en continuo en los años 50.

La construcción de una planta de producción en Grossebersdorf en 1989, equipada con las máquinas-herramienta más modernas, estaba estrechamente relacionada con una orientación hacia la investigación y el desarrollo y con una atención especial a los controles electrónicos complejos. Esto hizo posible continuar con la producción de productos tradicionales de altísima calidad, siguiendo los últimos avances de la tecnología moderna. Supuso un beneficio especial para los equipos



▲ Medek & Schörner está orientada a la investigación y al desarrollo

altamente sofisticados para la coloración y el revestimiento de fibras ópticas para cables de fibra de vidrio.

Medek & Schörner considera que su equipo de trabajadores altamente capacitados representa el verdadero capital de la empresa. La mayoría de los ingenieros de precisión de la empresa empezaron como aprendices para familiarizarse con el proceso

de producción de componentes mecánicos de alta precisión en máquinas-herramienta CNC modernas.

Los ingenieros dedicados a investigación, desarrollo y diseño son los mismos ingenieros que abordan los problemas observados diariamente por los clientes durante el funcionamiento de los componentes. Esto garantiza que la tecnología de Medek & Schörner sigue su máxima: seguir a los clientes de la empresa en todo momento y satisfacer sus exigencias del mejor modo posible.

Medek & Schörner es considerada la única empresa que ofrece toda la gama de máquinas para impresión de cables y codificación de fibra óptica.

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# Cable para ROVs de aguas profundas

Por Jarrett S Shinoski Research & Development, CommScope Claremont, NC;  
Dave Weaver y Tom Tolman Oceaneering International Inc, Hanover, MD

## Resumen

El cable para ROVs de aguas profundas ha cambiado el mundo de la exploración submarina en aguas profundas para siempre. Gracias a esta tecnología, los exploradores y los historiadores pueden investigar el interior de barcos naufragados como el Titanic y el Bismarck. Este cable excepcional ha sido usado como enlace de comunicación entre el operador y dos vehículos operados a distancia, o ROVs (del inglés Remote Operated Vehicle), de diseño especial: el ROV de aguas profundas y el AUV (Autonomous Underwater Vehicle)/ROV, un vehículo submarino autónomo híbrido. Este cable tiene un diámetro de 900 micrones y transmite la información hacia y desde el sistema telemétrico de fibra óptica a través de una sola fibra.

La tecnología ROV fue desarrollada originariamente por Mike Cameron de Dark Matter LLC en 1999. Mike Cameron y su hermano James Cameron utilizaron esta tecnología en documentales antes de que fuera adquirida por Oceaneering International en enero de 2005. Oceaneering tiene previsto adoptar esta tecnología utilizando las excepcionales capacidades de estos ROVs para usos potenciales como la inspección de equipos submarinos, el control de la seguridad de los puertos y misiones de búsqueda y rescate.

Los ROVs de Oceaneering son revolucionarios y han supuesto un cambio fundamental en el diseño de estos robots submarinos. Estos dos ROVs son unidades independientes que llevan sus propias baterías de alimentación y desenrollan su propio cable para las comunicaciones. Los ROVs convencionales envían la energía y los comandos a través de un cable (tether) de grandes dimensiones, que limita el recorrido del vehículo y la profundidad de acceso en un barco naufragado. Además, este cable suele ser desenrollado desde la unidad de mando a través de un carrete muy grande.

Los ROVs de Oceaneering, gracias al cable de fibra óptica no recuperable, poseen la extraordinaria capacidad de entrar por una abertura y salir por otra sin restricciones en los puntos de entrada y salida, y sin limitaciones de profundidad de penetración en una cavidad. El cable para ROVs de aguas profundas supone una ventaja competitiva para estos robots submarinos.

El cable es desenrollado mediante un sistema mecánico patentado integrado en el ROV, eliminando la necesidad de anillo colector de fibra óptica. El ROV de aguas profundas contiene aproximadamente 600 metros de este cable muy fino de 900 micrones, mientras que el AUV/ROV híbrido lleva 2.000 metros.

Este cable contiene una fibra óptica, elementos de refuerzo especiales y aceite. La fibra óptica es una fibra monomodo convencional de 255 micrones de diámetro, utilizada para el mando y la realimentación. Los elementos de refuerzo mejoran tanto el control del tensado como la duración del cable. El aceite proporciona al cable sus propiedades de incompresibilidad a profundidades de hasta 6.100 metros (20.000 pies).

La cubierta externa está hecha de una mezcla polimérica especial para darle al cable la flotabilidad correcta en la columna de agua. Los ROVs son tan pequeños y contienen tanto cable que un cable no equilibrado correctamente causaría estragos en los controles de flotación de un ROV.

Este cable fue homologado utilizando prácticas de prueba estándares y métodos de prueba completamente nuevos. Se probaron sus prestaciones mecánicas y ambientales, y el cable fue sometido a ensayos según los requisitos más estrictos de tres normas distintas.

Las tres normas eran la norma ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, la GR-20-CORE, y la EN 187105. Para hacerse mejor una idea de sus prestaciones, el cable fue sometido a prueba de rotura según las indicaciones de las especificaciones.

Además, se desarrollaron varias pruebas personalizadas para estimar la fiabilidad del cable. Oceaneering utilizó un banco de prueba especial para la presión hidrostática, para simular la presión sobre el cable a profundidades extremas del océano. Además, Oceaneering introdujo también un requisito de flotabilidad para alcanzar la flotabilidad correcta.

CommScope desarrolló una prueba especial de retorcimiento para tener un parámetro de referencia de las prestaciones de retorcimiento de cada cable. Con los resultados de estas pruebas pudimos garantizar a Oceaneering el mejor cable posible para su aplicación especial.

## 1 Introducción

El cable para ROVs de aguas profundas fue evaluado por el fabricante y por el usuario final en dos aplicaciones distintas pero similares. Este cable especial se usaba ya para los ROVs de aguas profundas, pero necesitaba ser optimizado para dar buen resultado en la nueva aplicación. Esta nueva aplicación consistía en un sistema híbrido AUV/ROV, con las prestaciones de un vehículo submarino autónomo (AUV) y de un robot submarino (ROV) convencional. Se efectuaron numerosas pruebas de cableado, ensayos de laboratorio y pruebas de campo para dar con el diseño más adecuado para el cable.

## 2 Diseño del cable

### 2.1 Petición del cliente

Oceaneering había pedido un nuevo diseño de cable con una sola fibra y un diámetro de unos 900 micrones. Esta invención era un cable para ROV de aguas profundas de tercera generación.

#### 2.1.1 Cable de primera generación

El cable de primera generación era un cable de 2 fibras formado por dos fibras multimodo con un diámetro total de aproximadamente 1,4mm. Una fibra era utilizada para la información enviada hacia el ROV (para controlar el ROV) y la otra para la información enviada desde el ROV (realimentación de vídeo en directo). Este cable tenía muchos extremos de elementos de refuerzo para tener una mayor resistencia a la tracción. Más tarde, el equipo de Oceaneering cambió los sistemas de fibra óptica para poder enviar información en los dos sentidos a través de una sola fibra óptica en lugar de usar dos fibras separadas.

#### 2.1.2 Cable de segunda generación

Manteniendo el mismo diámetro para mantener la compatibilidad mecánica, este cable de segunda generación tenía sólo una fibra.

El cable también tenía un diámetro de 1,4mm, pero con una cubierta de protección adicional. Entre los dos estratos de la cubierta había un estrato de elementos de refuerzo para ofrecer mayor resistencia a la tracción y a la abrasión. Tanto el cable de primera como el de segunda generación no respondían a requisitos de flotabilidad; sólo debían estar garantizados para el hundimiento.

## 2.1.3 Cable para ROVs de aguas profundas

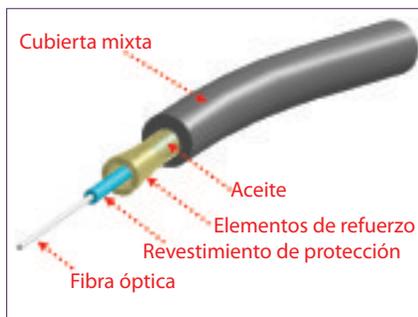
Esta tercera generación de cables es diferente de las dos generaciones de cable anteriores por las propiedades mejoradas siguientes:

- 1 Diámetro reducido: este cable es casi la mitad de las dos versiones anteriores, lo que permite usar un carrete más compacto y, por lo tanto, tener un diseño de ROV más pequeño o tramos de cable potencialmente más largos
- 2 Flotabilidad neutra: este cable tiene una cubierta formada por una mezcla de polímeros, que consiste en dos tipos diferentes de material mezclados para dar al cable las propiedades de flotabilidad neutra
- 3 Mayor resistencia al retorcimiento: este cable tiene mayor resistencia al retorcimiento respecto a las versiones anteriores gracias a una cubierta mucho más rígida

## 2.2 Realización de la invención

Este cable presenta una estructura de 1 fibra, es decir, que contiene solamente una fibra óptica para la transmisión de datos hacia y desde el vehículo. Tiene un tubo buffer lleno de aceite de aproximadamente 900 micrones de diámetro. El tubo contiene el aceite, la fibra óptica y los elementos de refuerzo. El aceite es un aceite mineral de baja viscosidad. La fibra óptica es una fibra monomodo estándar de revestimiento compensado y dispersión sin cambios de 255 micrones de diámetro. Los elementos de refuerzo consisten en un hilo termoplástico multifilamento con buenas propiedades de resistencia a la tracción y óptima resistencia a la abrasión. El tubo consiste en una mezcla de dos polímeros.

Remitirse a la *Figura 1* para el esquema del diseño del cable.



▲ **Figura 1**

## 2.3 Uso

Los ROVs convencionales usan un cable de grandes dimensiones para la transmisión de energía y para las comunicaciones. A diferencia de los ROVs convencionales, en este caso la energía es suministrada a bordo, usando un sistema de baterías de alta densidad de energía.

Pero, para enviar los comandos al ROV y para reenviar las imágenes vídeo se requiere un enlace de comunicación especial. Los sistemas inalámbricos pueden parecer la solución lógica, considerando los sistemas avanzados que se encuentran en estos ROVs.

Desgraciadamente, estos sistemas debajo del agua tienen prestaciones muy diferentes que

al aire libre. Las señales de vídeo tradicionales pueden ser transmitidas al controlador mediante ondas de radio, pero no viajan tan lejos bajo el agua.

El sonido viaja bien bajo el agua, pero las ondas sonoras son demasiado lentas y no podrían soportar la velocidad de transferencia de datos requerida por las imágenes de vídeo de alta resolución. Por esto fue por lo que se realizó el cable para ROVs de aguas profundas como única solución lógica para resolver el problema de las comunicaciones. Utilizando un método no convencional para desplegar el cable, el pequeño cable no recuperable es alimentado por un carrete instalado dentro del vehículo. De lo contrario, los cables convencionales pueden ser solamente desenrollados desde el buque de soporte o desde el centro de mando.

Los cables convencionales limitan la movilidad del vehículo, mientras que este cable permite al operador del BOT una libertad de exploración sin precedentes. Se evitan situaciones de enredo, dado que el ROV puede dejar el cable enredado detrás y continuar explorando. El ROV puede desenrollar más cable mediante su sofisticado desenrollador mecánico. Sin tener que volver a recorrer el mismo trayecto en sentido contrario para volver, este vehículo puede ser introducido por un sitio y sacado por otro distinto. Una vez terminada la misión, el cable umbilical puede ser simplemente cortado y abandonado.

## 3 El ROV de aguas profundas

### 3.1 Uso

El objetivo inicial del ROV de aguas profundas era explorar barcos naufragados. El primer trabajo oficial de este vehículo como propiedad de Oceanering fue la realización de un documental sobre el Titanic (El último misterio del Titanic) que fue transmitido en directo el 24 julio de 2005 por Discovery Channel desde el sitio donde se hundió. Además, el ROV de aguas profundas ha demostrado con éxito su capacidad para realizar inspecciones minuciosas de equipos submarinos, mejores operaciones de búsqueda y rescate, e inspecciones de seguridad de buques y embarcaderos.

### 3.2 Descripción

El ROV de aguas profundas es un BOT en forma de caja de 27" de longitud, 15,5" de anchura y 17,5" de altura. Curiosamente éstas son las dimensiones requeridas para su primera misión, un viaje en el RMS Titanic: el vehículo debía pasar por las portillas del Titanic, que medían 18" de anchura y 24" de altura. La parte externa del BOT consiste en una espuma sintáctica realizada con esferas de vidrio impregnadas con resina epoxi de dos componentes. Esta configuración especial permite al BOT tener flotabilidad a gran profundidad.

Dentro del armazón hay 600 metros de cable para ROVs de aguas profundas. El ROV aloja dos cámaras de vídeo, una de alta resolución para grabar secuencias y la otra, una cámara

monocromática, utilizada para la navegación. Para poder ver a estas profundidades, el ROV tiene dos series de reflectores y dos series de LEDs.

Los reflectores y los proyectores se usan durante las secuencias de grabación, mientras las luces de LEDs se usan para navegar gracias a su bajo consumo de energía.

Las cámaras de vídeo y las luces están montadas en una barra móvil que permite un movimiento de hasta 210 grados hacia arriba y hacia abajo.

El operador controla el ángulo de inclinación de la barra con un botón situado en el joystick del operador. Para posicionar las cámaras azimutalmente, el operador puede manipular los cuatro propulsores moviendo el joystick. El operador puede controlar la guiñada y el cabeceo, que es muy similar al vuelo de un pequeño avión.

Además, el operador puede controlar la flotabilidad del ROV arrojando lastres pequeños por la parte inferior del vehículo o bloques de espuma sintáctica por la parte superior del vehículo.

Todos los sofisticados equipos electrónicos ubicados en este ROV son alimentados por un sistema de baterías de alta densidad de energía, que permite 12-18 horas de funcionamiento.

Remitirse a la *Figura 2* para un esquema del ROV de aguas profundas.



▲ **Figura 2**

### 3.3 Ventajas

Las ventajas principales del ROV de aguas profundas respecto a los ROVs convencionales son sus dimensiones reducidas, la alimentación de alta energía a bordo, y un cable de fibra óptica no recuperable (cable para ROV de aguas profundas).

El ROV es capaz de efectuar maniobras en cavidades pequeñas, dentro de un barco naufragado, inaccesibles a sumergibles tripulados, buzos o ROVs más grandes; además, utilizando un alimentador a bordo, no necesita ningún cable voluminoso que, removiendo demasiados sedimentos, hace casi imposible grabar el sujeto claramente.

Otra ventaja del ROV es su capacidad de ofrecer imágenes de vídeo de alta resolución en tiempo real mediante una cámara de alta resolución y una iluminación sofisticada, como se puede ver en la *Figura 3*.



▲ Figura 3

Dado que la flotabilidad, la guiñada y el cabeceo del ROV pueden ser ajustados sobre la marcha, este ROV puede ser muy eficaz en misiones que requieren maniobras difíciles.

### 3.4 Desventajas

El ROV de aguas profundas ha sido diseñado para aplicaciones de nicho de mercado. Siendo un vehículo lento (< 3 nudos) y teniendo una autonomía limitada, el ROV debe ser dejado muy cerca del sitio de inspección. La mayoría de las veces debe ser llevado al sitio con un sumergible tripulado dentro de una cápsula de lanzamiento y recuperación (LARE - Launch And Recovery Enclosure) como se ilustra en la Figura 4. El BOT puede operar en corrientes de hasta 2 nudos.



▲ Figura 4

## 4 AUV/ROV híbrido

### 4.1 Uso

El objetivo del vehículo híbrido es aprovechar la tecnología del ROV de aguas profundas y asociarla a las ventajas de un vehículo autónomo, de buceo libre. Esto se hizo usando un diseño de casco Myring en lugar del diseño de caja de la primera generación de ROVs de aguas profundas. El AUV/ROV híbrido puede recorrer distancias mayores y resistir a corrientes de agua más fuertes. El AUV/ROV híbrido presenta dos modos operativos: (1) autónomo y (2) ROV. En modo autónomo, el vehículo puede ser programado con un software de planificación de la misión para operar navegando hasta estaciones intermedias (waypoints). En este modo el cable de fibra óptica puede ser usado para monitorizar las actividades del vehículo y permitir al operador controlar el vehículo en cualquier momento.

Además, si el cable de fibra óptica se rompe, el vehículo está preprogramado para regresar a una posición seleccionada para su recuperación. En modo ROV, el operador puede controlar el vehículo para efectuar inspecciones como la inspección de daños de

cascos de naves, daños potenciales de diques, y pérdidas en túneles de agua potable.

### 4.2 Descripción

La forma del AUV/ROV híbrido es completamente diferente de la del ROV de aguas profundas original. El perfil del vehículo se parece al de un submarino corriente o al de un torpedo. La forma del vehículo le permite moverse rápidamente (> 3,5 nudos) en mar gruesa y fuertes corrientes.

El AUV/ROV híbrido tiene 6" de diámetro y más de 62" de longitud. Aunque sea más grande que el ROV de aguas profundas, tiene la agilidad necesaria para situarse para inspecciones de campo próximo. El vehículo dispone de un tornillo de propulsión principal para el movimiento adelante y atrás, y propulsores verticales y laterales ubicados en la parte delantera del cuerpo. Remitirse a la Figura 5 para el esquema del AUV/ROV.



▲ Figura 5

El AUV/ROV híbrido es similar al ROV de aguas profundas porque tiene un alimentador a bordo y está conectado a la estación de mando con un cable para ROVs de aguas profundas. El cable es desenrollado desde el vehículo de manera más simple que el ROV de aguas profundas original y puede llevar hasta 2.000 metros de cable en su casco. El cable deja el vehículo a través de un tubo pequeño llamado "aguijón" (stinger), para evitar que el cable quede atrapado en el sistema de propulsión. El AUV/ROV híbrido posee componentes electrónicos y sensores mejorados que permiten utilizarlo como equipo de inspección.

### 4.3 Ventajas

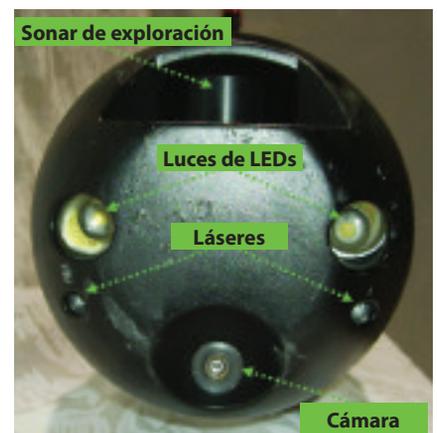
El AUV/ROV híbrido es capaz de recorrer distancias largas sin la intervención humana gracias a su modo de funcionamiento autónomo. Las ventajas del modo autónomo son que: (1) presenta la capacidad de quedarse apartado del sitio de trabajo y (2) facilita la tarea del operador que no necesita conducir el vehículo a alta velocidad en distancias largas.

Sin la posibilidad de quedarse apartado, el AUV/ROV híbrido debería ser llevado hasta el sitio de trabajo con un sumergible tripulado, como en el caso del ROV de aguas profundas. Además, su autonomía permite recuperar el vehículo si el cable de fibra óptica se corta o se rompe durante la operación. El vehículo puede ser pre-programado antes de iniciar las operaciones con una posición geodésica a la cual regresar si se interrumpe la comunicación. Esto puede ser tan simple como una posición o una instrucción para moverse siguiendo el mismo trayecto recorrido para llegar al sitio de trabajo.

El AUV/ROV híbrido está equipado con GPS (Global Positioning System) para la navegación autónoma.

El vehículo puede ser programado para emerger a la superficie durante el transito al sitio de trabajo para establecer su posición de navegación. Una vez establecida su posición, el vehículo puede corregir su recorrido y proceder a la sucesiva estación intermedia. El vehículo también está equipado con sonar de alta frecuencia, como se puede ver en la Figura 6, que se usa para evitar obstáculos y localizar mejor el sitio de trabajo.

Después de que el AUV/ROV híbrido ha llegado a su destino, el operador pasa al modo ROV y controla las imágenes de alta resolución disponibles de las dos cámaras de vídeo. Una cámara está posicionada en la proa y la otra en la torre del GPS. La cámara ubicada en la torre del GPS se usa durante la navegación por la superficie y por debajo de la superficie. Esta cámara puede ser útil durante la navegación por la superficie, y puede dar una perspectiva diferente por debajo de la superficie dado que la proa del vehículo es visible en el área de visualización. Además, el AUV/ROV presenta dos láseres ubicados en la proa, que se usan para proveer un marco de referencia fijo para evaluar las dimensiones de los objetos vistos a través de la cámara de la proa.



▲ Figura 6

### 4.4 Desventajas

El AUV/ROV híbrido no ha sido diseñado para entrar en barcos naufragados o pequeñas áreas vacías; la longitud del vehículo compensa su pequeño diámetro. Aunque sea fácilmente maniobrable, este vehículo es más adecuado para inspecciones de exteriores en lugar de interiores. Con la tecnología actual, es la unidad más compacta que se puede construir manteniendo las características sofisticadas descritas arriba.

## 5 Revisión de los resultados de las pruebas

### 5.1 Pruebas de CommScope

Las pruebas del cable para planta externa estándar fueron realizadas en la sede de CommScope ubicada en Claremont, NC. Estas pruebas no fueron realizadas para homologar este cable para uso terrestre ordinario o como cable oceánico de tracción largo, sino para establecer un parámetro de referencia para

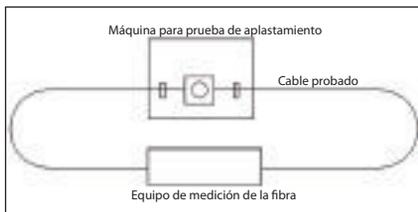
los diseños futuros de cables de fibra óptica de aguas profundas. Este cable debía cumplir los requisitos más estrictos de las normas ANSI/ICEA S-87-640-2006, GR-20-CORE y EN 187105, y debía ser sometido a prueba de rotura según las directivas generales de estas especificaciones.

## 5.1.1 Resistencia a la rotura por compresión

La Telcordia GR-20 era la más estricta de estas tres normas, dado que requería 44N/mm de presión durante un minuto y 22N/mm de presión durante diez minutos. Se efectuó una prueba similar aplicando una carga específica durante diez minutos, y luego probando la atenuación del cable al final de ese tiempo, mientras el cable estaba todavía cargado.

La norma GR-20 presentaba los requisitos más estrictos para cualquier aumento de atenuación; por lo tanto, se adoptó la GR-20 como norma directiva. La norma establecía que el cambio de atenuación debía ser inferior a 0,05dB para el 90% de las fibras probadas e inferior a 0,15dB para el 100% de las fibras probadas.

El cable fue aplastado usando una placa de acero de 25mm con bordes redondeados, de 10mm de radio. Se puede ver el esquema de la prueba en la Figura 7.



▲ **Figura 7:** Diagrama de la prueba de compresión

Con cada resultado positivo, la carga era aumentada. Este procedimiento fue seguido hasta que el cable se rompió. Se pueden ver los resultados de esta prueba en la Tabla 2.

Como se puede deducir de los resultados, las prestaciones del cable fueron sorprendentemente buenas, considerando que el requisito para un cable para planta externa estándar es 44N/mm. Cada presión fue probada dos veces para asegurar un resultado positivo o negativo. Se puede atribuir al fluido incompresible interior del cable las prestaciones de esta estructura de cable sometida a una carga compresible.

## 5.1.2 Resistencia a la rotura por impacto

La norma EN-187105 requería la aplicación de una fuerza de impacto específica en tres secciones diferentes del cable. La norma ICEA-640 requería la aplicación de una fuerza de impacto específica dos veces en tres secciones diferentes del cable. La norma GR-20 requería la aplicación de una fuerza de impacto específica 20 veces en un punto del cable. En un escenario submarino real, un impacto ocurriría con toda probabilidad sólo una vez en un punto; por lo tanto, se adoptó el procedimiento de prueba de la norma GR-20. La norma GR-20 presentaba los requisitos más estrictos para cualquier aumento de atenuación; por lo tanto se adoptó la GR-20 como norma directiva.

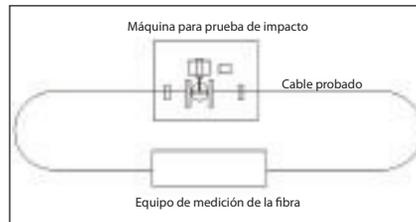
Presión (N/mm)	Delta (dB)	Positivo/Negativo
10	0.00	Éxito
15	0.08	Éxito
20	0.03	Éxito
25	0.11	Éxito
30	0.70	Fallo

▲ **Tabla 2:** Resultados de la prueba de compresión

Número de impactos	Número de impactos	Δ Atenuación	Éxito/Fallo
1	0.1	0	Éxito
1	0.2	0	Éxito
1	0.3	0	Éxito
1	0.4	0	Éxito
1	0.5	N/A	Fallo

▲ **Tabla 3:** Resultados del ensayo de impacto

Además, la norma establecía que el cambio de atenuación debía ser inferior a 0,05dB para el 90% de las fibras probadas e inferior a 0,15dB para el 100% de las fibras probadas. Se puede ver el esquema de la prueba en la Figura 8.



▲ **Figura 8:** Diagrama de la prueba de compresión

El cable de prueba fue sometido a impacto con una fuerza específica durante un ciclo. Después del impacto se probó la atenuación del cable. Este procedimiento fue repetido hasta que el cable se rompió. Se pueden ver los resultados de esta prueba en la Tabla 3.

Estos resultados muestran que 0,4Nm es la fuerza de impacto máxima que puede soportar este cable. A 0,5Nm, el cable fue aplastado totalmente y la fibra rota sobresalía por un lado de la cubierta. Como referencia, un cable para una planta externa estándar tiene que soportar una fuerza de impacto de 4,4Nm, mucho más alta de la que podía alcanzar el cable para ROV de aguas profundas. Sin embargo, con toda probabilidad este cable recibirá un impacto bajo del agua; cualquier objeto bajo del agua se mueve a mucho menos velocidad, y por lo tanto la fuerza ejercida sobre el cable será mucho menor.

## 5.1.3 Resistencia a la tracción

Las tres normas requieren una carga de tracción específica, pero las normas ICEA-640 y GR-20 prevén la carga más alta a corto plazo a 2670N.

La norma EN-187105 requiere una carga de tracción a corto plazo que es factor del peso del cable. Por lo que se refiere al diámetro del mandril usado en el banco de prueba, las normas GR-20 e ICEA-640 eran las más estrictas. Estas normas especifican un diámetro máximo de 560mm y uno mínimo

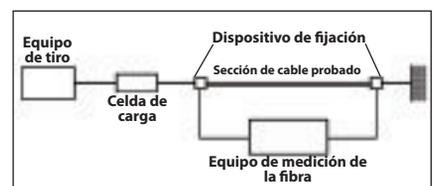
de 30 veces el diámetro del cable. Los técnicos que realizaron la prueba utilizaron un mandril de 26mm de diámetro para esta prueba.

Según las normas ICEA-640 y GR-20, el fallo de un cable genera un aumento de la atenuación superior a 0,05dB a una longitud de onda de 1550nm y/o una deformación de la fibra superior o igual al 60% del valor de deformación máxima de la fibra.

Obviamente, esta prueba no se acercaría a las cargas especificadas, dado que el cable tiene un módulo de elasticidad del orden de sólo 12kgf.

Los técnicos usaron un banco Instron® para pruebas de tracción con extensímetro integrado para la prueba de deformación de este cable. El banco de prueba de tracción fue configurado para funcionar lo más lentamente posible, para poder registrar la atenuación y la deformación del cable.

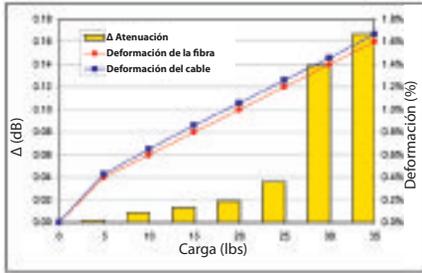
El banco de prueba Instron proporcionó los datos de carga, mientras que el extensímetro proporcionó los datos de deformación. Como la longitud extra de la fibra en este cable era tan insignificante, los valores de deformación del cable y la de la fibra fueron considerados iguales. Se puede ver el esquema de la prueba en la Figura 9.



▲ **Figura 9:** Diagrama de la prueba de tracción

Los resultados de la deformación del cable y de la deformación de la fibra con los valores de atenuación correspondientes se pueden ver en la Figura 10.

Los resultados muestran que no hay cambios de atenuación significativos para valores por debajo de 30 libras. Todas las normas para cables de fibra óptica requieren que la



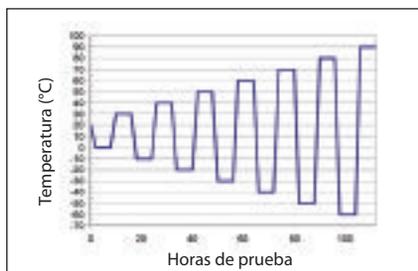
▲ **Figura 10:** Resultados de la deformación

deformación de la fibra no sea superior al 60% del nivel máximo de la fibra, con el cable sometido a carga nominal máxima. Este valor de deformación máxima fue obtenida de un estudio sobre la fiabilidad de la fibra durante un ciclo de uso de 20 años, en particular la propagación de grietas debidas a tensión durante este período de tiempo.

El cable para ROV de aguas profundas había sido pensado para trabajar durante un tiempo corto antes de ser retirado del servicio. Por lo tanto, debido al breve ciclo de uso de este cable, la carga aceptable podía ser mucho más alta que el 60% del valor de deformación máxima de la fibra. Una carga de 25 libras parece ser una solución aceptable.

### 5.1.4 Resistencia a variación cíclica de la temperatura

La norma EN-187105 requiere la temperatura de prueba más baja (-45°C), mientras que la GR-20 y la ICEA-640 requieren la temperatura de prueba más alta (+70°C). Se decidió seguir un perfil de los ciclos de temperatura modificado para someter los cables a variaciones de temperaturas extremas que causarían la rotura del cable. El perfil de variación cíclica de la temperatura utilizado en esta prueba está ilustrado en la *Figura 11*.



▲ **Figura 11:** Perfil de variación cíclica de la temperatura

La norma GR-20 exige los requisitos de atenuación más severos para el aumento medio de atenuación de todas las fibras, es decir 0,05dB/km. La norma EN-187105 exige los requisitos de atenuación más estrictos para el aumento de atenuación de una fibra individual, es decir 0,10dB/km.

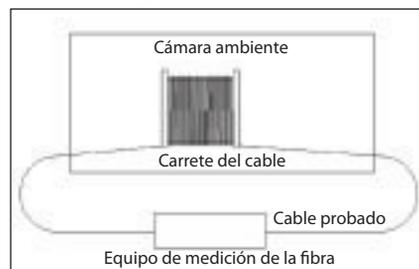
Los técnicos decidieron adoptar un requisito modificado según el cual ninguna fibra debía tener un aumento de atenuación superior a 0,10dB/km, y el aumento de atenuación medio de todas las fibras no debía ser superior a 0,05dB/km.

Se decidió también seguir los requisitos más estrictos de las normas ICEA-640 y GR-20 durante las mediciones de atenuación. Todas las mediciones de atenuación fueron

Ciclo	Extremos de temperatura (°C)	Delta en frío (dB/km)	Delta en caliente (dB/km)
1	0/+40	-0.003	0.003
2	-10/+50	-0.002	0.011
3	-20/+60	-0.002	0.010
4	-30/+70	-0.005	0.010
5	-40/+80	-0.004	0.007
6	-50/+85	-0.003	0.005
7	-60/+90	0.043	N/A

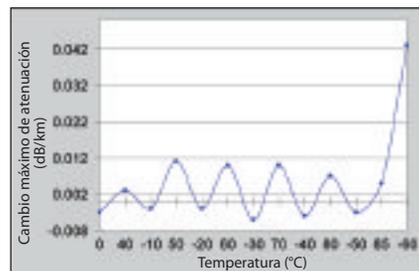
▲ **Tabla 4:** Resultados de la prueba de variación cíclica de la temperatura

realizadas a temperaturas extremas y comparadas con las mediciones de base efectuadas a temperatura ambiente antes de la prueba. Se puede ver un esquema de la prueba en la *Figura 12*.



▲ **Figura 12:** Diagrama de la prueba de variación cíclica de temperatura

Los resultados de estas pruebas están ilustrados en la *Figura 13*. El ciclo de temperatura está indicado en el eje X, mientras que la fluctuación de la atenuación está indicada en el eje Y. Estos valores representan el cambio de atenuación máximo de una sola fibra en cada valor extremo de temperatura.



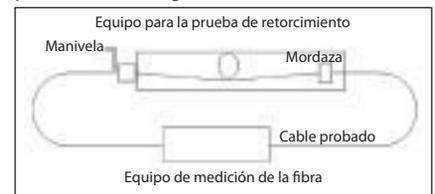
▲ **Figura 13:** Resultados de la prueba de variación cíclica de la temperatura

Estos resultados muestran que el cable era capaz de soportar amplias variaciones de temperatura. Aunque el cable pueda resistir a -60°C, muy probablemente no se encontrará nunca a esta temperatura dado que el agua del mar en la cual opera se congela a una temperatura justo por debajo de 0°C. Los datos están indicados en la *Tabla 4*.

### 5.1.5 Prueba de resistencia al retorcimiento

Esta prueba fue creada para probar la resistencia al retorcimiento del cable para ROVs de aguas profundas. El retorcimiento se define como "(de una cuerda) torcimiento de una cosa dándole vueltas alrededor de sí misma. Se necesitaba un parámetro de referencia para verificar si variaciones del proceso de fabricación o de los materiales en el diseño podían mejorar los efectos del retorcimiento en el cable.

Para la prueba se utilizaba un banco de torsión y un dispositivo de medición de las fibras. El cable fue hecho pasar a través del banco de torsión y luego conectado al equipo de prueba de las fibras por ambos extremos, como se puede ver en la *Figura 14*.



▲ **Figura 14:** Diagrama de la prueba de retorcimiento

La distancia entre la manivela y la mordaza fue establecida en un punto predeterminado. Tras determinar la distancia, el cable fue fijado a la mordaza y a la manivela. Luego, la mordaza fue desplazada dos tercios de la distancia hacia la manivela. Al mango de la manivela se le dió 10 vueltas a partir de cero. Después de darle las 10 vueltas, la mordaza fue puesta de nuevo en su posición.

Durante el recorrido de retorno de la mordaza, el cable se retorció y se desenroscó. La fibra fue probada después de desenroscarse. Para esta prueba se adoptó el requisito de atenuación estándar. La norma establecía que el cambio de atenuación debía ser inferior a 0,05dB para el 90% de las fibras probadas e inferior a 0,15dB para el 100% de las fibras probadas. Si la fibra cumplía los requisitos de cambio de atenuación, se repetía el procedimiento hasta que se produjera el fallo en la fibra.

Los resultados muestran que el cable puede soportar una situación de retorcimiento extrema. Los resultados han superado ampliamente las expectativas, eclipsando los resultados de los diseños de cables anteriores. Con otros diseños de cable, un número previsible de torsiones causarían el retorcimiento del cable. Cuando se retorció el cable, el fallo del cable era prácticamente seguro.

En este caso el retorcimiento debía ir acompañado de una torsión excesiva para originar un fallo. Sin duda alguna, este cable era más robusto que cualquier otra versión anterior.

### 5.2 Pruebas de Oceanering International

Además de las pruebas de CommScope, Oceanering realizó varias pruebas ideadas internamente para comprobar la fiabilidad del diseño del cable.



Distancia configurada (m)	Número máximo de vueltas antes del fallo de atenuación	Número máximo de vueltas antes de la rotura de la fibra
0,50	20	40
0,75	40	50
1,00	50	60
1,25	70	70
1,50	70	80

▲ **Tabella 5:** Resultados de la prueba de retorcimiento

El despliegue en el mar puede costar millones de dólares, por eso Oceaneering prueba metódicamente todos los componentes de los ROVs. El cable para ROVs de aguas profundas era un componente pequeño pero fundamental; por lo tanto, los ingenieros de Oceaneering eran intransigentes en caso de escasos resultados en las pruebas.

### 5.2.1 Prueba específica de la presión hidrostática

Para simular las extremas profundidades del océano, el equipo de Oceaneering utilizó un tanque a presión hidrostática. Estos tanques pueden simular 9.100 metros (30.000 pies) de profundidad con una presión de 92N/mm<sup>2</sup> (13.400psi) en el agua. Todo el equipo fue probado a 6.096 metros (20.000 pies) ó 61N/mm<sup>2</sup> (8.900psi) de presión del agua. Oceaneering probó el cable para ROV de aguas profundas en campo con una pequeña cámara hidrostática. Una realimentación inmediata del comportamiento del vehículo sometido a presión permitió efectuar rápidamente cambios de diseño necesarios o variaciones en el proceso de fabricación.

### 5.2.2 Prueba de flotabilidad

Esta prueba fue realizada en la sede de Oceaneering. Para el equipo de Oceaneering era esencial la flotabilidad neutra del nuevo cable, necesaria para no afectar a la flotabilidad de vehículo mismo. El cable bobinado instalado en el ROV representa la mayor parte del peso total del vehículo. Por lo tanto, durante el desenrollado el cable podría causar un cambio de flotabilidad del vehículo. Esta prueba fue realizada pesando el carrete del cable en una escala gravimétrica ubicada en un baño de agua salina.

### 5.2.3 Prueba de desenrollado del rollo de fibra

Dado que había intervenido una tercera parte para enrollar la fibra en el carrete, se debía realizar la prueba de aceptación en los rollos de fibra acabados, que tenían ambos un segundo y un tercer proveedor para una parte de los equipos.

Este cable no debe tener defectos para cumplir los requisitos de Oceaneering y del fabricante del carrete. Incluso si el cable cumple todos los requisitos de Oceaneering, esto no significa que luego sea aprobado por el fabricante del carrete.

El rollo de fibra fue probado bajo el agua con un enrollador para desbobinar el cable y un dispositivo de medición de la atenuación para controlar los valores de atenuación del cable durante el desenrollado.

## 6 Conclusión

Gracias a las pruebas completadas en la planta de CommScope en Claremont, los desarrolladores pudieron comprender bien las capacidades del nuevo cable.

Estos datos pueden ser comparados con cualquier diseño de cable futuro para ver si un cambio de diseño o de material puede mejorar las prestaciones de este cable.

Los resultados de las pruebas de Oceaneering aseguran al equipo del ROV que el cable será capaz de hacer frente a las demandas exigentes del ambiente submarino. ■

## 7 Agradecimientos

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Este documento fue presentado en la 56ª IWCS, celebrada en Florida en 2007, y ha sido reproducido con el permiso de los organizadores.

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