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May 2015



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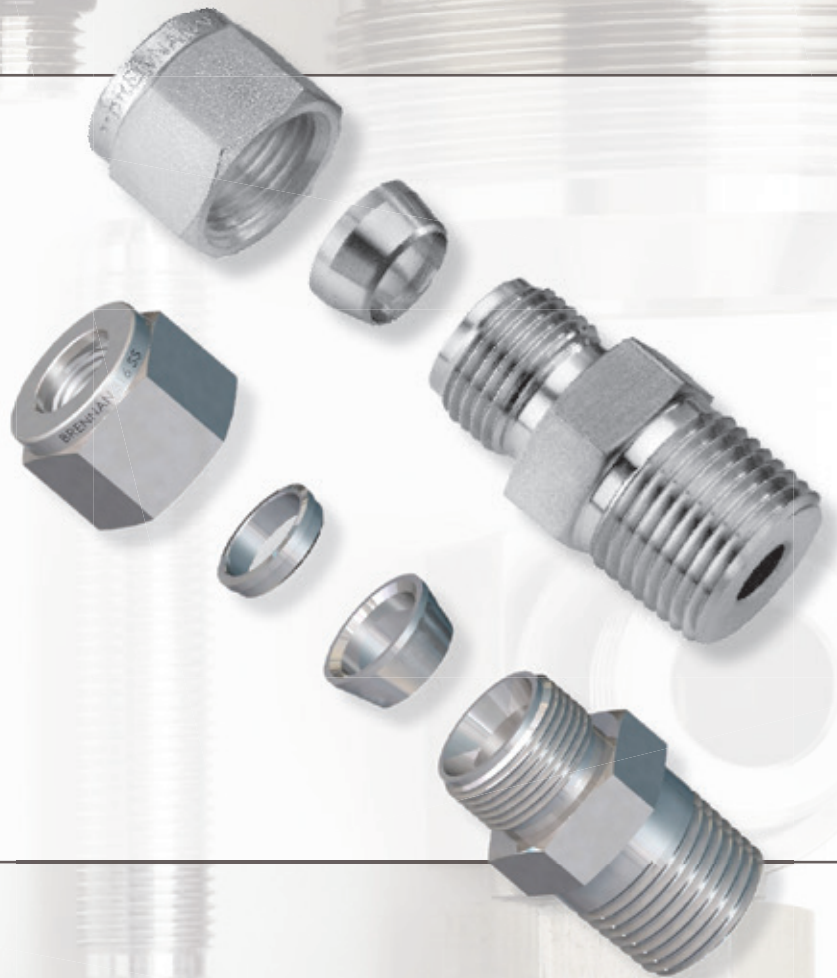


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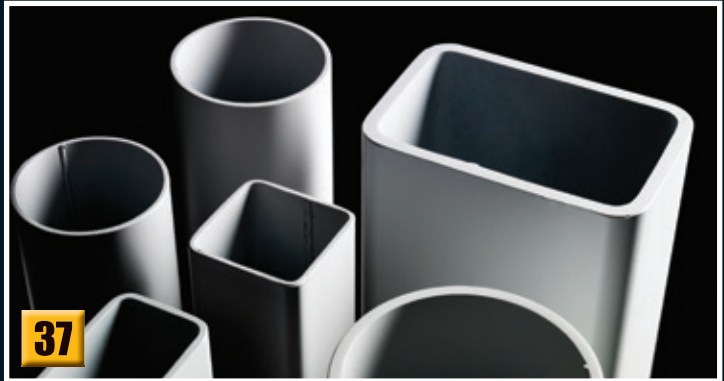
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Tube Products

INTERNATIONAL

The trade magazine for tube and pipe products



The May issue

Welcome to the latest issue of Tube Products International. In this month's magazine we have features on stainless steel tubes, OCTG & pipeline products, and we take a look at Valve World Americas, which is taking place in Houston, USA. We also have an extended article on dismantling joints by Engineering Piping Products.

It has been a tough year for the UK oil and gas industry with the steady reduction in the price of oil, which has led to a reduction in investment and sadly a loss of jobs. So it was good to finally see some significant tax breaks for the industry in the recent government budget, which will hopefully offer companies and workers the boost they need at a difficult time. On a more positive note, millions of barrels of oil have been unearthed close to Gatwick airport in the south of England, which should result in further investment and a strong long-term future for the UK oil and gas industry.

Next issue will have features on materials handling & logistics, extruded tube, GRP & fibre glass pipes, plumbing and heating and we take a look at the Tube Southeast Asia trade show. I will be attending it for the first time this year so I am looking forward to meeting some of our readers from Asia and visiting one of the most vibrant cities in Southeast Asia.

The deadline for editorial for the July issue is 14 May so please send any stories, features or case studies you would like to be considered for publication to: rory@intras.co.uk. The advertising deadline is 29 May.

I hope you enjoy the magazine.
See you again next issue.

Rory McBride
Editor



events calendar

2015



20-22 May

Made In Steel (Milan, Italy)
International Exhibition
www.madeinsteel.it



2-4 June

CityPipe (Moscow, Russia)
International Exhibition
www.citypipe.ru



8-11 June

Tube Russia (Moscow, Russia)
International Exhibition
www.metallurgy-tube-russia.com



16-18 June

Guangzhou Julang (China)
International Exhibition
www.tubechina-gz.com



15-16 July

Valve World Americas (Houston, USA)
International Exhibition
www.valveworldexpo.com



16-18 September

Tube Southeast Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
International Exhibition
www.tube-southeastasia.com



5-10 October

EMO (Milan, Italy)
International Exhibition
www.emo-milano.com



6-8 October

TuboTech (São Paulo, Brazil)
International Exhibition
www.tubotech.com.br

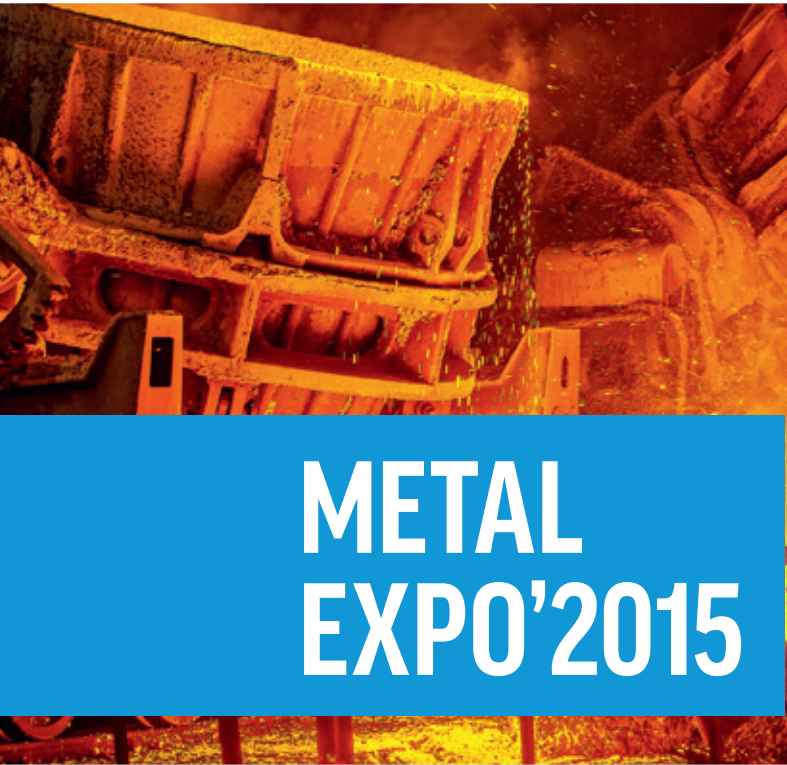


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business & market news

Virginia, USA, where the pipeline will be constructed

Contract signed for Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC, which has proposed a 550-mile natural gas pipeline to bring energy to Virginia and North Carolina, USA, has reached an agreement with Dura-Bond Industries to produce steel pipe for the project.

Pending approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) would run from Harrison County, West Virginia, southeast through Virginia with a lateral extension to Chesapeake, and then south through eastern North Carolina to Robeson County. If approved, construction is scheduled to start in late 2016.

Dura-Bond, which ACP LLC selected after an extensive bidding process, is scheduled to produce the pipe at its Steelton, Pennsylvania, mill from late-2015 to March 2017. The company plans to hire around 150 employees at the mill to run a second shift to meet the schedule.

“We are excited to work with Dura-Bond, one of the nation’s premier suppliers

of gas transmission pipeline,” said Diane Leopold, president of Dominion Energy. “Dura-Bond has an outstanding reputation in the industry and has been a long-term supplier of pipe and pipe coating for Dominion’s gas transmission business, dating back to the 1970s. This contract alone will provide significant economic growth to the region, beyond cleaner air, lower customer bills and jobs.”

The ACP joint venture reached the agreement with Dura-Bond prior to FERC approval because of the long lead-time needed to buy raw materials and to get a guaranteed production schedule for this large amount of new pipe. ACP expects to file its FERC application late this summer, receive its FERC certificate in the summer of 2016 and begin construction shortly after. The pipeline is expected to be in service by late 2018.

Producing around 540 miles of pipe ranging from 30" to 42" OD is the largest single order in Dura-Bond’s history. The company’s vice president, Jason Norris,

commented, “We are extremely pleased with such a large pipe order, and are proud that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline partners have the faith and trust in us. Since 2006, we’ve produced nearly 200 miles of pipe for Dominion and are excited to secure this tremendous order. We have a lot of work ahead of us and we will be up for the task.”

In a separate transaction, Dominion signed an agreement with Dura-Bond to produce 39 miles of additional 36" and 30" OD steel pipe for the company’s Supply Header Project in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, which has the ACP as its primary customer. The Supply Header project schedule is the same as for the ACP. Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC is composed of four US energy companies – Dominion, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas and AGL Resources.

Dominion – USA

www.dom.com

Dura-Bond Industries – USA

www.dura-bond.com

Victaulic appoints head of HVAC in UK



Jared Breidinger

Victaulic, a global manufacturer of mechanical pipe joining systems, has appointed Jared Breidinger to lead its HVAC team in the UK. Mr Breidinger joins Victaulic from the USA, where he

has 11 years' experience in similar sales roles.

In his new position, Mr Breidinger will be responsible for expanding the growing UK HVAC and industrial markets.

He brings to his new role a wealth of industry experience including building teams of salespeople and implementing and supporting distribution networks.

He will focus on further developing the Victaulic prefabrication concepts, showing the ease of designing with Victaulic software packages and introducing new product lines to the markets to help clients speed up their installations.

Commenting on his new position, Mr Breidinger said, "I am very much looking forward to supporting Victaulic clients, both existing and new, in the UK market and introducing them to a range of new and innovative products which will be

launching in 2015 and which will have a huge impact on our clients' productivity and profitability. My vision for UK clients is to build a network centred around customer relationships. A very strong foundation has already been built, and our aim is to enhance our customer support in the UK even further."

Since 1919, Victaulic has been a producer of grooved mechanical couplings and pipe-joining systems. The company has 15 major manufacturing facilities, and 28 branches worldwide.

With more than 900 active global patents, Victaulic solutions are at work in 115 countries across diverse business lines including oil and gas, chemical, mining, power generation, water and wastewater treatment, military and marine, as well as commercial building and fire protection.

Victaulic – UK
www.victaulic.com

Contract for Egina project, offshore Nigeria

UK subsea engineering firm FES International, a provider of fluid transfer systems, has won a \$2mn contract to supply bend stiffener connectors (BSCs) to oil and gas contractor Saipem.

The BSCs will be used by global energy company Total at its third deep offshore development off the coast of Nigeria. The field is currently under development and the production is scheduled to begin by the end of 2017. The Egina project consists of five dynamic umbilicals, and the BSCs will connect them to the floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel.

FES International provides a range of BSCs to assist the installation of bend stiffeners on offshore deep sea drilling operations. Products are tailored to suit the specific requirements of both the project and the end user.

Rob Anderson, managing director at FES International, commented, "We have a successful track record of working with Saipem, and are delighted to have been

chosen by them once again. Repeat business like this is an affirmation of the quality of our products and services. We've provided fluid transfer solutions for Total projects all over the world, such as CLOV, Martin Linge and Ichthys, and

we're proud to be adding this one to the growing list."

FES International – UK
fes@fesltd.co.uk
www.fesinternational.co.uk

FES International managing director Rob Anderson



Castle Metals in ten-year extension agreement with Stelia Aerospace

Castle Metals France, a global distributor of metal and plastic products, processing services and supply chain solutions, has announced that it has signed a ten-year agreement with Stelia Aerospace.

The current contract dates back to 1998 with Airbus, and was subsequently renegotiated when Aerolia was created in 2009, before coming into force in 2011. The programme covers Stelia's aerospace tubing products in a wide range of alloys including nickel, titanium, aluminium and stainless steel.

In addition to value-added processing, the Castle contract also includes

collaborative planning of mill inbound and customer on-hand inventory, JIT delivery (multiple deliveries per day direct to production lines as Castle has quality delegation), and AOG (aircraft on ground) support. The contract extension is estimated to exceed \$300mn over the ten-year term.

Castle Metals will service the contract from its service centre in Nantes, France. Castle's regional commercial manager for the European region, Asier Gonzalez, commented, "This long-term agreement reinforces the strong partnership between both of our companies and our commitment to support each other en route to

new standards of excellence in the aerospace industry."

A spokesperson from Stelia said, "Since the implementation of the contract in 2011, Castle has always been a reliable and flexible partner, successfully accompanying Aerolia and today Stelia in its growth. We wanted this ten-year contract extension to provide visibility and to reinforce our strong partnership, which is particularly important considering the challenging context of our company's growth and ambitions."

Castle Metals Ltd – UK
enquiries@amcastle.com
www.castlemetalseurope.com

Performance of polymer lined pipes in sour hydrocarbon service

A joint industry project (JIP) has been launched between Swagelining Ltd, Saudi Aramco and The Welding Institute (TWI) to conduct investigations into the use of polymer lining in carbon steel pipelines. The project will examine the extent of corrosion incurred in a polymer-lined pipeline when subjected to a sour hydrocarbon fluid environment.

Between the three parties, a total of £330,000 has been invested into the project, which commenced in October 2014 and is expected to last 30 months.

Dr Steve Brogden, technical engineering manager at Swagelining Ltd, said, "We are delighted to be working closely with Saudi Aramco and TWI on this JIP. When compared with corrosion resistant alloys, polymer lining systems are attracting growing interest within the pipeline industry. This comes as a result of significant cost advantages, increased corrosion prevention and reduced fabrication and installation time. All three parties felt that it was time to build upon this interest and demonstrate concrete evidence of how polymer lining can perform under a range of conditions."

The project is divided into two parts. Part A, sponsored by Swagelining and Saudi Aramco, will use applied testing on lined pipe sections to determine the corrosion rate during simulated service conditions for 180 days. This section of the JIP will also look at the occurrence of liner collapse during multiple pressure cycles, and how this can be prevented by implementing an internally vented system, which will be represented by Swagelining's LinerVent™.

Part B is funded by TWI and will look to gain an understanding of the transport processes through the partially confined polymeric layer. TWI's diverse expertise means that it is able to deal with all of the material components of the project.

The JIP has plans for further growth, achieved through sponsorship and involvement from other organisations, which will allow additional, more extensive testing of higher temperature polymeric and composite liners.

Dr Brogden added, "We hope to attract input from further parties which can add value to this JIP, particularly in the latter stages as we look to perform

tests under strenuous conditions. As the offshore oil and gas industry continues to move into more hazardous and extreme environments, it is critical that we demonstrate how polymer lining systems can continue to be used."

Paul Woollin, director of research at TWI, said, "There is appreciable interest in the use of polymer-lined pipe for affordable corrosion-resistant hydrocarbon production. Currently, there is a lack of supporting integrity data, in particular for sour fluids, to provide sufficient confidence for widespread use. TWI's JIP specifically aims to address the primary issues from an industry perspective, namely the enduring concern of 'liner collapse' and risk of corrosion of the carbon steel pipe. Supporting work in the TWI Core Research Programme aims to underpin the JIP by providing a fundamental understanding of both the time-dependent alteration in the polymer layer and processes occurring at the polymer-carbon steel interface."

Swagelining Ltd – UK
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Axis Pipe and Tube receives API certifications

Operations have commenced at Axis Pipe and Tube's Texas Triangle Park facility in Bryan, Texas, USA. The new 283-acre, fully integrated facility includes a slitting line, mill and finishing floor.

Production encompasses a wide range of electric resistance welded API energy tubular products, including OCTG and line pipe, in diameters up to 16" with wall thicknesses up to 0.625", as well as standard and structural pipe and tube capabilities. The heat treatment and threading facilities continue on schedule

and are due to begin operation by the end of 2015.

Officials also announced final audit completion, approval and receipt of American Petroleum Institute (API) certifications API-5CT, API 5L and API Spec Q1, as well as ISO: 9001(2008). These certifications demonstrate commitment to quality management systems and standards, and will provide Axis customers with verified high-quality pipe and tube products for the energy industry and construction markets.

Axis Pipe and Tube, a Prolamsa Group company, was formed in 2013 to build and operate the pipe and tubular products manufacturing facility in Bryan, Texas. An investment in excess of \$150mn has been made in the highly automated facility, anticipated to generate direct employment for more than 285 people upon reaching its full 300,000+ ton production capacity.

Axis Pipe and Tube, Inc – USA
www.axispipeandtube.com

Innovator of the year

Sandvik in Chomutov, Czech Republic, has been announced as the winner of the prestigious award Best Innovator of the year in the Czech Republic.

Sandvik received the prize in the large companies category.

The award acknowledges the innovation process of companies, where the jury looks into the way of working and driving innovation, how innovative the organisation is and the engagement for driving innovations among the employees.

"We are pleased that the jury recognised our company's attitude and mind-set towards innovations. We would not be able to defend our position on the market without a strong innovation culture," said Jiri Polman, managing director of the Chomutov product unit.

At the site in Chomutov, stainless steel umbilical tubes for the oil and gas industry are manufactured. Having supplied more than 100mn metres (300mn feet) of umbilical tubing to the offshore oil and gas industry, Sandvik

is well known among fabricators and oil companies for its reliable, lightweight and corrosion-resistant tubes.

Sandvik Materials Technology develops and manufactures products in advanced stainless steels and special alloys for demanding environments, as well as products and systems for industrial heating.

Sandvik Materials Technology – Sweden
www.smt.sandvik.com

Quanta selected for Line 78 Pipeline Project

Price Gregory International, a Quanta Services company, has been selected by Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership for the Line 78 Pipeline Project. Price Gregory's scope of work includes the construction and installation of approximately 79 miles of new 36"-diameter crude oil mainline pipe, which will begin at Enbridge's Flanagan Terminal near Pontiac, Illinois, USA, and travel northeast to Enbridge's terminal near Griffith, Indiana.

In addition, Price Gregory was selected to build and install the pumping station for Line 78 at the Flanagan Terminal and to make modifications to the Griffith

terminal. Construction of the Flanagan pumping station and modifications of the Griffith terminal began in late 2014. Completion of the Line 78 pipeline is anticipated in the autumn of this year.

Quanta Services is a specialised contracting services company, delivering infrastructure solutions for the electric power and oil and gas industries. The company's services include designing, installing, repairing and maintaining energy infrastructure. In certain markets Quanta licenses fibre optic telecommunications infrastructure, offers lit network management services and provides related design,

procurement, construction and maintenance services.

The company continues to have a positive outlook for the North American mainline market. Oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids mainline projects in various stages of development throughout North America should move forward as they obtain regulatory approvals, and Quanta is in active discussions with various customers about many of these projects.

Quanta Services, Inc – USA
info@quantaservices.com
www.quantaservices.com

Tubltaly 2015

Tubltaly 2015 will take place from 20 to 22 May at the fairgrounds of Piacenza Expo, Italy. After positive results of the first event, Tubltaly has set more ambitious targets to further establish the importance of a sector with a strong international character.

The event will show the best of tubes, valves, rods, pipes, profiles and technologies for their production and processing. The slogan chosen for this year's promotional event, 'Piping all forms of energy, we nourish life',

emphasises the fundamental role of pipes and pipelines and everything that turns around them; travelling underground or hundreds of metres below sea level, they transport the resources that are part of our everyday life, such as water, gas or oil.

The decision to bring the event forward to May will allow Tubltaly visitors to take advantage of another exhibition: EXPO 2015. With close proximity to Milan, Tubltaly will benefit from the strong international appeal of EXPO,

and this will help to increase the number of visitors to the exhibition in Piacenza in order to find the main players in the sector of tubes, pipes and profiles.

The exhibition is supported by Federacciai, Istituto Italiano del Rame, Fondazione Promozione Acciaio, and CTI.

Piacenza Expo SpA – Italy
commerciale@piacenzaexpo.it
www.tubltaly.it

Mexican spiral pipe manufacturer

Schuler has received a major order for delivery of a spiral pipe machine, from a manufacturer of steel pipes in Mexico. Tuberías Procarsa will use the off-line machine to produce large pipes with diameters from 508 to 2,235mm (20" to 88") and lengths from 12 to

24.4m. The pipes will mainly be used for building pipelines in oil and gas extraction.

The input stock for the large pipes is a coil-wound strip up to 25.4mm (1") thick, comprising high-grade steel

(up to X100). The spiral pipe machine forms this material into the required pipe diameter and connects the edges by tack welding.

Schuler AG – Germany
www.schulergroup.com

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Primetals receives FAC for heat treatment plant

Primetals Technologies has received the final acceptance certificate (FAC) from Borusan Mannesmann Pipe US for a heat treatment plant installed in the company's new ERW (electric resistance welded) pipe mill in Baytown, Texas, USA.

The equipment is used to quench and temper oil country tubular grades, enabling Borusan Mannesmann to produce a wide range of products for the competitive OCTG market.

The Baytown facility is a subsidiary of the Turkish steel pipe producer Borusan

Mannesmann Boru, and is the first Turkish-owned plant in the USA.

Primetals Technologies supplied FCE – F&D Furnace Technologies quenching and tempering equipment, including a direct-fired, walking beam austenitising furnace; a high-pressure water spray quench system; a convective, walking beam tempering furnace; all associated material handling equipment; all necessary instrumentation; and a PLC control system. The services included engineering, delivery, installation, and commissioning of the heat treatment plant.

Borusan Mannesmann, a major steel pipe manufacturer in Europe, now has a major facility in the USA. It provides products such as gas pipes, water pipes, general-purpose pipes, boiler pipes, construction pipes and profiles, industrial pipes and profiles, and large diameter pipes used in infrastructure projects such as water, gas, and oil transmission lines, as well as concrete pump pipes, oil pipes and sprinkler pipes.

The company supplies products for the fields of energy, construction, automotive, installation, white goods and furniture manufacturing, and for various national and international water, oil and gas pipeline projects.

Primetals Technologies is an engineering, plant-building and lifecycle partner for the metals industry. The company offers a complete technology, product and service portfolio that includes integrated electrics, automation and environmental solutions. This covers every step of the iron and steel production chain that extends from the raw materials to the finished product, in addition to the latest rolling solutions for the non-ferrous metals sector.

Primetals Technologies Ltd – UK
www.primetals.com



Borusan's new mill in Baytown, Texas, produces tube and pipe products for the growing oil and gas industry

EC approval to divest steel service centres

SSAB has received approval from the European Commission to sell Naantali steel service centre in Finland, Halmstad steel service centre in Sweden, and 50 per cent of the shares in Norsk Stål Tynnplater AS (NST) to Tata Steel in Europe.

The transactions are part of the divestment remedies that the EC deemed necessary for the combination of Rautaruukki with SSAB. SSAB has now received approval regarding the divestments of all those remedies required for the combination. The transactions are still subject to the

approval of national competition authorities, and have only a limited impact on SSAB's financial results.

In July 2014 SSAB received the European Commission's approval for the combination with Rautaruukki.

The approval was conditional on a commitment by SSAB to divest the following assets within what was then its Nordic Steel Distribution system and Finnish construction business: one steel service centre in Sweden (Halmstad) and one in Finland (Naantali), Tibnor Oy in Finland (a wholly owned subsidiary of

Tibnor AB), the 50 per cent ownership interest in each of Norsk Stål AS and Norsk Stål Tynnplater AS in Norway and Plannja Oy in Finland (a wholly owned subsidiary of Plannja AB).

As a result of the transaction, Tata Steel's ownership of NST will increase to 100 per cent. Employees in the Naantali and Halmstad service centres and in NST will continue on unchanged employment terms and conditions.

SSAB AB – Sweden
info@ssab.com
www.ssab.com

Sekisui SPR completes restructuring in Europe

After changing the names and the branding of its eastern European construction firms last year, Sekisui SPR is implementing the final step in its restructuring plan.

This has involved fusing the production, sales and engineering divisions, as well as the construction firms, into two subsidiaries.

The sales and engineering departments and the technology production companies have been working in cooperation for years. At the end of 2014 they were merged under Sekisui SPR Europe GmbH as part of the reorganisation process.

In this step, Sekisui NordiTube Technologies SE, KMG LinerTec GmbH and SPR TEC Europe GmbH became part of Sekisui SPR Europe GmbH.

All the construction firms are now part of Sekisui SPR Construction. The new Sekisui SPR Germany GmbH was created from KMG Pipe Technologies GmbH and Sekisui SPR Bavaria GmbH.

All restructured companies will continue business as before, with the same personnel, equipment, expertise and production locations.

As a result of the reorganisation, all subsidiaries of the group now bear the SPR logo. The aim of the reorganisation process is to concentrate resources, simplify the group's structure and increase efficiency.

The resulting advantages in the field of pipe inspection and rehabilitation are available to the rehabilitation market along with an extensive product and services portfolio.

Sekisui SPR in Europe is part of the Sekisui SPR Group, headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. Sekisui SPR combines the trenchless pipe rehabilitation expertise of Sekisui Chemical Co Ltd with entities in Europe, America and Asia Pacific.

The global team of experts covers all services in the pipe rehabilitation sector: cleaning and inspection, design, installation and maintenance of networks.

Sekisui SPR has a comprehensive portfolio of technologies for the rehabilitation of water, sewage and gas networks, such as spiral-wound pipe lining, cured-in-place-pipe and the fold-and-form method.

Sekisui SPR Europe GmbH – Germany
www.sekisuispr.com



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Progress is Life

Expanding operations in the Far East

UK-based Fine Tubes and Superior Tube of the USA, manufacturers and suppliers of precision tubes for critical applications, have signed a two-year contract with Fusoh Aviation Co, Ltd to act as its distribution partner in Japan for the aerospace and space sectors.

Fine Tubes and Superior Tube see significant growth potential in the Japanese aerospace and space markets and, having worked successfully with Fusoh on an ad-hoc basis in recent years, were keen to establish a formal partnership. Fusoh Aviation's client base features a number of global aerospace manufacturers, as well as Japan's MOD and coast guard.

The initial agreement is limited to aerospace and space applications, but could be extended to cover other markets, including nuclear, in the future.

Paul Mallett, aerospace product manager, commented, "We're delighted to have concluded this agreement with Fusoh. Our immediate focus is on growing our aerospace client base in Japan but we believe the potential is there for further cooperation to help us expand our business in the country across other markets."

Both Fine Tubes and Superior Tube have a long record of manufacturing high performance titanium, stainless steel and nickel alloy tubes for some

of the world's most advanced civil and military aerospace projects. Designed for airframes, engines and flight surface actuation, the tubing supplied by the two companies is capable of withstanding some of the most critical conditions, including high pressures and high temperatures.

Fine Tubes Ltd – UK
sales@finetubes.com
www.finetubes.com

Superior Tube Company – USA
info@superiortube.com
www.superiortube.com

Fusoh Aviation Co, Ltd – Japan
www.fusoh-aviation.co.jp

DuroMaxx SRPE receives FDOT approval

Contech Engineered Solutions has received approval from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for 100-year pipe applications of steel reinforced polyethylene (SRPE).

DuroMaxx® SRPE represents a development in pipe construction that was pioneered internationally and recognised by Contech as combining the strength of steel with the durability of plastic. In the nearly seven years since its launch, DuroMaxx has

been used in municipal wastewater, irrigation, storm sewer, pipeline rehabilitation and other highly critical and demanding applications.

Contech's director of plastics, Bob Kerr, stated, "By developing a dependable and durable piping system and providing it at a cost point that allows our customers to do more with ever-shrinking budgets, Contech has truly delivered the next step in the evolution of pipe with DuroMaxx."

Headquartered in Ohio, USA, Contech Engineered Solutions provides site solution products and services for the civil engineering industry. Its product portfolio includes bridges, drainage, retaining walls, sanitary sewer, storm water, waste water, erosion control and soil stabilisation solutions.

Contech Engineered Solutions LLC – USA
www.conteches.com

Major contract to supply flexible pipes for Lula Alto pre-salt field

Technip has been awarded a contract from Tupi BV, a consortium composed of Petrobras Netherland BV, BG and Galp, for the ongoing development of the Lula Alto field, located in the Santos Basin pre-salt area, Brazil.

The contract covers the supply of around 200km of flexible pipes and associated equipment, including gas lift, gas and water injection, gas export and production lines. These flexible pipes are designed to meet pre-salt

challenges with water depths of up to 2,500m and high pressures.

Technip's operating centre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will perform the project management and engineering. The flexible pipes will be produced at the company's manufacturing sites of Vitoria and Açú, Brazil. Delivery is scheduled to start in the second half of 2015.

Adriano Novitsky, president of Technip in Brazil, commented, "Lula Alto is a major

project for Technip in Brazil. Its size contributes to improving even more the workload visibility of our manufacturing plants.

"In addition, the challenging technical requirements confirm again the suitability of flexible pipes to pre-salt developments and Technip's strong position in this domain."

Technip – France
www.technip.com

Sawyer improves ratchet clamp

Sawyer Manufacturing Company has redesigned its Ratchet Clamp with a lower profile to allow better access to the butt joint, helping welders effectively and quickly align and weld pipe. The ratchet mechanism has also been improved with a built-in handle and enclosed threads to protect against dirt and weld spatter, all while retaining the true double ratchet feature that allows for quicker closure on the pipe to increase speed and performance.

The Ratchet Clamp is built with a focus on speed and accuracy. The ten-ton ratchet can deliver precision and rugged durability with ease. The clamp is designed with an open bridgework to allow full 360° welding, ensuring a quality weld. The machined headrings are precision-bored for consistent and accurate fit up. The Ratchet Clamp's new yellow colour provides high visibility and improved safety.

"There are a lot of clamps out there," said Dave Hembree, Sawyer Manufacturing vice president. "I believe our customers

will be pleasantly surprised by the small but important changes we made with this clamp."

Sawyer Mfg Co has been manufacturing and designing welding and pipeline equipment since 1948. Equipment is designed, engineered and manufactured in the company's new facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA. Sawyer equipment

is used in the construction and maintenance of pipeline, waste water and sewer lines, marine and offshore applications, gathering and distribution systems, and other welding and pipeline applications.

Sawyer Mfg Co – USA
sales@sawyeremfg.com
www.sawyeremfg.com



Universal squaring turk's head

OLIMPIA 80 Tube Mills has engineered and put into operation a universal squaring turk's head in a tube mill installed in Spain. The main capacity of the installed machine is from 20x20 (30x10) mm to 70x70 (100x40) mm, in a thickness range from 0.8 to 4mm.

The complete tube mill can produce tubes with special steel quality, up to TS 1,400 MPa. With this system the tube mill will produce the full tube range (square and rectangular shapes) without changing a single roll in the sizing turk's head stands.

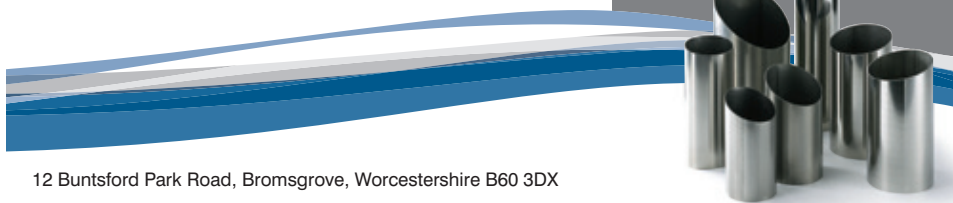
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Suppliers of High Quality Stainless Steel Tubing

TMK and Rusnano expand high-tech pipe production

TMK, a producer of tubular products, and Rusnano Corporation are running a joint project at TMK's Seversky pipe plant to expand the production of high-tech pipe with improved performance for the oil and gas industry.

Rusnano has invested 5.5bn roubles in the project, and TMK's investment has amounted to at least 12.5bn roubles.

To execute the project, Rusnano acquired shares in TMK's additional

public offering, and now owns a 5.476 per cent share in the company. "The new project will help us expand the product range of oil and gas pipes that meet and often exceed the strictest international quality standards in terms of physical, chemical and geometrical properties," said Alexander Shiryayev, TMK CEO.

"The innovative pipes we produce at our Seversky pipe plant within the joint project with Rusnano can be used in adverse

climate and geological conditions, in horizontal and deep-hole drilling."

TMK manufactures and supplies steel pipes for the oil and gas industry, operating 28 production sites in the USA, Russia, Canada, Romania, Oman, UAE and Kazakhstan, and two R&D centres in Russia and the USA. In 2014 TMK's pipe shipments totalled 4.4mn tonnes.

TMK – Russia
www.tmk-group.com

Asahi/America welcomes new sales team member

Asahi/America, Inc has announced the addition of George Tenhagen to its sales team.

Mr Tenhagen, who will represent the company in Florida, Georgia and Alabama, USA, graduated from the University of South Florida with a bachelor's of science in environmental engineering. For the past 15 years he has been area manager of facilities engineering at a theme park in Tampa, Florida. He has been an active member of Aquatic Animal Life Support Operators (AALSO), serving as an executive board

member for 12 years including two terms as president and treasurer. He is also a licensed professional engineer in the state of Florida.

Asahi/America specialises in providing solutions for fluid handling systems, individualised to meet customers' needs. The company manufactures corrosion-resistant thermoplastic fluid handling products, including valves, actuators, pipe and fittings. It also maintains an extensive custom fabrication department, and provides on-site consultation, supervision and training where required.



George Tenhagen

Asahi/America, Inc – USA
asahi@asahi-america.com
www.asahi-america.com

Xiris signs agent for Korea

Xiris Automaton has signed JSNT Corp as the exclusive distributor of Xiris products for the tube and pipe industry in Korea.

The agreement enables JSNT to distribute and support Xiris products with immediate focus on the WI2000p post weld inspection system, used to detect quality issues related to the tube welding and forming process.

JSNT Corp, a distributor of non-destructive testing and inspection equipment to the tube, pipe and steel industries, has more than 20

years of experience providing testing and inspection solutions for the steel fabrication industry, and brings experience in consulting, service and sales of leading edge technology.

In entering into this relationship with JSNT Corp, Cameron Serles, president of Xiris Automation explained, "We are excited to work with the top distributor of NDT and inspection equipment in Korea, JSNT Corp. They share our values of a high level of commitment to ensuring customer satisfaction and continuous improvement of technical knowledge."

In choosing to work with Xiris, JY Park, president, said, "We wanted to work with Xiris because they offer high quality inspection equipment that complements our testing systems as solutions to our common customers in the tube, pipe and steel industries, helping them improve the level of quality of their end products."

Xiris specialises in developing optical equipment used for process and quality control across a number of industries.

Xiris Automation Inc – Canada
sales@xiris.com
www.xiris.com

Buhlmann focuses on North America business

The internationally operating Buhlmann Group recently established Buhlmann North America LP, an independent subsidiary in Houston, Texas, USA.

The business is already present in more than 27 locations in 19 countries worldwide.

With stand-alone subsidiaries in many parts of Europe and Asia, the

distributor of steel pipes, fittings and flanges is always close to the customer. By expanding to North America the objective is to strengthen the position in the US market and to explore new sales potentials.

“The new location in Houston enables us to not only be close to our customers, but to react fast and more specific to the requirements of the market,” said Robert

Bresser, managing director of Buhlmann North America LP. The office of the new subsidiary is located in The Woodlands business location, close to Houston. Many oil ventures, research institutes and other globally engaged companies are also located in this area.

Buhlmann North America LP – USA
unitedstates@buhlmann-group.com
www.buhlmann-group.com

Optimised steel making

Kanto Steel Ltd has signed off on performance savings for the supply and purchase of an EFSOP® Holistic Optimization System that was commissioned in the spring 2014. The EFSOP system was installed at the EAF#1 ‘top charged’ 90t furnace at the

Kanto steel plant in Tsuchiura, Ibaraki, Japan.

Consumption savings attained during the project lifecycle were electrical 0.5 per cent, oxygen 8 per cent, kerosene 20 per cent, and an increase in yield

of 0.5 per cent. Overall consumption savings reached were slightly more than 190JPY/t.

Tenova Goodfellow Inc – Canada
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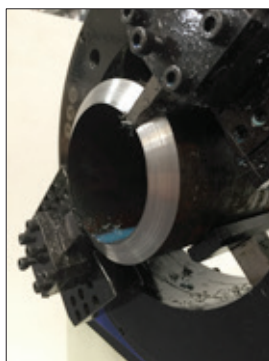
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Combined expertise around steel tube production

From rollforming to testing and sawing to a smooth transport system and everything from one source. That was the aim for companies Dreistern, Trumpf, Sema Systemtechnik, Foerster, RSA, Wafios, Fehr, Scheffer and Kluthe at the Tube Innovation Days. Taking place at the RSA showroom in Kunshan,

near Shanghai, China, customers and interested parties were able to ask for comprehensive advice on the whole process chain of the manufacture and processing of tubes.

The steel tube industry is growing worldwide at a rapid rate and China, the

world's largest steel tube producer, has a market share of more than 50 per cent with a high export share. In particular, the export to Western countries with the related standards calls for a high quality of tubes. To meet these demands, efficient and competent partners are needed. Therefore, it was logical for all parties involved that the first Tube Innovation Days took place in China.

Nine high-tech German companies combined their expertise at the event and this specialist network guarantees the customer an optimum design of its production and processing.

From the first to the last stage the customer benefits not only from the core competence of the individual companies but also from their close collaboration: individual processes and interfaces are coordinated for the entire production chain. This means that the customer gets a solution that is tailored to its requirements throughout the entire process.

RSA – Germany
www.rsa.de



Nine leading German companies took part in the Tube Innovation Days

European Plastics Distributors Association highlights membership benefits

The European Plastics Distributors Association (EPDA), which represents members from more than 20 countries throughout Europe, has launched an international promotional campaign to highlight the benefits of joining.

The association, which was formed in 1973, represents companies involved in a cross section of distribution activities encompassing plastic sheet, blocks, rods, profiles, tubes, pipe, valves, fittings and numerous related activities.

To drive forward the campaign, EPDA has made a number of external appointments to manage the work, comprising an international events

management company and a European PR agency. As part of the changes, a programme of membership activities is being developed, the highlight of which will be a three-day conference in Barcelona in June. The event will include international keynote speakers, networking and socialising activities.

A major manufacturing plant visit for members is also planned in the autumn to showcase some of the latest advances in plastic manufacturing. One of the key targets for membership is the next generation of young leaders, and these are being targeted through an integrated PR and marketing campaign, following the appointment of a specialist

business-to-business agency. EPDA is keen to also highlight the technical know-how and publications available from the publishing and resource library that was established to support members. The association has also formed an alliance agreement with the IAPD (International Association of Plastics Distribution), which provides members with access to IAPD resources – including educational and training support as well as helpful documents – at a preferential pay-as-you-go rate.

European Plastics Distribution Association – UK
info@epda.com
www.epda.com

'Full-supply' riser for North Sea customer

Weld overlay cladding specialist Arc Energy Resources has completed a contract for the supply of two riser joints for offshore solutions provider Aquaterra Energy.

The components are part of two low-pressure risers for an oil platform. The finished risers were destined for a set of twenty wells being drilled in the North Sea off the coast of Norway.

It is a new development for a low-pressure section of pipes to deal with any drill fluids and shallow gas that they may encounter while drilling the first top-hole section of a well. Commenting for Arc Energy Resources, director Andrew Robinson said, "This project played well to our core strengths, a full supply contract for which we secured the material for both components (a flange and pipe for each), applied the weld overlay cladding, welded the flanges to the pipes, organised the pressure testing, completed radiographic testing requirements and arranged final coating of both items, all within a very tight delivery schedule."

The project is a DNV class rig, designed to the DNV0SE101 code, and was signed off by Det Norske Veritas as suitably manufactured and designed for the task. Aquaterra Energy project engineer Matt Hugo commented, "DNV is one of the oil and gas industry's largest verification bodies, which confirms calculations that pipe wall thickness and flanges are sufficient for the pressure. For this project they also undertook a review of the overall design of this section of pipe."

The component acts as a conduit for drilling fluids and equipment during the top-hole section and ensures that in the event of gas passing up through the well it can be contained and routed to the rig diverter, where it can be vented to atmosphere. The risers need to have a sealing ring groove in the end of the flange, which is inlaid with an extremely hard, corrosion-resistant Inconel 625 alloy.

As Aquaterra Energy has previously used Arc Energy Resources for specialist welding requirements, it approached the company again with a view to provide full supply of materials, and to carry out all required welding, inlaying of the flange, testing and coating.

Arc Energy Resources sourced the machined flanges and clad with Inconel 625, before completing the welding requirements for the project using submerged arc welding to provide a high quality finish. Once welded, the parts were pressure tested. Domed end caps were welded onto the straight pipe lengths, and both joints were sealed together through adjoining flange faces to form a complete vessel.

Arc Energy Resources – UK
sales@arcenergy.co.uk
www.arcenergy.co.uk

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- Thai Electrical, Electronics and Telecommunication Industries Association
- Association of Thai Steel Industries

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#09-02 HarbourFront Tower Two
Singapore 099254
Tel (65) 6332 9620 _ Fax (65) 6337 4633
tube@mda.com.sg



EPIC Piping announces executive management team

EPIC Piping has announced the executive management team that will be responsible for driving growth at its two facilities under construction. This leadership team will also drive the future international expansion of EPIC Piping.

David Chapman, Sr will lead the company as chief executive officer. Mr Chapman has been in the manufacturing and fabrication industry for over 45 years, managing the pipe and steel fabrication and distribution divisions for several global industry leaders. He will be responsible for managing business and operational strategies across the entire organisation.

Kent Shepherd joins the company as president of domestic fabrication. Mr

Shepherd is an executive with more than 26 years of Fortune 500 experience in the pipe and steel fabrication industry. President of international fabrication Remi Bonnacaze is an executive with over 27 years of Fortune 500 experience in the pipe and steel fabrication industry.

Tom Calamia joins the company as chief financial officer. Mr Calamia will oversee and implement EPIC Piping's financial reporting and structure, and oversee the company's future financial growth. Chief administrative officer and CIO Jeremy Turner will oversee and implement EPIC Piping's information technology systems and human resource operations.

"We are excited to be the fastest growing fabricator in the world and we

envision EPIC Piping becoming the gold standard in the piping and manufacturing industry," said Mr Chapman.

"Our management team will ensure that the highest standards are maintained as we grow domestically and internationally," he added.

EPIC's total fabrication capacity currently exceeds 360,000ft², and will expand to more than 500,000ft² by 2016. Fabrication capabilities include carbon steel, chrome moly, stainless, Duplex steels, nickel-based alloys and jacketed piping.

EPIC Piping – USA
contact@epicpiping.com
www.epicpiping.com

Zhejiang Kingland puts spiral pipe production into operation

Zhejiang Kingland Pipe Industry, based in Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province, China, has successfully commissioned a spiral pipe plant supplied by PWS. With its use of 'PERFECT® arc', the plant meets Ecoplants criteria in terms of sustainability, and offers energy savings of up to 30 per cent, along with increased productivity.

The plant consists of a spiral pipe forming and tack-welding machine for forming and pre-welding hot rolled steel strip, and three downstream offline finish-welding stands. It has a capacity of 200,000 tons per year, but can be extended by a fourth finish-welding stand to increase capacity to 260,000 tons.

The newly developed Perfect arc welding current sources are used for the welding machinery. No transformers are required – the systems are operated using IGBT (insulated-gate bipolar transistor) power electronics, with the welding current completely digitally controlled.

As a result, the welding machines can attain an efficiency rate of over 90 per cent.

Another benefit is the reduced transfer of heat into the pipe. For this purpose, the process parameters are adapted for each individual welding wire, in order to prevent unnecessary heat being transferred into the pipe material. This is particularly important for high-strength steels.

Zhejiang Kingland uses its offline spiral pipe welding plant to produce pipes to API 5-L PS2 standard, with an outside diameter of 508 to 1,626mm (20" to 64"), wall thicknesses of 6.35 to 25.4mm (¼" to 1"), and lengths of 8 to 12.5m. The plant processes high-strength steels up to API grade X100.



PWS GmbH – Germany
pws@sms-pws.com
www.sms-pws.com

Stainless steel tube factory

International Industries Limited (IIL), a producer of GI pipes, API pipes, cold rolled tubes, polyethylene and PPR C pipes, is planning to commission a stainless steel tube factory in Karachi, Pakistan, and a large diameter tube mill by mid-2015. The company has also incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary in Australia: IIL Australia Pty Ltd.

IIL Stainless Steel Tubes will initially cater to the needs of ornamental and auto sectors for various applications by manufacturing austenitic and ferritic series in conformance with the ASTM A-554 international standard.

In addition, the company is setting up a 12" diameter API and structural pipe mill. This mill is expected to cater to the growing demand of gas companies and the construction sector in the region.

IIL, which has 50 years of pipe manufacturing experience, also participated in BORU 2015, in Turkey.

International Industries Ltd – Pakistan
inquiries@iil.com.pk
www.iil.com.pk

Precision pipe measurement

THE production of natural gas through fracking has helped the laser specialist LAP to achieve its position in the US market for high-precision pipe measurement. Purchasers include pipe manufacturers that are suppliers to the fracking companies. The laser systems allow them to ensure the required consistently high pipe quality. A further important market segment is the revitalised American construction industry, which is showing increasing willingness to invest. The US aircraft industry also has full order books and relies on laser projection for optimisation.

LAP USA has supplied more than 50 RDMS systems for the measurement of pipe profiles in the USA and Canada so far. "We have thus achieved a leading market position in this sector in North America," said Karsten Hofmann, president of the LAP subsidiary in the USA. "In order to meet the increasing demand for the Straightness Check system for measuring the straightness of pipes as well, we have already added four employees to our sales team."

LAP systems optimise quality in pipe production. The laser systems of LAP are particularly used by manufacturers who produce pipes for fracking companies.

LAP GmbH Laser Applikationen – Germany/USA
www.lap-laser.com

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FlexTech in double contract win

Flexible pipe specialist FlexTech had an encouraging start to 2015 by securing contracts worth in excess of £250,000.

The projects, with two oil and gas majors, will take place both on- and offshore, supporting operations in the UK and the North Sea. FlexTech will execute flexible pipe and flexible pipe integrity work, covering offshore annulus testing and onshore life extension of flexible and subsea assets.

FlexTech engineering director Craig Keyworth commented, "The contracts separately cover two- and three-year service agreements with clients who the team has previously worked with, representing a solid commitment from our customers. In the current market, relationship building is imperative, and at FlexTech we strive to offer significant advantages to our clients."

The company, which was established in 2013 and has bases in Aberdeen and Lincolnshire, UK, offers a complete

full life cycle experience, from project inception to decommission and disposal. Its core business is the delivery of flexible pipe and riser engineering projects, offloading systems and integrity management and inspection. It also has a range of products designed to facilitate ease of installation, ensure operational integrity and prolong the life of the flexible in field.

FlexTech currently has a team of 12 subsea and marine specialists, and aims to add a further five employees within the next 12 months. Its management team has more than 50 years' combined experience in the oil and gas industry.

Flextech Ltd – UK
info@flex-tech.co.uk
www.flex-tech.co.uk

Craig Keyworth, FlexTech's engineering director



Russian API grade pipe producer selects ThermoTool

A ThermoTool three-stage (1,500kW) seam annealing system has been selected by a Russian producer of API grade pipe.

The latest ThermoTool seam annealing technology will be delivered by Inductotherm Heating & Welding Ltd, with commissioning and service support provided locally by Inductotherm Group Russia engineers.

Hundreds of ThermoTool seam annealers are used to produce API line pipe and casing products around the world. The Russian producer is assured of no untempered martensite in the weld HAZ and optimised weld section Charpy impact results for demanding material applications. The precision automated carriage positioning system allows all three heat stations to be quickly

adjusted to position the inductors over the seam of the pipe, both laterally and orbitally, to ensure maximum yield and minimised scrap created after a mill stop. Power is provided by ThermoTool's Variable Inductance Power (VIP) power supply technology.

VIP induction power supplies provide optimised matching to thin and heavy wall API pipe, and each power supply can be independently controlled from a single central console.

Inductotherm Heating & Welding Ltd
– UK
info@inductothermhw.co.uk
www.inductothermhw.com

Inductotherm Group Russia
info@inductotherm.ru
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SSP appoints TGT as service centre

SSP, a manufacturer of instrumentation valves, tube fittings and tubing, has appointed Tulsa Gas Technologies (TGT) as the first CNG Plus™ Service Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA. CNG Plus Service Centers provide local support to contractors. Construction services include assistance with bid preparation, training, equipment rental, and material supply for above ground and underground interconnect piping needed to build a CNG (compressed natural gas) station.

“We had a great inaugural year in 2014, but need to move even faster for contractors building CNG stations,” commented Gregg Lennon, CNG Plus application engineer for SSP. “Tom Sewell at Tulsa Gas Technologies (TGT) was an early supporter of the new materials and methods we introduced, and urged us to find ways of making them available quicker and without the expense of less than truckload (LTL) shipments from Ohio.



“Tom and TGT were not only the inspiration, but also a willing partner with SSP. Tulsa Gas Technologies has 24 years of experience building stations around the world. Being able to provide CNG Plus tooling, training and materials is a logical extension for their business.”

CNG station owners will benefit from lower installation costs, staged tooling

and in-stock tubing. “SSP is helping us minimise waste and reduce construction time from days to hours with products such as 5,500 PSI ¾" coiled tubing, valves and fittings,” stated Tom Sewell, president of Tulsa Gas Technologies.

SSP – USA
customer.inquiries@mysspusa.com
www.mysspusa.com

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www.hammerschmid.at

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If you have any further questions, please contact Jacqueline Hammerschmid.
e-mail: jacqueline.hammerschmid@hammerschmid.at

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products & developments

Installation of Logstor PlateJoint in Lisbjerg

Increasing the durability and service life of district heating networks

By upgrading the quality of steel pipes that constitute the core of a district heating (DH) pipe system, and further developing weld joints in the form of a Logstor PlateJoint for the largest pipe dimensions, Logstor has taken another step towards increasing the service life in supply networks for DH stations. A service life of 30 years is required by standard, but the expected service life is now 50 years or more.

The P235GH steel quality has been tested and documented for use at higher temperatures. During 2015 Logstor will convert to a new standard, supplying pre-insulated pipes with steel pipes in quality P235GH for the entire range of dimensions.

The transmission pipes are the 'highways' of the DH network. Even

a minor interruption here has huge consequences for many, if not all, consumers of the DH company. The pipes must work without interruption, 24 hours a day, each day of the year. High quality joints in the pre-insulated pipes, while welding and installing casing joints on-site, is essential.

Logstor has constantly developed its casing joint systems, aiming to produce a casing joint with the same strength as the pipes it joins. For large dimensions, with casing pipes of 780mm and larger, the company has introduced the next-generation Logstor PlateJoint.

The PlateJoint is produced from an extruded HDPE plate, and can therefore be supplied as a plate, which makes handling during transportation and installation easier.

Installation is simpler and faster, conducted as a one-unit procedure, where casing joint and outer casing are welded by means of a computer-controlled process. The quality process is recorded and digitally documented. PlateJoint meets the technical requirements specified in the standard for casing joints for DH pipes.

Logstor PlateJoint has been chosen for the Lisbjerg pipeline project, near Aarhus in Denmark. This involves a 10km transmission line with OD 800/1,000mm to connect a new CHP plant to the DH network in Aarhus. The project was initiated in 2014 and will be completed in 2016.

Logstor A/S – Denmark
logstor@logstor.com
www.logstor.com

SUDS defences for UK property development

Asset International, a water management solutions company, has provided CJL Construction with specified soakaway systems for a new housing development in Exeter, UK. Asset supplied 75 soakaway systems for the development on the city's Topsham Road, in order to consistently manage the site's water infiltration.

The bespoke soakaway systems utilise a variety of Weholite pipe sizes to suit the SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) requirements on site. The pipes range from 1 to 3.5m in diameter. The soakaway systems are designed to prevent flooding and over-saturation of the land on which the new housing estate is built. The project is still underway due to the large amount of soakaway systems required across the 25-acre site, which will contain 450 new properties.

After working with CJL Construction on various housing schemes, Asset International was chosen to provide the SUDS systems for this project as the Weholite pipes are able to be installed in one complete section, as opposed to alternatives that are supplied in multiple segments to suit the required conditions.

Robin Milliner from CJL Construction commented, "Weholite was the ideal

choice of pipe for our soakaway systems at the Topsham Road site due to it being lightweight and fast to install. We pride ourselves on building housing developments that are well protected against the elements and Asset has played a vital part in making this possible."

Darren Williams, technical sales engineer at Asset, said, "Soakaway systems are an excellent way of reliably and steadily managing the amount of water

on site at any given period, avoiding flash flood episodes due to saturated ground. Weholite is an excellent tool in this regard, not only from an ongoing performance perspective, but the fact that our pipes can be installed in one complete section means that there is a significant reduction in installation time."

Asset International Ltd – UK
sales@weholite.co.uk
www.weholite.co.uk



Asset International supplied soakaway systems for the development in Exeter, UK

Cast polyurethane production

Pieffe was founded in 1947 as a manufacturer of technical items made of rubber for the automotive and motorcycle sectors.

The company has concentrated its core business on cast polyurethane, creating a series of production lines ranging from very low hardness polyurethane (5/10 shore 'A') to higher hardness levels (85/90 shore 'D').

The flexibility of the company's production plants allows it to produce polyurethane small parts, as well as large and complex manufactured items, from small-scale production (starting from single prototypes) to large-scale.

Pieffe's production also includes the polyurethane coating of wheels, rollers, cylinders and drums of any hardness and colour, with dimensions up to 1,250mm in diameter and 5,000mm in length. With a modern and well-equipped mechanical department, the company is capable of supplying such items inclusive of cores and metallic parts.

The company recently installed a new line for the coating of rollers, cylinders and drums using a wide range of elastomers. The plant, which operates alongside the established PU coating line, has been developed using the latest technological advances, and is capable of coating rollers up to 1,500mm in

diameter, and lengths up to 5,500mm. Pieffe's warehouse features a wide range of semi-finished materials, such as square sections, plates and constant thickness centrifuged sheets.

Pipes, rods and plates of any dimension are produced on request. Pipes and flanged curved elements used in the transportation of highly abrasive and sharp materials are produced with the company's polyurethane products. Noise reduction has been achieved by the integral polyurethane coating provided.

Pieffe Srl – Italy
info@pieffepur.it
www.pieffesrl.com

100-year life expectancy for polyolefin sewer pipes

"Polyolefin sewer pipe systems have a service lifetime expectancy of at least 100 years." This is the conclusion of a two-year project commissioned by TEPPFA and independently scrutinised by Professor Heinz Dragaun from the Technical School for higher education (TGM) in Vienna.

The project involved the excavation of many samples from in-service pipe networks that were tested and assessed under meticulous laboratory conditions. The results of the analysis and findings of this work are expected to influence those sewer operators faced with major capital investment in new or replacement networks.

Most European countries have some degree of antiquated sewer networks. They not only leak and lack performance, but also need to be modernised or replaced. Life expectancy is a critical factor in any investment decision. Polyolefin (polypropylene and polyethylene) systems have been used widely for over 40 years, and offer a long-term solution. While the life expectancy of polyolefin pipes has been discussed for many years, a definitive conclusion has not previously been determined.

Tony Calton, TEPPFA's general manager, commented on the project's outcome: "Designers, owners and operators of sewer networks can now be confident that these sewer systems will have an in-service life of at least 100 years when materials, products and installation

practices meet the appropriate requirements.

"The outcome is also vitally important for material suppliers, pipe manufacturers and contractors working closely with the sewer market. Clearly it will lend further appeal and allow polyolefin sewer pipes to be specified with increased confidence as they perform consistently throughout their very long asset life."

Conditions set out by the project team were rigorous and relied on long-term real-time data. For instance, tests included the excavation of pipes that had already been in use for up to 40 per cent of the proposed in-service lifetime. These tests demonstrated that no excessive deterioration or degradation had occurred over this time.

Mr Calton noted that "although the oldest excavated pipes were manufactured using 'first generation' material formulations, a residual lifetime of more than 50 years was calculated. And we should also bear in mind that current formulations offer even greater lifetime performance than those earlier materials."

Other key factors were investigated throughout the duration of the project, but these were found not to adversely affect life expectancy. These included the chemical composition of the sewer water, the temperature profile of sewer flows and variations in the kind of installation practices used.

The influence of higher mechanical stress concentrations that are typically associated with structured wall pipe systems was also examined. The full technical report and a summary technical report are available on the TEPPFA website. A four-page leaflet outlining the project scope is also available through TEPPFA's company members and/or national association members.

The project was coordinated by TEPPFA in conjunction with LyondellBasell and Borealis, and independently reviewed by TGM (Austria). This work builds on earlier work carried out in 2008 by a major Dutch institute for technical research (TNO), which concluded that "the lifetime of PVC sewer pipes will exceed 100 years under most service conditions". Details of this work are also available on the TEPPFA website.

The European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association (TEPPFA) is a trade association representing manufacturers and national associations of plastics pipe systems in Europe. The British Plastics Federation (BPF) Pipes Group is a trade association representing manufacturers and material suppliers.

TEPPFA – Belgium
info@teppfa.eu
www.teppfa.eu

BPF Pipes Group – UK
info@plasticpipesgroup.com
www.plasticpipesgroup.com

Rationalisation by automation

Automation solutions are increasingly used in the fields of production and assembly. Walther-Präzision, a specialist in quick-coupling systems, offers a wide range of application-orientated multi-couplings for the automation of test stands.

These systems are used, for example, in development test stands as well as in test bays for series tests of combustion engines, and serve docking

to fluidic and electrical lines. In order to make optimal use of the complex and costly test stands, set-up time has to be reduced to a minimum. For the increasing demand for compact, varied and easy-to-operate docking systems, Walther-Präzision has developed a variety of different solutions.

If automated motion sequences are installed by the customer, they might be used for connecting new multi-

couplings. Those systems could be additionally equipped with mechanical locking devices to secure the coupling halves in the connected state when fully pressure loaded. If automated motion sequences are not installed in the customer design, multi-couplings can be equipped with their own hydraulic or pneumatic drives.

Walther-Präzision – Germany
www.walther-praezision.de

Resin pipes achieve highest chlorine resistance classification

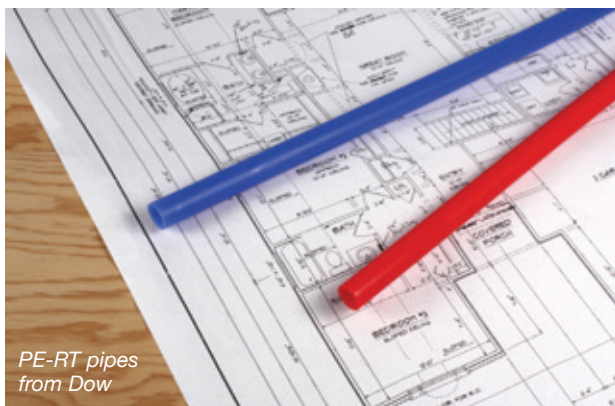
Dow Europe GmbH has announced that pipes manufactured with Dowlex™ 2388 PE-RT (polyethylene of raised temperature resistance) resins have received the highest chlorine resistance certification (Class 5). The certification was issued by Jana Laboratories, Canada, and conducted on pipes in accordance with the conditions specified in ASTM F20231 and ASTM F2769-102.

The Dowlex™ 2388 PE-RT extruded plastic pipes were submitted to different temperatures and pressures at a chlorine concentration of 4.4 ppm and were tested for more than two years until a failure could be observed. The results allowed extrapolation to lower temperatures, and the pipes exceeded the requirement of 50 years at 60°C at such high chlorine concentration.

Alex Stolarz, senior development engineer at Dow Performance Plastics, commented, "Dowlex™ 2388 PE-RT resins have a unique molecular structure which makes them highly resistant to

the oxidation caused by chlorinated water. As a consequence, the resins are most suitable for plumbing pipes conducting water subject to disinfection techniques. Chlorine resistance is also a requirement for some of the drinking water markets around the globe. We are extremely happy with the test results. With the proven chlorine resistance we can offer our customers a solution which enables them to extend their product offering to new markets."

Pipes manufactured with PE-RT resins have the ability to be welded, enabling connection through inexpensive, injection-moulded connectors. Surface smoothness of the end product also means reduced pressure loss and less deposit formation, meaning less maintenance is required.



Using PE-RT resins can also improve recycling potential compared to alternative materials, and the reduced energy demand during processing has the potential to improve the overall CO₂ footprint of the end product.

Dow Europe GmbH – Switzerland
www.plasticpipes.com

Trade agency for projects in India

Venus Inter Trade Agencies (VITA) specialises in project business in a comprehensive range of carbon, alloy, stainless steel, Duplex, titanium and nickel alloys, in the form of tubes, pipes, sheets, bars, fittings, flanges, forgings and valves.

The company has also established long-term business relationships with several global stainless steel tube manufacturers, and has supplied welded and seamless stainless steel tubes and pipes to various projects in India. It also specialises in offering non-standard sizes and specifications.

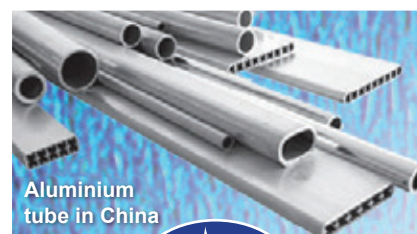
The company works with industries including power, chemicals, fertilisers,

petrochemicals, process equipment manufacturers, offshore oil and gas production and refineries.

The team at Venus Inter Trade Agencies offers technical support, consultancy with professional management for prompt and updated reports, and on-going after-sales service.

The company can assist foreign manufacturers in obtaining pre-qualification for projects, EPC contracts and consultants.

Venus Inter Trade Agencies – India
venus@venusindia.net
www.venusita.com



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 For
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IPP reaches engineering milestone

IPP Scomark Engineering Ltd, part of the IPP Group, has completed the last milestone of a high-pressure manifold for Total in its engineering workshop.

The manifold is destined for the Total E&P operated Martin Linge oil and gas field in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. It was successfully hydrotested

to 15,000 psi, witnessed by Lloyd's Register and visitors from Total.

The 22.5m-long manifold, fabricated from hipped Super Duplex, will be transported under escort to Sheffield, UK, for a specialist aluminium coating, before being securely packed for sea freight to Korea for assembly into the topside module.

Once complete, the manifold will be situated in the North Sea under harsh conditions, and is fully future-proof for its operation. With 16 connections, only half will initially be operational, ensuring expansion for future wells can be catered for.

The IPP Group supplies pipes, tubes, fittings, flanges and specialist forgings for the gas, petrochemical, oil and nuclear industries.

IPP Group – UK
sales@ippgrp.com
www.ippgrp.com



The complete manifold has 16 connections

In-line detector monitors absence of fluid

Ametek Drexelbrook has added the Clear Line™ fluid detector to its level and analytical measurement product line.

The Clear Line is designed specifically for pipe and tank applications in hydrocarbon, pharmaceutical, chemical and food processing industries, where it monitors the presence or absence of fluid in a pipe to provide complete assurance that the tank is empty.

The Clear Line works without recalibration on processes where fluids can vary from organics to caustics. It can be also used for interface detection to accurately determine when a material changes from one phase to another. This is especially useful in processes involving material separation. The Clear Line detector is designed to have no cracks or crevices, and the ultra-smooth surface is suitable for shear-sensitive products. Routine maintenance is not required.

Ametek Drexelbrook offers process level measurement solutions including RF capacitance/admittance, TDR/GWR, radar, ultrasonic, magnetostrictive, hydrostatic, vibration, conductive and float devices. The instruments are used in a wide range of industries, including petroleum, chemical, petrochemical, food/beverage, water/wastewater, power, pharmaceutical, pulp/paper, mining, aggregates and feed/grain.

Ametek Drexelbrook – USA
drexelbrook.info@ametech.com
www.drexelbrook.com



Clear Line in-line fluid detector

The detector mounts directly into existing pipelines between two standard 150lb flat-faced flanges. Without interfering with product flow, it uses RF admittance technology to detect when material is present or absent from a pipe. This is important for users of expensive pumps who want to prevent damage or burnout from a pump running empty.

Each Clear Line detector is factory-calibrated to provide reliable, repeatable performance regardless of changes in process fluids and coatings or variations in temperature, conductivity and density. Drexelbrook's proprietary Cote-Shield™ circuitry ensures dependable detection regardless of conductive coatings or product build-up on the sensor.

Producing zero-colour, non-oxidised weld roots

PurgExtra™ is the latest weld purging product range from Huntingdon Fusion Techniques (HFT) for the weld purging of tubes and pipes from 1 to 24" diameter. The range complements the PurgElite® series, but in addition has extra purge gas inlets and corresponding exhaust ports.

Designed for the weld purging of titanium in particular, as well as ultra high purity stainless steel joints, corrosion-resistant alloy welding and Duplex steel joints, the PurgExtra series allows the operator to purge normally at first, and then, when conditions are correct, to introduce additional gas at high flow rates to create a faster purge and a more efficient removal of unwanted gases.

One of the key reasons to use a PurgExtra system is for the operator to achieve zero-colour welds. The

extra gas flow possible with PurgExtra models purges additional gases that are expelled by outgassing that occurs as the metal is being heated. The extra gas flow will prevent these expelled gases from combining with the hot metal and oxidising them, which causes the metal to discolour.

PurgExtra comprises two inflatable dams connected by a heat-resistant, highly flexible gas hose that has the IntaCal®II gas release system integrated. The IntaCal®II allows the dams to be inflated correctly and then releases the inert gas to safely purge the space between the dams. IntaCal replaces the complicated valves that might sometimes fail and cause the dams to burst.

The highly flexible hose allows the PurgExtra systems to be pulled or pushed easily around bends and elbows.



HFT's PurgExtra dam

A strip of RootGlo® material, located in the centre of the hoses between the dams, allows the welder to see clearly when the PurgExtra system has reached the correct position in the pipe.

RootGlo can be charged by leaving it in daylight for 30 minutes, after which it will provide up to 24 hours of bright illumination inside the pipe.

Huntingdon Fusion Techniques – UK
hft@huntingdonfusion.com
www.huntingdonfusion.com

Pay-off and take-up stands for tubes

Queins Machines GmbH, Germany, specialises in the manufacture of heavy duty pay-off and take-up stands, to be used for unwinding/winding of tubes having a diameter between 9.5 and 50mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ " to 2"). These tubes are mainly used for manufacturing umbilical

cables in the offshore industry. The machines are of floor-traversing type for reel flange diameter of up to 3,600mm (141") and reel weight up to 23 tons (50,000 lb). Other models are being manufactured for reel weights up to 300 tons. Further highlights are heavy-duty

belt- or chain-caterpillar capstans for the same product, with pulling force up to 200kN.

Queins – Germany
info@queins.com
www.queins.com

Stacking and bundling system

When working with round, hexagon, squared or rectangular bars and tubes, stacking and bundling is an involved process. Changing from round to hexagon bars and from one size to another is where traditional systems take time and manual work.

Asmag, headquartered in Scharnstein, Austria, has developed a new automated method. Asmag discovered that manually adjusting the stacking machine each time dimensions or shapes changed was unnecessary. Operators typically spend a few minutes

for each time they must replace inserts to accommodate changing hexagon bar sizes or when an insert must be removed altogether to switch from hexagons to rounds.

In regard to the tendency to smaller lot sizes, this normally causes changing the inserts once an hour. Another disadvantage is the purchase, storage and maintenance of the insert-sets for each product size. The new system eliminates that step. Usually the cams are necessary because hexagonal material tends to tilt at the wrong angle.

The Asmag innovation makes sure that the bars in the first layer fall into the right position. This system is based on a simple idea but it has not been used before. In addition, software automatically calculates several possible bundle shapes and sizes.

Asmag GmbH – Austria
sales@asmag.at
www.asmag.at

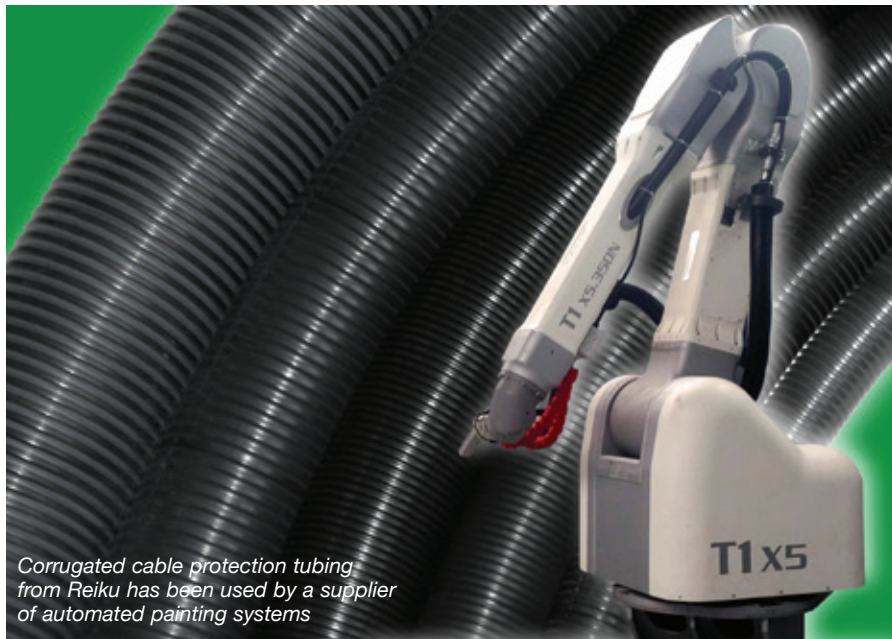
Seuthe GmbH – Germany
sales@seuthe.com
www.seuthe.com

Bio-based corrugated cable protection tubing

Reiku's corrugated cable protection tubing made from renewably sourced plastic is an environmentally friendly alternative to products made from conventional oil-based materials, and is also claimed to offer advantages in application.

Under a continuous series of bending cycles, typical for many industrial robots, the product has the highest service life of all corrugated cable protection tubing in Reiku's portfolio. Sales manager Peter Sailer commented, "In internal trials, corrugated bio-based tubing with a nominal width of 70mm remained free of damage even after 16 million cycles in the flexibility test, which corresponds in practice to a service life of around three years. With the development of this corrugated tubing product, Reiku has demonstrated that top-performance cable protection is ensured, also in view of dwindling oil reserves."

The behaviour of the tubing under dynamic stress is attributed to the special properties of the material used to produce it. The corrugated cable protection tubing, which is available in nominal widths of 12 to 70mm, is made from halogen-free flame-retardant polyamide 11 (PA11). This bio-based engineering plastic combines mechanical properties under static and dynamic load with high temperature and chemical resistance. It is also abrasion-resistant.



Corrugated cable protection tubing from Reiku has been used by a supplier of automated painting systems

Because it is produced primarily on the basis of castor oil obtained from the seeds of the tropical castor oil plant, it has a better CO₂ balance than polyamides based on fossil energy sources.

A German supplier of automated painting plants and paint application systems has been using the bio-based corrugated tubing for its latest painting robots. The tubing is mounted on the outside of the robot arm, and protects the cable and wiring packages that supply the head of the robot and its

atomisers with control signals, energy, air, coating material and rinse media.

The robots normally operate in three-shift rotas and continuously perform fast, three-dimensional movements with high axis speeds and accelerations. After more than 12 months of continuous industrial application, and having installed around 1,000m of corrugated bio-based cable protection tubing, the company has not had a single report of failure or a single complaint.

Reiku corrugated cable protection tubing is available in a variety of types to satisfy specific application requirements. PA6 and thermoplastic polyester (TPE) are suitable for general machine, apparatus and vehicle construction. Corrugated tubing of thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) will also resist the high dynamic stresses that are typical for the movements of industrial robots. PA12 additionally complies with the demand in rough environments for high static and dynamic load stress resistance at particularly low temperatures, while the PA11 bio-based types combine a maximum of dynamic load resistance, UV, chemical and temperature resistance.

Reiku GmbH – Germany
info@reiku.de
www.reiku.de

Hydraulic cylinder tube production

JSSI Hydraulic Pvt Ltd is located 35km from Delhi, India. Its production facility has provision for automatic hydraulic cylinder pipe, with an assembly line in tandem with a continuous vertical hard chrome plating machine.

Products include skived and roller burnished cylinder tube; hard chrome plated piston bars/rods; hydraulic

cylinders; and TG&P precision shafting in grade 1045 steel.

The company is accredited with ISO 9001-2008 certification.

Jagtar Singh & Sons Hydraulic Pvt Ltd – India
sales@jssi.in
www.jssi.in

Developments in cutting and bevelling

The E-Z Fab is an innovative development in workshop-based, semi-portable, self-centring, semi-automated cutting and bevelling systems, offering high pipe cutting and bevelling speed, range and capacity. Seven models enable the TAG E-Z Fab to cover a range of ½" to 30" pipe.

TAG's split-frame toolboxes are bolted to a rotating ring on the E-Z Fab machine. Due to the rigidity of the frame and the strength of the ring, these toolboxes, fitted with TAG HS HD tooling, can be rotated around the contour of the pipe at high speed (up to 35 rpm), and are fed into the cut on every rotation by a striker system, feeding the tooling down a thread via a gear-controlled transmission slide.

As an example, 6" carbon steel with 22mm wall thickness can be set up, cut and bevelled in six minutes and 34 seconds.

Pipe is loaded into the machine and clamped in seconds by a rapid self-centring jaw system. Power is delivered from a new single-phase 1.75kW NC-controlled servo motor that delivers power and torque, even under



TAG's E-Z Fab pipe cutting and bevelling machine

heavy load, enabling uninterrupted cutting and bevelling. The system can be coupled with TAG's new programmable Delta touch screen control, with pre-set and memorable

application settings. The Delta NC control delivers a signal to the servo motor according to the operator's touch screen instruction. Pulse (jog), start/stop and soft start features are incorporated into all modes, allowing tool set-up and final checks of tool positioning and clearance to be made under controlled conditions.

The E-Z Fab can be converted in a matter of minutes into OPS (orbital pipe saw) configuration. The HD toolboxes are removed, and a reliable Metabo motor is fitted to the ring. This motor houses a high-speed rotating saw blade designed for process cutting of thinner wall pipes and tubes.

Rotation is performed either manually, or automatically via the touch screen control, to cut and bevel thin- to medium-wall (up to 12mm) carbon, stainless and other ferrous and non-ferrous pipe and tube. Pipes and tubes are cut in a single rotation in OPS mode for fast, repeatable cuts.

TAG Pipe Equipment Specialists Ltd
– UK
sales@tag-pipe.com
www.tag-pipe.com

Material behaviour simulation solutions

TimkenSteel, a manufacturer of special bar quality (SBQ) large bars and seamless mechanical tubing, is using the power of Ansys simulation to solve customers' engineering challenges.

The company creates tailored products and services for its customers' most demanding applications. Its engineers are experts in both materials and applications, and work closely with customers to deliver solutions tailored to their applications and supply chains.

To quickly develop those custom services, TimkenSteel uses Ansys computational fluid dynamics (CFD) solutions to simulate material behaviour during the heat-treat process. These simulations reduce trial-and-error in the plant to optimise heat-treated steel products. TimkenSteel's products are

used in the manufacture of components for the agricultural, construction, military, mining, oil and gas, power generation and rail markets.

"TimkenSteel will continue to use the best predictive tools to optimise our products for our most demanding customers, and Ansys has established a prominent place in our arsenal of sophisticated modelling capabilities," said Ray Fryan, vice president of technology and quality at TimkenSteel.

TimkenSteel manufactures a wide range of alloy, carbon and micro-alloy steel with an annual melt capacity of approximately two million tons.

The company's product lines include SBQ bars, seamless mechanical tubing and precision steel components. The

company also has extensive research and development capabilities.

"We were impressed by the breadth and depth of Ansys Fluent, its capabilities for industrial design applications and by the excellent service that Ansys provides," said Don Cao, a product engineering specialist at TimkenSteel who specialises in advanced modelling.

"Fluent's fast, accurate CFD results are helping us to optimise productivity and quality, and give our customers exactly what they need."

Ansys, Inc – USA
www.ansys.com

TimkenSteel Corp – USA
communications@timkensteel.com
www.timkensteel.com

Quick-fitting grasshopper

A welding grasshopper is a tool that attaches to a pipe to provide a ground for welding. The Speedfit Grasshopper is a fast and dependable method of securing a welding ground to the pipe to prevent arc burn and weld rejection/



Welding grasshopper attached to a pipe

failure, without the need for hazardous bungees.

A grounding clamp grips a specially designed grounding bolt to prevent arcing, while nylon-insulated magnets further prevent the risk and limit the stretching or slacking that may occur with other grounding device attachment methods.

The Speedfit Grasshopper provides simplicity, usability and durability. Standard clamping and hardware-driven grasshoppers are suitable for horizontal pipe, but may suffer in clamping onto pipe that is in a vertical position. The Speedfit device is designed to quickly and securely attach to pipe, vertically or horizontally.

The precision cast aluminium and steel design provides rugged strength while being as light as possible to prevent fatigue. The portable Grasshopper welding ground weighs less than 2lb and is only 10" long.

SMC's engineers ergonomically designed the Grasshopper welding tool to allow quick, simple placement and removal from the pipe. The main pin of the welder tool makes "brother-in-law" welding on large diameter pipe possible, by allowing multiple welders to use the same grounding device.

PCES Ltd – UK
sales@pces.uk.com
www.pces.uk.com

Products for the chemical industry

Val-Matic's QuadroSphere® ball valve, air valves and check valves are key components for the chemical industry. The QuadroSphere trunnion ball valve has benefits that include four recessed surfaces of the ball, which provide self-flushing to prevent clogging – a common problem in chemical production.

The company also produces eight different air valves that perform important functions, including system

design efficiency and system protection. System efficiency is maintained by venting air from the system via the air valves, preventing restricted flow and increased pumping costs. The air valves also provide system protection by exhausting and admitting air through the air valves during system operations.

Val-Matic's check valves – Swing-Flex® and Silent Check – provide advantages including cost efficiency and reliability.

The Swing Flex check valve's smooth, unrestricted full-flow design is suitable for slurries and sludge, including vertical flow up applications.

Silent Check, as its name suggests, provides quiet operation.

Val-Matic Valve & Manufacturing Corp – USA
valves@valmatic.com
www.valmatic.com

Cold cutting and bevelling

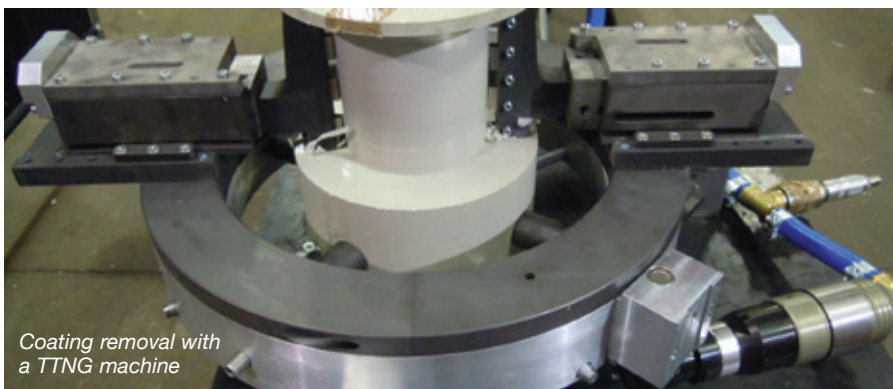
Protem's TTNG cold cutting and bevelling machines and US ID clamping bevelling machines can be equipped

with optional tooling to enable the machining of plastic coating of pipelines up to 130mm wall thickness.

All maintenance work (cutting and bevelling) can be performed on existing pipe lines or at the end of pipes, machining of the coating on various lengths to give space for the welding equipment.

Heating the coating at high temperature and removing it manually with a blade, or using machines with a water jet cutting system (which can damage the pipes), is no longer necessary.

Protem SAS – France
contact@protem.fr
www.protem.fr



Coating removal with a TTNG machine

Overcoming the challenges of deeper subsea production

"We help you get there" was Sandvik's theme at the Subsea Tieback Forum, held in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, recently in March.

Examples of the company's corrosion-resistant alloys and other high performance materials for tube, pipe, wire, welding consumables and powder-based hot isostatic pressed (HIP) components were on display.

Subsea tiebacks – an increasingly important component of oil and gas production – facilitate linking new wells to existing production platforms.

Specification, development and installation of the tiebacks have to be carefully considered in light of these more remote and deeper wells, which pose higher pressures and corrosion threats to the tiebacks themselves.

During the material selection process, environmental conditions of the wellhead and the presence of corrosive elements such as hydrogen sulphide, chlorides and carbon dioxide are important to consider in achieving resistance to localised corrosion, particularly pitting, crevice corrosion and stress corrosion cracking.

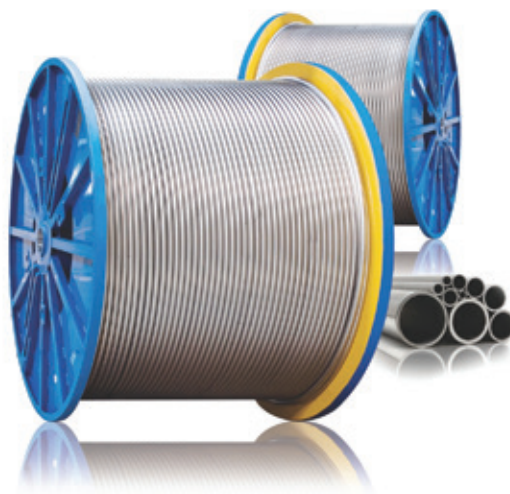
"We know the increasing demands that these deeper subsea oil and gas production requirements are placing on vital subsea tiebacks so it is important to extend the life of the production infrastructure," said Leandro Finzetto of Sandvik.

Sandvik seamless tubular materials for subsea tiebacks are installed in some of the most remote locations throughout the world, in challenging and demanding applications, helping turn deposits that were previously regarded as uneconomical into cost-effective reality.

Sandvik Materials Technology has invested significantly in setting up its global oil and gas team to work closer with its customers worldwide.

Sandvik Houston is strategically present to support and meet the customers' challenges. "Our new Duplex materials will enable even longer seamless continuous subsea tiebacks as we continue to develop new, stronger, better corrosion resistance, enabling lighter materials in order to optimise the performance over many years," concluded Mr Finzetto.

Sandvik Materials Technology – Sweden
www.smt.sandvik.com



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Re-lining project provides clean water for 150,000

Providing large cities with drinking water is not an easy task. Out-dated systems can cause problems such as leakages or contaminations. To secure a reliable, economical and sustainable water supply for the future, the Waterworks Lublin (Poland) decided to renew part of its old steel piping system. The new polyethylene piping system from GF Piping Systems now serves nearly half of the 350,000 inhabitants.

Molewski Sp zoo realised the project from May to November 2014 for the Waterworks Lublin. Established since 1978, the experienced construction company is specialised in building and environmental engineering such as road building and trenchless technology. The transport line leads right through the city centre, so the project required the re-lining method, to be as space saving as possible and due to the limited number of branch connections in the city.

GF Piping Systems was selected as provider for the jointing technology. In this application, plastics are resistant to corrosion and abrasion. When professionally installed, a 100-year service life can be expected. The low weight of plastic pipes is of benefit in the areas of transportation and processing. Energy costs can be reduced with targeted layout planning and optimal sizing contributing to a steady flow rate.

Plastic solutions also have a considerably smaller carbon footprint than traditional materials – an important factor in designing sustainable and future-orientated piping systems.

The installation company used GF Piping Systems electro-fusion couplers for water and gas applications. These ensure a quick and reliable connection of pipes and spigot fittings with active reinforcement.



ELGEF coupler and MSA 2.1 welding machine

The functioning of the coupler has its origin in the manufacturing technology. The outer pipe section is pressed over the inner pipe section.

During the fusion process, the active reinforcement takes effect: the heat in the fusion zone reduces the stiffness of the inner ring and the reinforcement ring pushes actively from the outside to the inner ring. Larger gaps can be closed more quickly and expansion of the coupler is inhibited.

During the cooling process the constant pressure from the outside makes the coupler shrink onto the pipe.

The extra-large inner diameter of the coupler permits easy assembly, and accommodates the pipe ovality often found in practice. The exclusive use of PE material ensures safe connection even at low temperatures. No special welding machine is required – all current GF welding machines are suitable.

GF Piping Systems Ltd – Switzerland
info.ps@georgfischer.com
www.gfps.com



Installation of ELGEF couplers

Steel pipe and fittings

Hebei Xingfeng Steel Pipe Co is a manufacturer of steel pipe and fittings.

The company holds stock of seamless steel pipes according to standards such as DN150-DN350, Sch40, Sch80 and ASTM A106/A53/API 5L Gr B. The maximum pipe length is 13m.

The company can also supply hot-dipped galvanised and non-galvanised pipe; seamless steel pipes (12 to 610mm); ERW welded steel pipe from 21.3 to 219.1mm (½" to 8"); HFW (LSAW) welded steel pipe from 219.1 to 1,420mm (8" to 56"); square and rectangular

hollow sections (15 x 15mm to 300 x 300mm); and steel flanges and pipe fittings.

Hebei Xingfeng Steel Pipe Co, Ltd
– China
sales@chinaxingfeng.com
www.chinaxingfeng.com

Pre-installed elbow couplings

Picoma Industries, a division of JMC Steel Group, has added SpeedCouple, a pre-installed elbow coupling, to its line of elbow, coupling and nipple products (EC&N). SpeedCouple connects in half the time, compared to a standard three-piece coupling. Instead of turning the elbow, contractors can turn SpeedCouple and let the lead-in tapered threads make the connection. SpeedCouple is available on rigid steel elbows in standard and special radiuses, and in trade sizes 2" to 5".

Picoma manufactures a complete line of electrical conduit fittings, galvanised elbows, couplings and nipples, and a complete EC&N package of aluminium, running thread and service meter masts.

SpeedCouple is available now throughout North America.

Picoma Industries – USA
info@picoma.com
www.picoma.com



Picoma's SpeedCouple pre-installed elbow coupling

Next-generation structural product from Tata

Tata Steel has launched Celsius® 420, a stronger hot finished structural steel hollow section that reduces the weight of mechanical products and can speed up the construction of new buildings.

The 'next generation' in hot finished structural steel was developed in conjunction with construction customers, primarily for use in applications where structural performance at minimum weight is required.

Offering a high yield strength of 420 MPa and weight savings of up to 17 per cent compared with Tata Steel's Celsius 355 products, Celsius 420 enables the construction sector to use smaller foundations and fewer temporary structures. It also has potential for use in mechanical products sectors such as industrial machines, agricultural vehicles and vehicle axles.

Celsius 420's uniform grain structure means it is a fully stress-relieved product. Combined with the steel's lower carbon equivalent value (CEV) of 0.45, compared to the 0.5 product standard of EN 10210, this improves weldability and fabrication. Steel with a lower CEV also requires no additional heat treatment.

High-strength structures can be fabricated without changing standard weld procedures. In addition, tighter radii can be maintained on the corner

profiles of square and rectangular sections to ensure a smaller surface area for less weight, a reduced risk of fracture, and a consistent aesthetic.

"While our Celsius range is already very well established in the structural hollow sections market, we know our customers are always looking for new materials with enhanced properties," said Henrik Adam, Tata Steel's chief commercial officer in Europe. "This is why we focus so much on innovation to develop next-generation products. We're bringing to market an entirely new range of hot finished hollow structural sections that we believe is in a class of its own. Celsius 420 guarantees proven performance and quality assurance, offering customers design freedom and manufacturing confidence."

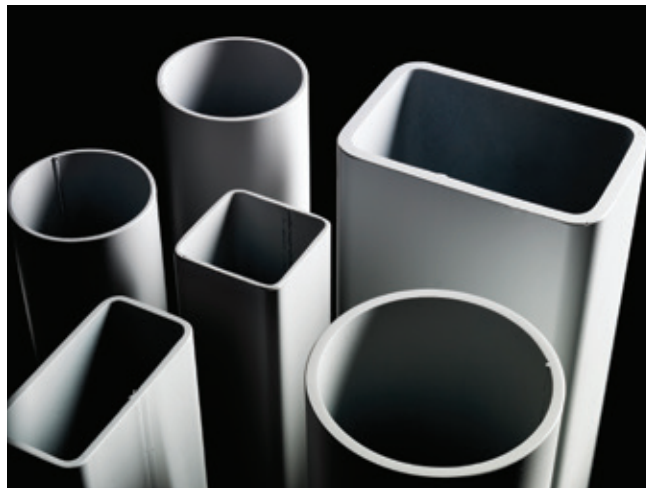
Jonathan Clemens, head of marketing, construction and infrastructure for Tata Steel's European operations, added, "Tata Steel is the only manufacturer to supply structural hollow sections to BES 6001, the BRE's responsible sourcing standard. With a

rating of 'very good', this certification provides independent verification of our corporate responsibility and a benchmark to show that we are continuously improving our sustainability credentials."

Certification to BES 6001 also provides validation of product traceability. Tata Steel can demonstrate the provenance of the raw material right through to final production of Celsius 420, which is manufactured in the UK through the company's fully integrated supply chain.

Tata Steel Europe Ltd – UK
feedback@tatasteel.com
www.tatasteeleurope.com

Tata Steel's Celsius 420 hot finished structural steel hollow section



500mm UT system to test OCTG product

Magnetic Analysis Corp (MAC) has supplied its largest-ever model ultrasonic rotary tester to a major Russian producer of OCTG tube and pipe. Part of MAC's line of Echomac® non-destructive ultrasonic testers, this model can inspect tube and pipe up to 500mm (19.6") diameter.

The new 500mm UT tester can detect longitudinal and transverse crack type defects on OD and ID pipe surfaces, and throughout the product's cross section, meeting standards that require finding artificial notches at a five or ten per cent level of the wall in pipe with any wall thickness.

Many pipe grades require that the producer monitor the wall thickness for variations in dimensions, and some quality levels also require checking for

lamination conditions. Grade PSL3 is the highest quality level and PSL2 and PSL3 both require being able to find a 6.3mm diameter flat bottom drilled hole (FBDH) when testing for lamination.

Test coverage is another standard, with Level PSL2 requiring test coverage of greater than 25 per cent of the pipe volume, and PSL3 requiring 100 per cent coverage. Enough transducers must be used so the helical pattern, as they scan the circumference, covers the required percentage of the pipe volume. Generally, wall thickness measurement could be conducted at the 25 per cent level, while lamination detection would need the 100 per cent coverage level.

These high-level quality grades are most likely to be required for pipe destined for higher-risk offshore or environmentally

sensitive applications. The Echomac UT test system, which also features MAC's wireless transmission of test signals, can handle these tasks and ensure compliance with industry standards at throughput speeds up to 1m/s.

The large multi-test system supplied to the Russian pipe mill combined the new 500mm UT rotary with 500mm transverse and longitudinal Rotoflux® flux leakage testers to meet the specific needs of this mill for testing pipe up to 426mm diameter. Together, the dual technologies provide a more comprehensive test. The ultrasonic technology provides critical full inspection capability, including shear wave inspection of longitudinal and transverse defects at any quality level, and wall thickness measurement and lamination detection. The addition of the UT rotary to the magnetic flux leakage testers provides complete all-direction test capability and gives the user full flexibility to optimise the pipe inspection process.

The two flux leakage units can test to 10 per cent OD and ID notch levels up to approximately 14mm wall thickness, and 5 per cent OD and ID levels for thickness up to 12mm. The result of the combined test technologies is a system that is compliant with API 5CT and 5L, ASTM E570 and other standards, including those that require ultrasonic testing as the first method and a second method at the discretion of the pipe producer.

Magnetic Analysis Corp – USA
info@mac-ndt.com
www.mac-ndt.com

MAC's multi-test system for a Russian pipe mill. The Echomac 500mm ultrasonic rotary is shown on the far right, where it has been temporarily moved out for access during maintenance operations. The two black testers in the centre are the Rotoflux 500mm transverse and longitudinal units



Pipes and profiles in Southeast Europe

Since beginning as a trading company in 1994, IGM-Trade has developed into one of the largest pipe and profile factories in Southeast Europe. Its premises in Kavadarci, Macedonia, have an area of 400,000m², with a covered space of 240,000m².

The production facilities, which consist of 12 production lines, have a combined annual capacity of approximately 250,000 tonnes. IGM-Trade is an export-

orientated company, with 90 per cent of total output sold outside Macedonia, in the EU and CEFTA markets.

Apart from its core business, the company is also involved in the processing of steel coils into sheets and strips, with plans to further develop its in-house service centre capabilities. Production takes place under recognised standards for manufacturing and quality. Square hollow sections

range from 13 x 13mm to 250 x 250mm, with thickness up to 10mm, while rectangular hollow sections are available from 30 x 10mm to 300 x 200mm, with thickness up to 10mm. The size range for round structural tubes is from 17.2 to 323.9mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ " to 12") with thickness up to 8mm.

IGM-Trade – Macedonia
info@igmtrade.com
www.igmtrade.com

All-terrain butt fusion welding

Ritmo's Delta 500 All Terrain is a new butt fusion welding machine with working range from Ø 200 to 500mm (6" to 20" IPS) for HDPE/PP pipelines for the transportation of water, gas and other fluids. The main characteristic of the All Terrain line is its wheel drive for an easy working position on job sites.

Delta 500 All Terrain is equipped with front steering wheels and rear traction, and is powered by a low-vibration diesel engine. The machine body and on-board

generator are easily removable for work in tight spaces. The machine can be powered using 230V three-phase 50/60Hz. A wheeled chassis designed to be lifted using a forklift and two lateral rollers complete the welding machine.

Built according to the international standard ISO 21307 High Pressure, the machine welds fittings such as elbows, tees, Y-branches and flange necks. The assisted opening/closing/lifting of clamps-heater-facer is patented by

Ritmo, and the machine is equipped with a fast-locking system to place and remove inserts in a few seconds.

The Easy Life welding system is able to manage the welding process in a semi-automatic way. The electronic system ensures the continuous repeat of the welding cycles and automatic control of the pre-set parameters. The operator only needs to validate the welding phases.

The user-friendly graphic display allows quick setting of welding parameters. The Easy Life system can store up to 4,000 welding cycles and sum them up into a PDF file. This report can then be transferred to a PC/laptop through a USB port. GPS traceability and data logging are included.

The on-board electric facer is equipped with a safety microswitch to prevent accidental starts. The Teflon-coated heating plate is supplied with a high-temperature-proof bag that also prevents the heating element from being scratched.

Ritmo SpA – Italy
info@ritmo.it
www.ritmo.it



Ritmo's Delta 500 All Terrain

Subsurface utility engineering

Cloud-based asset management software provider Altuity Solutions has launched AltoSUE, a subsurface utility engineering (SUE) solution. Using highly accurate 3M radio frequency identification (RFID) markers, GPS and geo-tagged imaging, AltoSUE makes invisible underground assets visible.

The solution is targeted at owners, contractors and workers in the construction and utilities sector, or any organisation that lays underground assets that need to be accurately recorded before being handed over to a site owner. AltoSUE's key benefits include association of drawings, models and other records for on- and off-site management; use of map and site plan backgrounds to enhance access to data; integration of underground data into corporate

GIS and asset management systems; and compatibility with mobile devices delivering data directly to the site. Underground assets – gas, electricity, water and fibre optics – are of high value, but involve high risk when excavating them for repairs or upgrades. These subsurface assets can be made even more difficult to locate through the use of modern day materials such as plastics. AltoSUE enables users to accurately tag and record attributes such as asset type, depth and material; capture additional information via a photograph; and view the assets contained within complex underground networks on maps or site plans, reducing the risk of service strikes while improving site safety.

Steve Voller, founder of Altuity Solutions, explained, "AltoSUE is different from other SUE solutions in that it provides

a cost effective way to record 'as built' and 'as maintained' information about underground assets using integrated hardware and software. AltoSUE uniquely uses map and CAD site plans as the background to view data and combines this with the ability to record underground asset locations using a variety of techniques – rather than a 'one size fits all' approach. We've placed a huge importance on ease and simplicity of use to ensure AltoSUE's acceptability by back office and onsite workers."

Tiered pricing options for AltoSUE allow businesses to only pay for the functionality they need, with a subscription for a licence from three to 12 months.

Altuity Solutions Ltd – UK
info@altuity.com
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Corrosion protection sleeve

Anticor, a supplier and producer of passive corrosion protection technologies for pipelines, has launched the AnticorRay® WSS shrink sleeve for corrosion protection for welded connections on pipelines. The system provides corrosion protection and bonding on pipelines operating up to 60°C or 80°C, depending on which version is used.

The product has been designed using a flexible epoxy primer, hot melt adhesive and cross-linked high-density polyethylene (backing), ensuring performance and easy application. The system provides resistance to cathodic disbondment, and durability against abrasion and aggressive corrosion environments.

Because of the composition of the adhesive, the sleeves are compliant with the most commonly used factory coating systems (3LPE, 3LPP and FBE).

Field tests have shown adhesion to the pipe surface over 200N/10mm.

AnticorRay WSS60 and AnticorRay WSS80 have been tested and certified by the DVGW institute for CHT 60 and CHT 80 classes, for working temperatures up to 60°C and 80°C, respectively.

The main field of application is newly constructed oil, gas and water steel pipelines. Anticor states that the sleeves have been used on all strategic oil and gas pipelines that have been constructed in Poland in the last two years.

Anticor PPH – Poland
 anticor@anticor.pl
 www.anticorray.com



AnticorRay WSS shrink sleeve

www.thinwalltubing.com

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Coolant for the pipe threading process

For some pipe manufacturers, annual threading tool costs can be ten times more than the annual costs of the coolant. Quaker Chemical Corporation has addressed this issue with Quakercool® 750 TP.

Optimal for the threading process, this metalworking coolant fluid is a mineral oil-free micro-emulsion.

Benefits include lubrication, short-term corrosion protection, clean rinsing, and a wide water quality tolerance. The coolant effectively resists micro-biological growth and does not contain chlorinated compounds, formaldehyde release agents, boron, monoethanolamine or secondary amines.

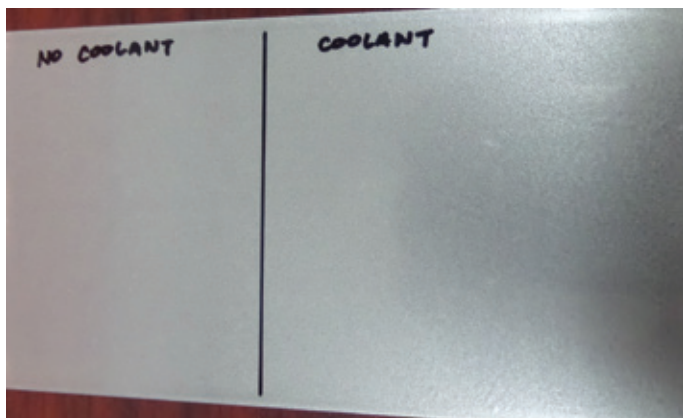
A major OCTG pipe producer wished to lower its operating costs while at the same time improving its threading quality and cutting insert wear. Quaker worked closely with the customer to gain efficiencies on the tooling costs, which are often the most expensive part of the threading operation. After incorporating the Quakercool 750 TP metalworking coolant fluid into the threading process, the results were up to 30 per cent increased tool insert life used for the pipe threading operations; decreased downtime due to longer tool use; and a reduction in cost per joint.

Quaker offers metalworking process fluids and coatings for each stage of the tube and pipe manufacturing process,

designing fluid solutions to work with 'front-to-back' compatibility in mind.

Quakercool 750 TP has the additional feature of integrating well with upstream chemistries and downstream protective pipe coatings. Whether the coating is UV, water based or solvent based, incompatibility between the coolant and coating can adversely impact adhesion and corrosion protection in tube and pipe manufacturing. Quakercool 750 TP was developed to avoid the 'orange peel' incompatibility appearance experienced with some coolants on pipe surfaces.

Quaker Chemical Corp – USA
info@quakerchem.com
www.quakerchem.com



Coating comparison: no coolant vs Quakercool 750 TP coolant



No coolant vs competitive coolant

NDT solutions for flaws detection

Contrôle Mesure Systèmes (CMS) is a specialist in non-destructive testing. With a complete range of NDT products using eddy current and ultrasonic methods, the company can supply solutions for most industrial applications.

CMS's product line is designed to meet inspection, testing and quality control on both ferrous and non-ferrous products, including steel, copper, alloys, carbon steel, stainless steel and aluminium.

Applications in tube, bar, pipe and wire inspection include surface flaw detection by RotoETscan eddy current rotating head; internal and dimensional flaw detection by RotoUTscan ultrasonic

rotating head; tube inspection with product in rotation; full body and/or weld of welded tube inspection; full body and/or ends of non-welded tube inspection; and heat treatment, hardness, coating verification and measurement.

CMS systems are also available for automotive parts inspection (including the close inspection of pistons, tie rods, brake discs, wheels, gears and cylindrical parts), as well as for specific parts inspection, plates and sheets, and composite parts (such as junction tube inspection, defect detection on double wall tubes, conductivity measurement on plate, and thread and tapping inspection). All of the systems (on-line and/or off-line) meet strict



Titanium tube inspection

quality standards such as API, ASTM and DIN.

Contrôle Mesure Systèmes – France
contactcms@cmseddyscan.com
www.cmseddyscan.com



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Expo & Conference 15-16 July 2015

After a successful second show in 2013, Valve World Americas Expo and Conference will return to sunny Houston in July 2015. The last two events earned rave reviews from the industry, featuring the latest technology from around 100 international exhibitors and thousands of visitors. The event takes place in downtown Houston at the George R Brown Convention

Center. This conference with an exhibition component will be a collaboration between Messe Düsseldorf and KCI Publishing. Both already cooperate for the Valve World Expo held in Düsseldorf, Germany, every two years and will use their expertise to develop Valve World Americas Expo & Conference into a leading event for the industry in North and South America.



Venue

George R Brown Convention Center
Houston, TX 77010, USA

Opening times

9.00am to 5.00pm

Organiser

Messe Düsseldorf North America
150 North Michigan Avenue,
Suite 2920, Chicago, IL 60601, USA
Tel: +1 312 781 5180
Fax: +1 312 781 5188
Email: info@mdna.com

Houston, Texas, USA



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OCTG & pipeline products

OCTG and pipeline products run to size and scale, with the iconic pictures to prove it. An oilfield worker standing inside a section of pipeline – and dwarfed by it – in the Sahara Desert. An offshore drilling rig the size of a small city in the North Sea. Huge water pipes servicing the Marcellus Shale gas wells in Pennsylvania, fracture pumps in their hundreds lined up nearby.

But the very heft of these behemoths invites thoughts of the scope of the problem if there should be any malfunction. This in turn leads to altogether human-scale concerns: for meticulous design, uncompromising construction, exhaustive testing. The professionals who provide the equipment of energy exploration and development had to prove themselves masters of a great many small things before they dared go big.

Outsize machinery and high stakes go together but they do not go it alone. The origin story of every drilling rig that dominates a landscape is composed of countless episodes of small challenges met, analysed and overcome.

*Photo: Kingfisher Industrial Ltd, UK
(see page 48)*

Steel pipe manufacturing

Bender-Ferndorf produces around 120,000 tons of pipes per annum in various diameters, wall thicknesses and lengths. Worldwide delivery is ensured through modern logistics.

Spirally welded pipes produced by Bender-Ferndorf are 'round by nature' throughout their whole length, not needing any re-calibration, due to the specific processing.

The most important fields of application are oil and gas pipelines and gas storage; water pipelines; piles and construction pipes; dredging and scouring pipes; and pipes for long-distance heating utility companies.

The company's pipes are coated in customer-specific ways on request,

either as external coating with polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), fibre cement and GPR coating, or as internal lining with cement mortar and epoxy resin coating. Other coating methods are also available.

The basic pipe product is supplemented by numerous system components such as fittings, end finishes and customer-specific steel attachments.

In cooperation with shipping partners, Bender-Ferndorf offers a logistic chain right to the stacking at the construction site that is pinpointed and on-schedule.

External diameters range from 508 to 1,828.8mm; wall thicknesses from 6 to 25.4mm; and lengths from 6 to 36m.

Steel grades are used from P235/API Gr B to L555MB/X80.

The pipes pass automated testing and checking stations throughout the whole production phase, including ultrasonic checking, water pressure test, X-ray, and visual final check, as well as spectral analyses.

DWT tests are available at the request of the customer.

Since December 2012 the company has provided material testing in its own accredited quality laboratory.

Bender-Ferndorf Rohr GmbH –
Germany
info@bender-ferndorf.de
www.bender-ferndorf.de

One million tonnes of pipeline for North Sea projects

Tata Steel, Europe's second largest steel producer, has celebrated the supply of one million tonnes of pipeline for oil and gas projects in the North Sea.

Henrik Adam, chief commercial officer of Tata Steel in Europe, gave the opening address at a special event in Aberdeen, UK, in which he highlighted the company's key achievements in the North Sea, including 88 projects completed in conjunction with 28 customers.

The event included presentations from Tata Steel representatives and guest speakers, who examined the challenges facing North Sea operators.

Richard Broughton, commercial manager of Tata Steel exploration and production, said, "Tata Steel has been providing solutions to the North Sea market for more than 21 years, culminating in one million tonnes and four million metres of welded pipe. In excess of half a million metres has been installed using reel lay construction methods. Over this period we are also proud to have invested over a quarter

of a billion pounds in subcontracts for North Sea projects.

"It was fantastic to celebrate these achievements with our valued customers and partners in Aberdeen and also introduce our latest welded subsea, umbilicals, risers and flowlines (SURF) offering." The latest solution from Tata Steel is claimed to offer superior dimensional control in comparison to traditional seamless pipe. The innovation also provides benefits that include reduced structural integrity risk and faster installation time.

Speakers from Subsea 7, Wood Group Kenny and Shell took the opportunity to discuss how they have successfully collaborated with Tata Steel in the last 21 years.

Clients emphasised the solutions that have been developed through long-standing relation-

ships with many companies working in the North Sea.

Tata has steel-making facilities in the UK and Netherlands, and manufacturing plants across Europe. The company supplies products and services to demanding markets, including construction, automotive, packaging, rail, lifting and excavating, energy and power and aerospace.

Tata Steel – UK
feedback@tatasteel.com
www.tatasteeleurope.com

Henrik Adam at the event



Polyethylene piping with abrasion-resistant lining

Kingfisher's K-Pipe WRP is a polymer-lined high-density polyethylene (PE-HD) abrasion-resistant piping system that is suitable for movement of liquids, sludge and slurry containing abrasive media and contaminants.

K-Pipe WRP is used within a variety of industrial sectors for the hydraulic and pneumatic conveyance of materials, and offers an inner wear-resistant polymer within its matrix that enhances the service life of the pipe when exposed to abrasive media. It is manufactured via an automated extrusion process that incorporates a traditional HDPE outer sleeve and fuses an inner wear-resistant polymer sleeve utilising a patented technology that eliminates the potential for delimitation in service.

This results in a system being less expensive than the traditional range of metallics and ceramics used for handling abrasive materials such as ash, coal, minerals and other highly abrasive materials.

K-Pipe WRP's abrasion-resistant lining layer is selected for the medium being transported. After an assessment has been made of the composition of the

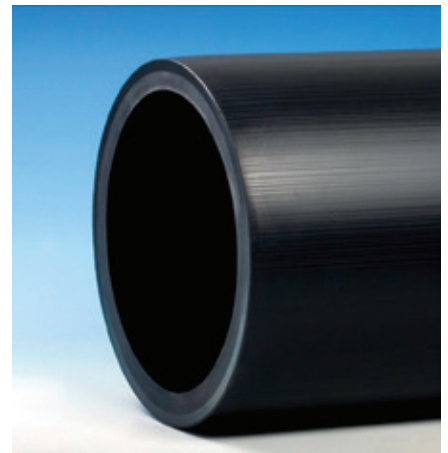
medium and the operating conditions, the most appropriate liner material can be selected from a range of high-resistance polymers.

Offering a turnkey package, Kingfisher works directly with each user to calculate the pipeline's design life, which determines the thickness of the abrasion-resistant layer. This allows an optimum solution that combines high resistance towards abrasion and chemicals with lightweight yet durable pipework that is quick and easy to install.

The K-Pipe WRP system allows extra thicknesses of the wear-resistant inner polymer to be incorporated, which in areas such as bends and branches where the abrasive effects of the media are most significant results in improved service and performance.

Another advantage of K-Pipe WRP is that the system can be joined using a specially developed butt-fusion technology and electro fusion couplings, which results in welded joints as strong and as smooth as the pipe itself.

Alternatively, flanges and mechanical sealing joints can be used in the same



Abrasion-resistant K-Pipe WRP

fashion as steel pipes. Dependent on the inner bore size, which ranges from 63 to 800mm, pipes can be supplied in lengths up to 500m, which reduces the number of joints and reduces installation time.

The physical flexibility of the HDPE outer surface is an asset in many cases as it is able to absorb stresses caused by soil or ground movement, both the minor movements of settling and more major movements, for example in earthquake-prone areas. Being a plastic, there is no need to paint or coat it to protect it from most corrosive environments.

Kingfisher Industrial Ltd – UK
enquiries@kingfisher-industrial.co.uk
www.kingfisher-industrial.com

Line pipe coating to improve field joint bonds

Bredero Shaw's SureBond™ onshore pipe coating was developed to match or exceed the performance of three-layer coating products.



The new SureBond onshore pipe coating

Formulated with a proprietary molecular structure, SureBond is claimed to provide better pipe protection and superior bonding with all field joints.

It eliminates the often-problematic adhesive layer, while providing strong, virtually permanent protection of the anti-corrosion layer. The SureBond product line performs across a wide temperature range, from -70°C to 100°C, with low temperature bending and thermal cycling performance, a known limitation of three-layer systems.

“SureBond opens up an important new category

of line pipe coating,” said Cedric Oudinot, global product line manager at Bredero Shaw. “It offers significant benefits for operators – and it's competitively priced, so they get a superior solution without having to pay more.”

Bredero Shaw, a division of ShawCor, provides specialised coating systems and related services for corrosion protection, insulation and weight coating applications on land and marine pipelines, including highly engineered corrosion and insulation systems for deepwater applications.

Bredero Shaw – USA
solutions@brederoshaw.com
www.brederoshaw.com

OCTG, line pipe and PVF

Flow Control Technologies is a supplier and distributor of OCTG, steel line pipe, HDPE pipe and PVF to the energy industry worldwide.

The company has global operations working towards the whole oil and gas value chain: upstream (exploration and production, offshore and onshore); midstream (pipelines, compression stations, pumping stations, storage and distribution terminals); downstream

(refining, gas processing, petrochemicals and cogeneration); and mining, power generation and metal industries.

The company describes itself as a one-stop source for hard-to-find inventory items and short lead-time production.

Flow Control Technologies has constructed a network of quality vendors such as OEMs, leading producers, recognised mills, master stockists,

foundries, castings, extrusions, forgings and machining shops to manufacture complex and critical components. It offers reliable sources to meet certifications established by ASTM, ASME, API, DIN, ECN, ISO and other international industry standards.

Flow Control Technologies, LLC – USA
sales@flowcontroltechnologies.com
www.flowcontroltechnologies.com

Optimising multiple sections of pipe in oil and gas projects

Oil and gas pipe measurement specialist Optical Metrology Services (OMS) has released a new version of its SmartFit™ pipe fit-up optimisation software. In addition to the sequencing of single pipe ends, the new software is now capable of sequencing multiple pre-welded sections of pipe, while providing improved visualisation of pipe fit-up and new, automated reporting features.

Winner of a Queen's Award for Innovation in 2014, the SmartFit service is a system for managing pipe preparation and fit-up in readiness for welding prior to pipelaying. Used predominantly in the oil and gas industry, SmartFit ensures accurate fit-up of pipes prior to welding and laying in trenches, preventing environmentally damaging leaks.

In parallel, OMS has developed bespoke laser measuring equipment and methodologies with supporting software, for optimising pipe fit-up. The service allows faster pipelaying, and improves quality by eliminating mismatched pipe ends.

Each pipe end is measured, identified and entered into the SmartFit software, which then analyses the fit-up of pipes, allowing the operator to mark the best rotational position on each pipe end. In the bead stall, these marks are aligned to immediately achieve the best rotational position so that misalignment

is minimised and the project HiLo is easily achieved.

Any problem pipes that will not fit at a specified HiLo are also indicated and are re-sequenced or removed completely so that fit-up problems do not occur in the bead stall. This avoids production delays due to mismatched pipes.

The latest version of the SmartFit software was developed by OMS in response to the changing needs of the oil and gas industry. Rather than welding single pipe ends, some of the latest pipelaying vessels are now designed and equipped to carry and/or weld multiple sections of pipe – in doubles, triples or quads. Typically, these vessels carry pipe ends that have either been pre-welded onshore into multiple sections, or the vessels have facilities to weld the pipe ends on-board into multiple sections prior to the pipeline reeling and laying processes.

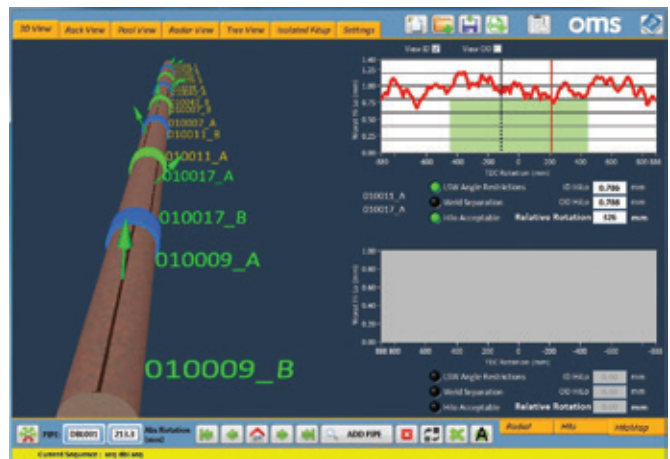
David Briscoe, senior software engineer at OMS, commented, "The SmartFit software is now able to simulate, sequence and optimise batches of double, triple or quad pipe ends to suit individual customer requirements. For the pipe contractor, this enables pipe

ends to be part-welded into multiple sections onshore, which in turn means less time is spent welding individual pipe ends on board the pipelaying vessel. This can significantly reduce vessel hiring costs and project risk."

The software provides 2D/3D visualisation of pipe ends, which not only reduces operator error but also aids the end customer or pipe contractor's own understanding of the benefits of using pipe fit up optimisation software in order to reduce weld cut-outs and delays to the pipe welding and laying processes.

Results and automated statistical reports can be generated and exported directly into different formats, including Word, Excel, .CSV file, and image/graphical reports, as well as more detailed technical reports that include every pipe joint/HiLo value in a pipeline.

Optical Metrology Services Ltd – UK
info@omsmeasure.com
www.omsmeasure.com



Screenshot of the new SmartFit software



16-18 September 2015

Tube Southeast ASIA returns to The Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC) from 16 to 18 September 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The trade fair provides an attractive focal point and springboard for local businesses and international companies seeking to broaden their export of tube and pipe products and technologies.

Organised by Messe Düsseldorf Asia, more than 400 companies will be exhibiting their latest innovations during the three-day event. As ASEAN prepares for further development with a major line-up of infrastructural projects in the pipeline, the wire and tube industries remain strong through robust support from the region and around the world.



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Bangkok, Thailand

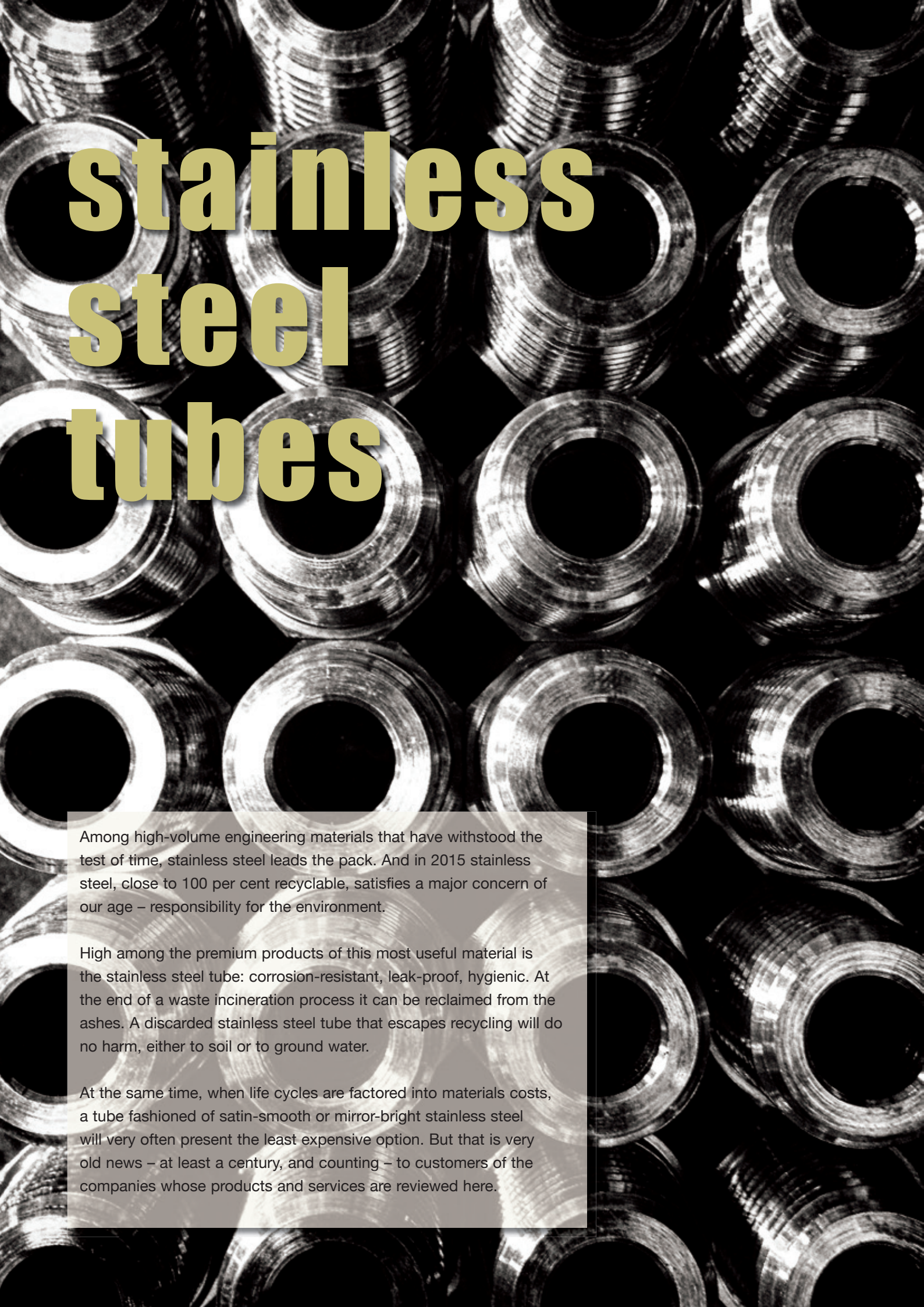
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www.tube-southeastasia.com



stainless steel tubes

Among high-volume engineering materials that have withstood the test of time, stainless steel leads the pack. And in 2015 stainless steel, close to 100 per cent recyclable, satisfies a major concern of our age – responsibility for the environment.

High among the premium products of this most useful material is the stainless steel tube: corrosion-resistant, leak-proof, hygienic. At the end of a waste incineration process it can be reclaimed from the ashes. A discarded stainless steel tube that escapes recycling will do no harm, either to soil or to ground water.

At the same time, when life cycles are factored into materials costs, a tube fashioned of satin-smooth or mirror-bright stainless steel will very often present the least expensive option. But that is very old news – at least a century, and counting – to customers of the companies whose products and services are reviewed here.

Ukrainian seamless stainless pipe exporter reports higher sales

Despite challenging and volatile market conditions, Centravis claims to be able to deliver steady production rates and constantly improved products and services.

A professional and committed workforce and efficient risk management helped the company withstand the challenges of 2014, while still managing to improve its overall performance.

According to an executive report published on the company's corporate website, the environment in which Centravis worked in 2014 was highly demanding. Economic disturbance in both Ukrainian and Russian markets was further aggravated by military action in Ukraine's Donetsk and Lugansk regions.

However, sales volumes still increased by 15 per cent over the preceding year. Revenue growth was lower at 3 per cent, influenced by the weaker euro and a devaluation of the rouble in the fourth quarter of 2014 that made prices on the Russian market fall.

Centravis, which exports 90 per cent of its products, benefited from a devaluation of the Ukrainian hryvnia.

"In the last year, the company proved it can reach its goals even in times of an ongoing political and economic crisis," stated the report.

"2015 will again be a challenging year, as the political and economic environment remains volatile. However, there are

strong signs of improvement as the fighting in Eastern Ukraine has calmed down and a comprehensive financial aid package from Western countries has been put in place."

Included in the report were words of appreciation by Centravis management to the clients who continued to work with the company: "Some of our clients have deliberately increased order volumes to show their solidarity in difficult times. We are grateful for this. Centravis will continue to be a reliable partner in a global business, with a lasting commitment towards quality and service."

Centravis – Ukraine
www.centravis.com

Quality inspection for stainless steel tubes

Contrôle Mesure Systèmes (CMS) designs, develops and manufactures a complete NDT range of products in eddy current and ultrasonic testing methods. Its range includes high performance instruments and systems, probes and transducers, accessories, and complete turnkey machines with associated mechanics.

Non-destructive inspection systems from CMS are adapted to different kinds of material, ferrous or non-ferrous, welded or non-welded.

For precision tubing, CMS has developed the RotoUTscan ultrasonic rotating head for tube inspection, in stainless steel, titanium, zirconium and carbon steel (diameter range 6 to 250mm), for longitudinal and transversal defect detection, thickness measurement, OD-ID and ovalisation.

RotoUTscan can be combined with other CMS equipment, such as magnetising units, rotating systems and support coils, for a full-body inspection of the product, and can be installed together in a strong control bench including centring devices.

Probus supervision software, used to collect information provided by NDT equipment, allows the display of combined signals (UT/ET), and creates inspection reports that can be used as control evidence for quality services and

customers. Data stored can be recalled for analysis and quality treatment.

Contrôle Mesure Systèmes – France
contactcms@cmseddyscan.com
www.cmseddyscan.com

RotoUTscan ultrasonic rotating head



Stainless steel pipes and fittings

Borsen Boru, founded in 1983, is not only a distributor of stainless steel pipes, valves and fittings but also a manufacturer of TIG welded stainless steel pipes.

The company, which carries a wide range of products from manufacturers in Europe, supplies its products and services to companies in a wide range of sectors, including the petrochemical, chemical, energy, shipbuilding, mechanical engineering, construction, food and beverage production, pipeline installation and trading sectors in Turkey.

Borsen Boru has built up a wealth of knowledge and expertise in products,

their application and distribution as a logistic specialist. The company is the Turkish representative and single distributor of Ham-Let for valves and fittings, as well as of Alfa-Laval for sanitary flow equipment. Founded in 1950, the Ham-Let Group specialises in the design, development, production and marketing of instrumentation valves and fittings in a wide variety of materials for high pressure, temperature and vacuum applications.

Alfa-Laval started its business in 1883 with the continuous milk separator, and from that point has remained a front runner in new developments for fluid handling equipment, including

valves, installation material and tank equipment, which can be delivered from Borsen Boru's warehouse upon request.

In 2006 Borsen Boru started to manufacture TIG welded stainless steel pipes and hollow sections in its own facilities. The company's test laboratory is an important part of the quality assurance process. Various destructive and non-destructive test procedures are available, such as eddy current testing, surface roughness measurements, hardness test, tensile test, bend test and chemical analysis.

Manufacturing processes such as tricathode TIG (GTAW 141) welding, inside bead removal, in-line bright annealing, straightening, surface finishing and tube end de-burring allow Borsen to meet delivery expectations.

The company's production line has two eddy current systems. The first is used to detect defects of incomplete welding, and the second is used to check whole pipe sections after the annealing process. Borsen issues inspection certificates according to EN 10204:2004 3.1 and according to pressure vessel directive PED 97/23/EC.

Borsen Boru – Turkey
borsen@borsenboru.com
www.borsenboru.com



Steeling ahead

Chandan Steel Ltd (CSL) manufactures a wide variety of stainless steel long products, including round bars, angles, channels, flat bars, wires and flanges, and claims to be India's only fully integrated manufacturer of stainless steel seamless tubes and pipes.

With a history of manufacturing operations spanning three decades, the company exports to more than 60 countries worldwide. In 2011 CSL acquired the German flange manufacturing plant M/s Zapp Flanschenfabrik GmbH. The company's production facility for seamless tubes is supported by machines that comply with high quality standards. The steel plant at Umbergaon, India, has

an in-house integrated facility for the production of raw materials. Round bars of different austenitic, ferritic, Duplex and Super Duplex grades are produced by conducting quality checks at different stages of manufacturing, before finally being used by the seamless tubes division.

CSL uses the cross roll piercing method for production of defect-free seamless stainless steel hollows. The use of in-house produced billets with controlled cleanliness levels and OD peeling has helped in eliminating surface inclusions. Maintaining limited delta ferrite levels in the raw material has contributed towards avoidance of cracks. Rolling is carried out at minimum temperatures

to improve surface finish and eliminate rupture, and a process has been set of high-pressure water descaling of billet, before rolling. CSL regularly uses glass lubrication on OD and ID of billets during rolling, and has eliminated surface defects through minimisation of surface torsional and circumferential stress deformation by adjusting feed and cross roll angles.

Tube straightening machines ensure minimal residual stress level in the products, which is specifically required for critical applications.

Chandan Steel Ltd – India
exports.smls@chandansteel.net
www.chandansteel.net

New markets for stainless steel finned tube heat exchangers

Heat exchangers are used in many industries, including the emerging markets of fuel cell, waste heat recovery and micro power generation – all projected to be multi-million pound worldwide markets in the near future.

With specific requirements to deal with corrosive condensates and high temperatures, the use of stainless steel fins on stainless steel round or elliptical tubes, including 5mm small bore, challenges traditional matrix manufacturing methods, to reach required heat transfer requirements.

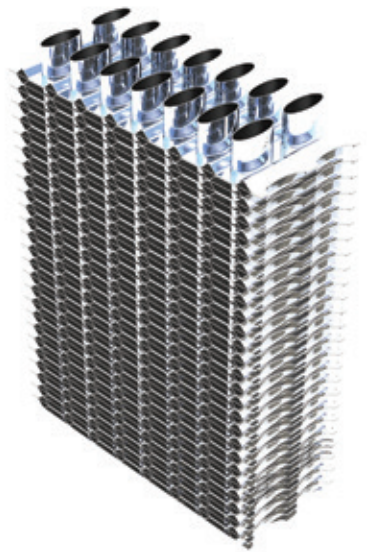
Power Fin Technologies is a UK-based exporter of finned tubes and finning machines. David Pierce, the company's owner and sole director, has been in the heat transfer industry for over 40 years, and in that time he has bought, managed and sold a number

of successful companies. He has also developed and patented eight related products.

Mr Pierce's original patented linear motor Elfin finning machine is capable of mechanically bonding any two metals. This produces an interference, swaged fit between fins and tubes to form a durable matrix, which extends the surface area of the tubes to dissipate heat or cooling more rapidly, without deformation of the base tubes.

Infinity, the latest Power Fin machine technology, uses the same process but positions multiple fins at once. They are claimed to be the only machines that can join any two metals with precision, using a clean, green process.

Stainless steel tubes are difficult to fin, especially if they are elliptical, thick



walled, or micro bore tubes of 5mm or smaller diameter. As the interference fit is achieved by the fin, all sizes and specifications can be accommodated with ease. The precision of manufacture also produces heat exchanger cores of consistent performance.

Power Fin Technologies – UK
info@powerfin.co.uk
www.powerfin.co.uk

The value of seamless stainless steel tubing

HandyTube Corporation, part of the tubing division of Handy & Harman, is a manufacturer of seamless coil and straight tubing for oil and gas, petrochemical and healthcare markets.

The company's products are created from hollow extruded tubes that are passed through a process-intensive manufacturing environment of drawing, cleaning and vacuum furnace annealing,

resulting in high-quality seamless coil tubing of various lengths and diameters. The products are available in a variety of high-performance, corrosion-resistant alloys and sizes suitable for challenging environments. The precision materials division, added in 2006, broadened the company's capabilities to include smaller diameter tubes, enabling HandyTube to manufacture capillary and transport tubing ranging from 0.51 to 25.4mm OD

(0.02" to 1"). HandyTube's seamless coil and straight length tubing is available in multiple sizes, compatible with standard fittings, and can be customised for specific applications. Tubing is available in many corrosion-resistant, high-temperature and high-strength alloys.

HandyTube Corp – USA
sales@handytube.com
www.handytube.com

Steel pipes and fittings

Hebei Senhai Pipeline Co, Ltd is a manufacturer and exporter of steel pipes and fittings. The company is located in Cangzhou City, China, about 120km from Tianjin seaport and airport, and 180km from Beijing.

The company produces large diameter, thick wall steel pipes by ERW, SSAW and LSAW, and various anti-corrosion

pipes. Seamless steel pipes range in size from 21.3 to 660mm, and 2 to 50mm wall thickness.

Square hollow sections and rectangular hollow sections are available from OD 20 x 20mm to 600 x 600mm, in wall thicknesses from 0.8 to 50mm. Anti-corrosion of steel pipes includes 3PE and 3PP outer anti-corrosion layer; single

and double FBE layer anti-corrosion; internal wall anti-drag coating of line pipe; polyurethane insulating pipe; and anti-corrosion by adding cement-and-sand layer. Steel butt-welding pipe fittings range in size from ½" to 72".

Hebei Senhai Pipeline Co, Ltd – China
sales@senhaipipeline.com
www.senhaipipeline.com

Dismantling joints in the 21st century

By Engineered Piping Products Ltd, UK

Tired of leaking dismantling joints/pipe misalignment couplings? Tired of the cost you have to pay for them? Tired of the length of time it takes to install and remove them? There is an alternative solution – rubber expansion joints. This article will try to describe all the advantages and disadvantages of both systems.

Conventional dismantling joints

Customer advantages and disadvantages

Advantage – Couplings can absorb up to 10mm expansion and contraction, flange adapters up to 5mm, which allows for movement on bridge crossings, in chambers and pump stations.

Disadvantage – What about greater movements, such as 20mm axial extension and compression just for installation between flanges? Or misalignment between the flange faces?

Advantage – The standard finish for all products is black Rilsan Nylon 11, which is highly resistant to impact, corrosion, abrasion and chemical attack. However, other coatings such as shop coat, hot dip galvanising, zinc spray and epoxy coating can be supplied as required.

Disadvantage – Coating can be easily damaged during fitting due to poor working/installation practices. What about heavily chlorinated seawater environments such as the Middle East,



Conventional dismantling joints



where corrosion is a huge issue and most of the time clients will insist on all metal surfaces in contact with seawater to be in Duplex or Super Duplex materials? A very expensive option!

Advantage – Flange adapters are often used to permit dismantling of valves in flanged pipe systems.

Disadvantage – Have you ever tried remove this coupling or dismantling joint? Especially when the coupling has been there for a few years!

Advantage – Couplings can offer up to 6° of angular deflection, flange adapters 3° – to allow for the connection of misaligned pipes; take up ground settlement at structures; and to lay pipes to large radius bends.

Disadvantage – What about thermal movements, and extra ground settlement such as in desert environments like the Middle East? Desert sand is always on the move, even years later. Also consider pump surge, and the high forces to move these joints under operation/pressure.

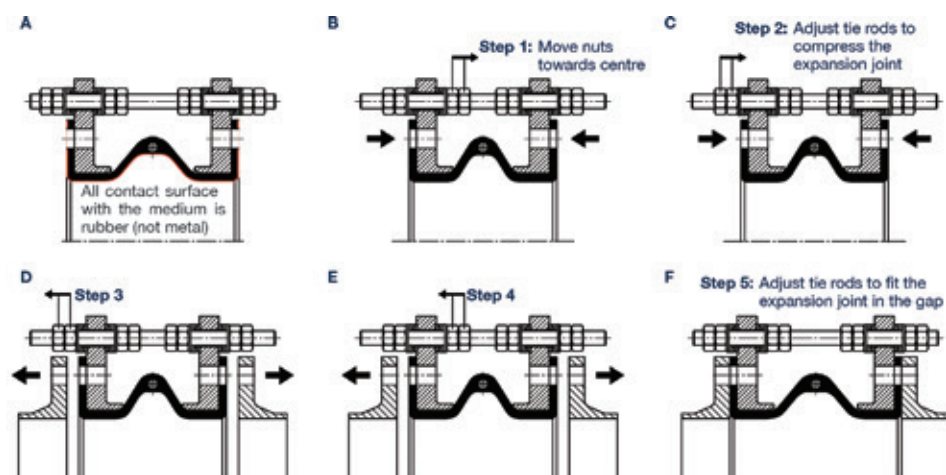
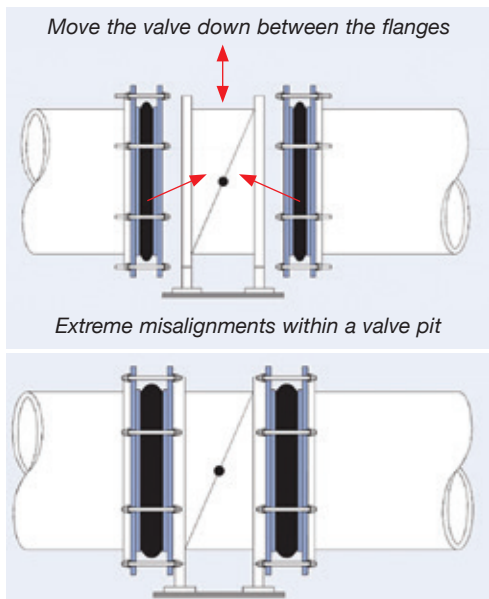
Product design benefits

1 – Simple to fit

Simple installation in any weather and trench conditions, even underwater? Questionable?

2 – Long life expectancy

Elastomeric sealing gaskets are designed to have at least a 50-year lifespan. Very questionable? Rubber degrades 1 Shore A per year of its life under operation and exposure to weather conditions. Depending on the grade of rubber it will probably start out around 65 to 70 Shore A. When it reaches 80 to 85 Shore A in hardness it should be changed, so this



would equate to a life of either 20 years or 15 years, not 50 years as claimed.

3 – Corrosion protection

Metal components are coated with epoxy coatings and other surface protections. The nuts and bolts are Sheraplex coated to WIS 4-52-03, offering long-term protection against corrosion, impact and abrasion to ensure continued reliable protection to corrosion, impact and abrasion, and therefore ensured continued reliable performance (as discussed previously).

- Various grades of rubber to suit the medium, the design pressure and temperature.
- All surfaces in contact with the medium are in rubber, so there is no need for epoxy coatings or any other surface protection.
- The expansion joint/dismantling joint can be removed and installed many times without having to change any seals etc.
- EPP can supply these joints up to 4m or 157" and pressures up to 38 bar or 551 psi. The larger diameters are in lower pressures.

Valve dismantling

Rubber expansion joint – main advantages

- Easy to install – simply adjust the tie rod nuts on the inside and on the outside of the flange, then compress or extend the expansion joint to suit the gap.
- All face-to-face gaps and misalignments can be accommodated by designing the rubber expansion joint to take up the thermal movements and vibrational movements along with any installation misalignments.

Engineered Piping Products – UK
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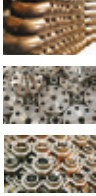


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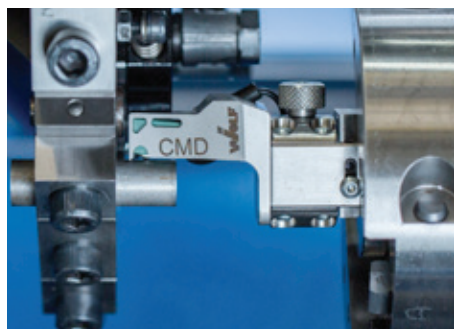


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