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INTERNATIONAL

The trade magazine for tube and pipe products

September 2016



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Tube Products

INTERNATIONAL

The trade magazine for tube and pipe products



The September issue

Welcome to the latest Tube Products INTERNATIONAL magazine. This issue we have a feature on wide diameter tubes as well as three in-depth articles from big hitters in the tube industry – Marcegaglia, Tata Steel and Sumner.

The next show I am attending with the magazine is Tube India in Mumbai, which I first visited in 2012 and I am very much looking forward to returning to in October.

It will be interesting to see how the tube industry has developed over the past four years as India has been promising to become one of the world's strongest economies for a number of years now.

More than 400 exhibitors from around 25 countries are expected to attend the event so it is very much an international occasion. If you are also attending please do come and say hello at one of our two stands at the show.

There is so much potential in India, especially in infrastructure projects such as improving underground pipes, so hopefully companies from around the world can exploit these opportunities and offer their expertise, which will benefit the people of India enormously.

Next issue we have features on pipeline inspection, tube protection and coating, pre-insulated pipe, and pre-bent/pre-formed tubes. The advertising deadline is 12 September. We also have a new sales and marketing representative working on the magazine called Steve Singh. Get in touch with Steve at: steve@intras.co.uk for more information.

I hope that you enjoy the magazine. Contact me at rory@intras.co.uk if you have any questions or would like to submit editorial, a technical article or a case study to help promote your products.



Rory McBride
Editor

events calendar

2016



26-29 September
Tube China (*Shanghai, China*)
International Exhibition
www.tubechina.net



5-7 October
Tube India (*Mumbai, India*)
International Exhibition
www.tube-india.com



25-27 October
Indometal (*Jakarta, Indonesia*)
International Exhibition
www.indometal.net



25-29 October
EuroBlech (*Hanover, Germany*)
International Exhibition
www.euroblech.com



16-18 November
FABTECH (*Las Vegas, USA*)
International Exhibition
www.fabtechexpo.com



29 November – 1 December
Valve World (*Düsseldorf, Germany*)
International Exhibition
www.valveworldexpo.com

2017



23-25 March
Boru 2017 (*Istanbul, Turkey*)
International Exhibition
www.borufair.com

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www.marcegaglia.com

business & market news

A Hargreaves employee welding ductwork

Ductwork contract for Chernobyl New Safe Confinement

Hargreaves, a provider of complete HVAC solutions, has been selected to supply more than 6,000m of high integrity ductwork to a project at the Chernobyl nuclear site in the Ukraine.

It is the only UK subcontractor working on the groundbreaking Chernobyl New Safe Confinement (NSC) project, having secured a multi-million pound contract with Novarka, a joint venture between Vinci Construction Grands Projets and Bouygues Travaux Publics.

The company is delivering a complete bespoke ventilation and containment solution to the NSC project, including consultation, detail design, manufacture and engineering services, as well as managing the procurement process.

The NSC is currently one of the largest engineering projects in the world, with a 108m-high arch being constructed to prevent the release of radioactive

materials from within the Chernobyl nuclear reactor for a minimum of 100 years.

Alongside engineering and manufacture, Hargreaves is managing the supply of 36 HEPA filters, 77 fans and 38 air handling units, plus associated instrumentation, making it one of the largest international HVAC projects undertaken.

With over 2,000 people working to safely deliver the project, 21 different nationalities are represented within the management team alone, and there are 60 radiation specialists in place to guarantee safe working conditions. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (ERBD) is funding the project, with contributions totalling €2.5bn from donors across a number of countries worldwide.

Hargreaves managing director Tim Hopkinson commented, “[Hargreaves]



Tim Hopkinson, managing director at Hargreaves

has provided solutions for a variety of environments around the world with experience in managing both the safety and quality requirements, as well as containment challenges presented by nuclear projects.

“When fully installed, the Hargreaves HVAC system will play a vital role in supporting radiological contamination by immediately reducing the potential for the spread of hazardous dust particles. Hargreaves is helping to make Chernobyl safe for future generations.”

Hargreaves Ductwork Ltd – UK
info@mw-hargreaves.net
www.mw-hargreaves.net

Centravis pipes pre-qualified by ADCO

Centravis Production Ukraine has been pre-qualified by the Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Petroleum Operations Ltd (ADCO) for the supply of seamless stainless pipes of all grades. Centravis states that this milestone demonstrates the continued trust of ADCO in its production, a year after ADCO approved the Ukrainian manufacturer for instrumentation tubing.

ADCO is one of the leading oil and gas companies of the UAE. Being part of the ADNOC group (the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company), it is among the ten top global oil producers specialising in exploration and production, and development of and transportation from the onshore oil fields.

“Our strategy is to increase our presence in the Middle East by offering a balanced portfolio of both high value-added products like instrumentation tubing and high-volume products like piping,” said a spokesperson for the company. “It is a reality of nowadays that we are coming to the markets that have traditionally been dominated by our competitors for many years.

In such conditions, we must be able to prove that our tubes and pipes are not only competitive commercially, but also meet the strict requirements of the leading local end users. The latest approval by ADCO for piping is another significant step forward that Centravis has achieved within its strategy for development of pipes for oil and gas applications.”

Centravis supplies products to all key markets worldwide through a network of sales offices in Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Italy and the USA, and sales agents in other regions such as Brazil, the Middle East, South Korea and Australia.

Centravis – Ukraine
www.centravis.com

Centravis is increasing its presence in the Middle East



SCV expands Texas operations

Southern California Valve (SCV) was established in 1972 as a maintenance and modification company with the ability to provide full in-line valve service and repair. The company has expanded its range of valves to include gates, globes, checks, balls and plugs, for supplying the power, paper and pulp, oil and gas, and petro-chemical sectors.

60,000ft² of manufacturing and warehousing space is being added to SCV's operations in Texas, USA. The new manufacturing facility will be equipped with tools and machinery for manufacturing and testing valves 20" and larger. A new 7,000-gallon submerged nitrogen gas testing tank is in place, and is capable of accommodating up to 30" through conduit gate valves.

SCV manufactures commodity and speciality valves that it claims exceed the needs of its customers. All sizes,

pressure classes and metallurgical compositions are managed in-house, utilising strict quality control measures. The company has earned API 6A, API 6D, ISO: 9001:2008, CE-PED and CRN certifications while operating under the API Q1 Quality Management System.

Inventory consists of a combination of commodity valves, speciality valves and valves that are uncommon in size, pressure class, trim and body materials. Standard commodity stock items consist of midstream API 6D products such as through conduit gate (expanding and slab designs), trunnion mounted ball, piston and full port swing check, and lubricated pressure balanced plug valves in carbon and stainless steel bodies, with ENP and stainless trims and a variety of sealing materials to meet application requirements. The API6D products are available in sizes from 2" to 48", class 150 to 2500.

SCV stocks API 600 downstream products including bolted bonnet OS&Y wedge gate, globe, and check valves in carbon and stainless steel, with various trims and sealing materials, in sizes 2" to 48", class 150 to 2500.

The company's inventory of pressure seal products include gate, globe, and check valves in WCB, C6, C9, C12, C12A and stainless steel from 2" to 24", class 900 to 2500.

For customers who need an engineered solution for a specific application, SCV can build a one-off valve.

These highly specialised valves are fewer in quantity, and require intensive engineering and more manufacturing time.

Southern California Valve – USA
www.scvvalve.com

Projects to begin oil production

Tube Developments expects to see two of the projects for which it supplied piping produce oil in 2016.

First oil from Moho Nord is planned for this year. The exploration and production project was launched off the Congolese coast in 2013. The development is the largest oil project undertaken in the Republic of the Congo to date. Tube Developments supplied the structural tubulars to the appointed project contractor in 2015.

Closer to the company's UK head office, production is expected to restart in 2016 in the redevelopment project of the Schiehallion and Loyal fields, located west of the Shetland Islands. This BP project, known as BP Quad 204, will allow the field to extend and remain in production beyond 2035. Tube Developments supplied the structural tubulars for the subsea structures.

The contractor Babcock International was responsible for delivering 73



The Moho Nord project is expected to begin oil production this year

fabricated subsea structures for the redevelopment. The £3bn project presented one of the most complex engineering challenges undertaken by BP and its partners.

Tube Developments operates from a warehouse facility covering thousands of square feet of fully mechanised space that accommodates its comprehensive range of carbon steel pipes and tubulars. The company has experience in the supply of tubular products to the North Sea oil industry, and this knowledge of products in addition to the full range of its stockholding has enabled it to participate in supplying the newly created markets of the emerging oil producing countries.

Tube Developments Ltd – UK
info@tubedev.com
www.tubedev.com

A subsea structure for the BP Quad 204 project



JMC Steel Group becomes Zekelman Industries

JMC Steel Group is changing its corporate name and identity to Zekelman Industries Inc.

Zekelman Industries is the parent company of Atlas Tube, Wheatland Tube, Sharon Tube, Picoma and Energex Tube. Each of these business units will continue to operate under its existing brand name.

"The change of name and identity signifies my, and my family's, commitment to our business, customers, team members and suppliers," said Barry Zekelman, CEO of Zekelman Industries. "I am proud of the work we do and honoured to have

my name associated with the products and services we provide."

Zekelman Industries is a value-added metal processor, with a focus on providing customer service through the timely delivery of high-value industrial products. The company is committed to the continuous improvement of its customer service and manufacturing processes, and constantly invests in its systems and facilities.

Most recently, the company completed its Phoenix project at the Wheatland Division's Council Avenue facility. This investment has improved product delivery, quality and throughput.

Additionally, Zekelman Industries' recent investment in VectorBloc (a modular construction design system) is a step toward expanding the company's product lines and manufacturing capabilities.

All @jmcsteel.com email addresses have transitioned to @zekelman.com. All Zekelman business units – Atlas Tube, Wheatland Tube, Sharon Tube, Picoma and Energex Tube – will keep their existing names, email addresses and website URLs.

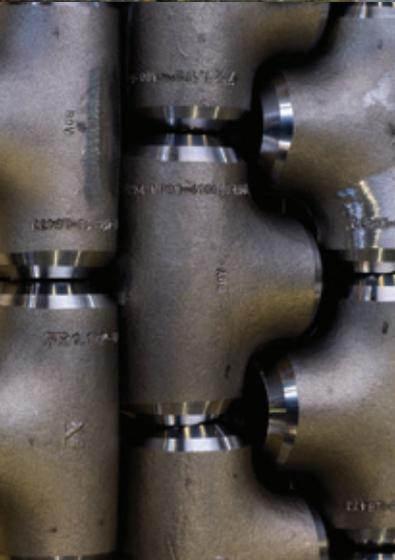
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Asahi/America names new VP

Thermoplastic fluid flow technologies specialist Asahi/America, Inc has announced the promotion of Michael J Hansen to vice president of the western region and international operations. Since August 2015, Mr Hansen has been handling the reporting and strategic planning of Asahi/America's sales operations in South America, the Pacific Islands and, most recently, the company's entrance into the Australian marketplace.

In addition to these responsibilities, Mr Hansen will continue to oversee Asahi/America's team of sales representatives west of the Mississippi River, and assist Asahi/America district sales managers and their distributors with sales and specification efforts for the company's

full range of thermoplastic fluid flow products.

Mr Hansen has been with Asahi/America since 2002 as district sales manager. He has helped guide the growth of the Northern California and Nevada territory during the past decade, and has been instrumental in providing numerous business opportunities for his distributors across a wide array of industrial and municipal applications.

Asahi/America provides 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



Michael J Hansen

custom fabrication department, and provides on-site consultation, supervision and training where required.

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

BSS names its supplier of the year

BSS Industrial, a UK distributor of pipeline and heating solutions, has awarded George Fischer Sales Ltd its Supplier of the Year award for 2016.

George Fischer, based in Coventry, UK, is a supplier of plastic piping systems and metal fittings. The division focuses on system solutions and components for the safe transport of water, gas

and chemicals in industry, utility and building services sectors. Its product range includes pipes, fittings, valves, sensors and automation as well as jointing technologies, and covers all water cycle applications.

In making the award, BSS recognises the contribution that George Fischer has made to its own success in a partnership

of shared goals and ambitions over the last year. George Fisher supports BSS not only in winning contracts but also through sharing project information and making joint calls to customers that emphasise the close relationship it has with BSS, its branches and its account managers.

Working in conjunction with BSS, George Fischer has been proactive throughout the UK region, raising awareness of the solutions it can offer through BSS.

BSS managing director Chris Hufflett (centre) presents the award to Richard Trevaskis (centre right)



George Fischer Sales Ltd managing director Richard Trevaskis said, "We are very pleased and greatly honoured to receive this award as it shows that we're appreciated by everyone at BSS. The team at George Fischer have worked very hard to form a meaningful long-term relationship with a UK market leader and it's great to see this approach being recognised."

BSS Industrial, established in 1899, has more than 60 branches across the UK.

BSS Industrial – UK
www.bssindustrial.co.uk

George Fischer Sales Ltd – UK
uk.ps@georgfischer.com
www.gfps.com

Fine Tubes awarded KOC 'approved manufacturer' status

Fine Tubes, a UK manufacturer and global supplier of precision tubes for critical applications, has been selected as an approved manufacturer of impulse piping and tubing for the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). The approval remains valid for five years.

This third-party endorsement will help the company expand its range of customer approvals in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The company works largely in the oil and gas sector, as well as in industries such as aerospace, medical, chemical, nuclear and power generation. It has sales offices in the UK, the USA, India and Europe, and an extensive network of partners in Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

Nicholas Head, global business development manager, oil and gas, at

Fine Tubes, said, "We are extremely keen to strengthen our commercial presence in Kuwait and other Middle East and North African countries. We are delighted in how much they value our products and look forward to continuing our relationship with KOC well into the future. This endorsement will further help build our reputation for quality and reliability throughout the region."

Fine Tubes has more than 70 years of engineering experience, supplying precision tubes that meet exacting standards in strength to weight ratios, as well as corrosion resistance and fatigue life.

Tubing is manufactured in a range of shapes, sizes and materials, including stainless steel, nickel, titanium, and zirconium alloys, all made to the client's specifications.

Along with its US-based sister company Superior Tube, Fine Tubes supplies its products to more than 35 countries worldwide. Previous oil and gas projects completed in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region include tubing for the Barzan Gas Field in Qatar, Zakum Oil Field Development in the United Arab Emirates and specialist work for Shell Majnoon in Iraq.

Kuwait Oil Company is a subsidiary of the government-owned holding company Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. Its responsibilities include the exploration, drilling and production of oil and gas within the State of Kuwait, as well as the storage of crude oil and delivery for export to tankers.

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

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Tube Products INTERNATIONAL appoints sales and marketing executive



Steve Singh of
Tube Products INTERNATIONAL

Steve Singh has joined the Tube Products INTERNATIONAL magazine team as sales and marketing executive.

Mr Singh has extensive experience in media sales including a number of years at leading regional newspapers throughout the UK.

He lives in Warwickshire, UK, with his wife and young daughter and his interests include travel, food and cricket.

He is excited about the opportunity to help companies in the tube and pipe industry with their marketing and advertising campaigns in order to help them to gain outstanding international exposure for their products.

Tube Products INTERNATIONAL magazine is distributed globally to a comprehensive database of decision makers and buyers in the tube industry and is present at all major international tube events.

Mr Singh can be contacted on email at: steve@intras.co.uk or by calling: +44 1926 834688. A media pack with detailed advertising information and a forward features list is available at: www.read-tpi.com

Hobas GRP manholes win product test

In a recent review of manhole rehabilitation products and methods



Inspection by the IKT testing team
(copyright/source: IKT)

by the IKT Institute (institute for underground infrastructure, Stuttgart, Germany), the Austrian company Hobas came out on top.

13 different rehabilitation systems were tested, which involved the renovation of a 5m-high concrete manhole, DN 1000. The providers were asked to re-establish the manhole's leak-tightness and structural integrity. The individual approaches were then examined and the rehabilitated shafts exposed to long- and short-term groundwater pressure.

With an overall score of 'Good' (1.6, German grading system from 1 to 6, with 1 being best), Hobas GRP manholes were the test winners.

Hobas Engineering GmbH – Austria
info@hobas.com
www.hobas.com

Offshore Energy 2016

Registration for Offshore Energy Exhibition & Conference 2016 (OEEC 2016) is now open. The ninth edition of the event is expected to attract 11,500 offshore professionals and more than 650 exhibiting companies. The event takes place on 25 and 26 October 2016 at Amsterdam RAI in the Netherlands.

Offshore Energy is an annual event focused on the complete offshore energy industry. It covers both the exploration and production of the conventional energy resources oil and gas, as well as the expanding renewable part of the energy mix such as offshore wind and marine renewable energy. Renewables play an important role during OEEC 2016.

Next to the exhibition, which covers four halls at Amsterdam RAI totalling an area of approximately 26,000m², more than 80 speakers representing some of the major players in the offshore energy industry will feature at the conference. The extensive three-day conference programme consists of keynote, technical sessions, master classes, meetings of industry organisations, the Marine Energy Event and the Offshore WIND Conference.

'Entering a new area' has been chosen as theme for OEEC 2016. The theme will also be reflected in the three-day conference programme, where subjects such as subsea processing and infrastructure, decommissioning, knowledge management, asset integrity, Iran, LNG and optimising value by building alliances across the E&P chain will be presented and discussed. One of the new developments this year will be the attendance of Iranian companies, who will present themselves at the Iran pavilion during the entire event.

OEEC 2016 together with CBC Oil & Gas have tailored activities for Iranian companies to meet the international energy industry at their national pavilion and during a dedicated technical session on Iran, where the developments in the Iranian oil industry will be discussed.

Navingo BV – Netherlands
www.offshore-energy.biz

Success in the Bavarian mountains

Since 1893, the Höllentalanger hut, situated 1,387m above sea level in the Wetterstein mountains in Germany, has been used as a starting point for hikers who want to climb Zugspitze via the Höllental route. In 2013, the original hut was at the end of its service life. As well as a new hut being required, it was time for new hydroelectric pipes. The order to supply the pipe system went to Swedish Alvenius Industries.

Demolishing and building in the Wetterstein mountains is not simple, and project planning took nearly 15 years. There were many requirements for the water feeding system to the power plant, but the hydroelectric pipe solutions were available in Alvenius's extensive range.

The Höllentalanger hut is difficult to access. As there are no roads that can be used by heavy goods vehicles, the pipes had to be flown in by helicopter, so low

pipe weight was essential. In addition, parts of the hydroelectric pipes are in the open on the mountainside, and are constantly exposed to solar radiation and all types of weather, meaning the pipes had to be highly resistant.

After evaluating several suppliers, DAV and the special construction firm Florian Dörfler Alpiner Tiefbau chose Alvenius Rocshield™. The thin-walled Flowmax™ pipes are lighter than comparable pipes, and are coated with Corroflo™ for good corrosion protection and service life.

The exterior of the pipes is coated with Rocshield™ for additional resistance to abrasion, external impact and corrosion. The Alvenius quick coupling system combined with the pipes' low weight makes installation up to ten times faster.

AB Alvenius Industries – Sweden
info@alvenius.se
www.alvenius.com

Hart on the move

Hart bv is extending its stock in seamless and welded pipe in C276, and has also moved office to a warehouse twice the size of its old one, to accommodate the growing range of stock in nickel alloy piping products.

Established in 1964, Hart started from a small garage in the backyard of its founder, Neville Hart. In 1974, its first office with warehouse was built in Nijkerk, the Netherlands.

In 2000, the building next door was added; and now Hart needs to move again, to house its growing nickel piping stock and rising number of employees.

Apart from the change of address, all company details will remain the same.

Hart bv – Netherlands
sales@hartbv.nl
www.hartbv.nl

Made in Steel 2017 dates confirmed



The dates have been set for the seventh edition of Made in Steel, the biannual meeting point for the global steel industry. From 17 to 19 May 2017, the Fiera Milano Exhibition Centre, Milan, Italy, will host the conference and exhibition dedicated to the entire international steel chain.

"Made in Steel is a well-known and consolidated industrial-political and marketing instrument for the steel industry," stated Emanuele Morandi, CEO of the event's organiser, Siderweb. "The title of the 2017 edition of the event is 'Stronger Together' – a reference to the importance of working synergistically and revising the system for the future of all enterprises operating in the steel industry."

With 40,886 million tons produced in the first three months of 2016, the European steel industry holds second place as

world producer, behind the Asian continent, which in the first quarter produced 68.3 per cent of the world total.

Within Europe, Italy is the second most productive country behind Germany, with 5,768 million tons produced in the period January-March 2016 (source World Steel Association).

For the 2017 edition of Made in Steel, alongside the showcase of the main international players in production, manufacturing, trade and end users of steel, the event will present an opportunity for analysis of the economic situation, touching on topics of major interest, and will give insight into the future prospects of the European steel industry.

Made in Steel Srl – Italy
info@madeinsteel.it
www.madeinsteel.it



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Schoeller Bleckmann rebranded

The Böhler portfolio of corrosion resistant alloy (CRA) products in bar, billet, sheet, plate and forgings for the oil and gas, chemical processing (CPI) and energy industries was partnered with the seamless tube and pipe products in stainless, duplex, super duplex and exotic grades, previously branded Schoeller Bleckmann UK, in April 2016.

The new Specialty Metals Division is headed by Richard Kendall, who explains the rebranding strategy: "The rebrand of the Schoeller Bleckmann

business will harness our group strength. Our reputation for quality is built on our technical capability and continued investment in new products and testing facilities; this will further strengthen our strategy to offer the best products and the best service across each of our industry sectors."

The company has over 40 years' experience in the supply of stainless, duplex, super duplex and exotic grades of seamless tube and pipe. Already a major UK stockist and supplier of



Richard Kendall

The new Kasto automated distribution system



seamless tube and pipe, a recent investment in a Kasto automated modular distribution system in its warehouse facility in Oldbury, West Midlands, has enhanced its ability to service customer needs.

Company contacts have not changed, and the same experienced UK-based team will continue to work with existing mill partners.

The new business is part of the Special Steel Division, part of the voestalpine Group, a steel-based technology and capital goods group that operates worldwide.

Böhler Uddeholm Specialty Metals
– UK

speciality@bohlersteels.co.uk
www.boehler-uddeholm.co.uk

MRC Expands Service to Chemours in US Gulf Coast

MRC Global (US) Inc has been awarded an agreement to be the primary provider of pipe, valve and fitting (PVF) products and services to all US locations of The Chemours Company. The five-year agreement adds the Gulf Coast region and also includes valve automation and speciality piping products.

"We have supported a number of Chemours' facilities for many years, and I am grateful that Chemours decided to ex-

pand that relationship for both product lines and geographies," commented Andrew R Lane, president and CEO.

"I look forward to continuing to grow with Chemours as its primary provider of PVF."

The agreement includes maintenance, repair and operation and capital projects. Chemours is a global chemistry company with market positions in

titanium technologies, fluoroproducts and chemical solutions.

Headquartered in Houston, Texas, USA, MRC Global is a distributor of pipe, valves and fittings and related products and services to the energy industry, and supplies each of the upstream, midstream and downstream sectors.

MRC Global Inc – USA
www.mrcglobal.com

MAC appoints president/CEO

Non-destructive testing technology company Magnetic Analysis Corp (MAC) has promoted Dudley M Boden to president and chief executive officer. Having spent 15 years as MAC's vice president – sales and marketing, Mr Boden brings an in-depth understanding of the company's test systems and customer inspection needs.

Mr Boden is now focused on broadening the firm's product offering in order to take advantage of new opportunities that have arisen. "Boden's work in expanding overseas operations and strengthening the sales force and office procedures is providing a firm basis for future successful initiatives under his leadership," commented MAC chairman William S Gould 3rd.

"As a company, the concept at MAC is that we are more than just an equipment manufacturer," said Mr Boden. "To make NDT work you need both equipment and people. Combining these two things is

our forte. We partner with the customer to figure out what their real needs are and what the right equipment is for their application. Then we work with them to configure the test system and make it work in a way that is suitable and beneficial for them."

Prior to joining MAC, Mr Boden was a director and general manager of Minolta Corporation's instrument systems division, where he was responsible for production and sales of quality control equipment. He holds a degree in photographic science and instrumentation from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

MAC specialises in ultrasonic, eddy current, electromagnetic and flux leakage systems for testing wire, tube and bar. The company has been designing and manufacturing non-destructive test systems for the metals industry since 1928, and is currently based in Elmsford, New York, USA,



Dudley Boden, new president/CEO of Magnetic Analysis Corp

with additional manufacturing plants in Boardman, Ohio, USA, and Östersund, Sweden.

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

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Epic expansion to the Middle East

Epic Piping will shortly commence operations at a 400,000ft² facility in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, marking an important development for the company's international expansion and overall manufacturing capabilities.

The addition of the large-scale facility will allow Epic, which currently operates four facilities across North America, to expand production to more than 20,000 spools per month, with a total fabrication capacity exceeding 1,000,000ft².

"We are excited to announce our global growth through the expansion of Epic into the Middle East," said Remi Bonneze, chief operating officer of Epic.

"This expansion allows us to better meet our clients' growing global needs by increasing our production capabilities and enabling us to take on larger projects."

The facility will be managed by Mazen

Azizieh, president of international fabrication at Epic, and a team of experienced individuals with local relationships and operational expertise.

Epic's fabrication capabilities include carbon steel, chrome moly, stainless steels, duplex steels, nickel based alloys and jacketed piping.

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

Drinking water contact approvals for plumbing portfolio

Solvay Engineering Plastics has announced that its entire range of Technyl® PA6.6 and Technyl eXten PA6.10 materials for plumbing applications has obtained full drinking water contact approvals from the certification authorities NSF-61 (USA), WRAS (UK), ACS (France), and KTW and W270 (Germany).

Solvay is one of the few material suppliers to offer full European and American certification.

This comprehensive compliance positions the company to globally support customers seeking specific local regulatory clearances for plumbing parts in contact with potable water. Typical end products in this market include pumps, water meters, manifolds, fittings and valves, as well as boilers, filters and other plumbing components.

In addition, Technyl PA6.6 materials are FDA approved, and all Technyl products in the plumbing portfolio meet European Regulation (EU) 10/2011 as amended for materials intended to come into contact with food.

"Very few industries impose more stringent standards than plumbing in terms of safety and health, especially with respect to choosing materials for products and components coming into contact with water," said Wilson Chan, global consumer and electrical market director for Solvay Engineering Plastics. "We're dedicated to working with our customers to design solutions which protect end-users from potential hazardous substances coming from drinking water systems."

Customers in the plumbing industry are increasingly looking for solutions that will help them address cost and performance challenges in this demanding and regulated environment. PA-based Technyl products from Solvay



Fully assembled plastic water meter
Photo credit: Solvay Engineering Plastics

leverage the company's expertise in metal replacement, providing a number of claimed benefits over conventional plumbing materials such as brass, copper, non-alloy steel and aluminium. They eliminate the risk of galvanic corrosion associated with these metals, and facilitate compliance with tighter regulations on permissible levels of lead in drinking water.

Solvay is one of the first companies to offer a PA6.10 material specifically formulated for the plumbing market. Its Technyl eXten (PA 6.10) materials provide the same benefits as PA6.6, with lower water-uptake, yielding dimensional stability and chlorine resistance while maintaining mechanical performance.

The added benefits of PA 6.10 materials enable using these polyamides in more demanding applications than standard PA 6.6 materials, notably with higher temperatures, and providing longer product life.

Solvay Engineering Plastics – France
www.solvay.com



Brass water meter housing and polymer replacement using Technyl A 218W 50 Black FA (PA6.6) Photo credit: Solvay Engineering Plastics

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Retrievable bridge plug receives V0 certification

Peak Well Systems, a specialist in the design and development of advanced downhole tools for well intervention, has reached a milestone in the development programme for its Simultra range of retrievable bridge plugs. The range of available plugs has been extended into 5½" applications with the successful ISO-14310 V0 gas testing of the 5½" tool in 20lb API casing.

The results of the testing showed repeatable zero bubble gas performance over a single test sequence that ranged from 175°C to 25°C, and from 7,500psi above to 7,500psi below the seal. Additional testing of the same 5½" Simultra plug to 10,000psi was expected to take place at a later date.

Peak was commissioned to conduct the testing specifically by a leading international oil operator that is interested in utilising Simultra technology to reduce

cost in some of its challenging wells. All tests were undertaken at Peak's new gas pressure testing facility located in Aberdeen, UK, and were independently witnessed and validated by a certified third party authority.

Robin McGowan, chief technology officer at Peak Well Systems, said, "Proving V0 performance across such a wide operating range in a single test run without the need to break testing into smaller temperature increments is a huge achievement and demonstrates not only the seal's robustness but also the technology's unique capability relative to traditional seals."

The Simultra range was developed in response to an industry need for a high expansion, high performance plug suitable for gas wells and challenging applications. At its core is MetaPlex – a hybrid metal-elastomer seal that delivers both performance and improved recovery reliability.

The MetaPlex sealing element expands further than conventional V0 sealing technologies, but retracts to a smaller-than-original outside diameter, and does not rely upon the memory of the elastomer to retract the seal for retrieval. It offers a larger internal flow diameter compared to conventional V0 elastomeric seals, making it suitable for other applications where restricted flow is an issue.



MetaPlex seal after completing V0 test cycle and recovered to smaller than its original diameter

The dual metal seal design protects the elastomer element from hostile well conditions, maintaining seal integrity even in extreme downhole environments and ensuring improved reliability and retrievability.

Officially launched in November 2015, Peak has now successfully achieved V0 certification for its 4½" plug in 11.6lb to 15.1lb casing, as well as for its 5½" plug in 20lb, which is also suitable for 23lb casing. Peak aims to have the complete Simultra range, which will include a 7" plug, available for sale or rental by Q3 2016.

Peak's portfolio of products includes solutions for flow control, routine and high-deviation well intervention, extending or restoring well integrity, downhole data acquisition, heavy-duty fishing, wellbore clean-up and debris removal. The company has technology centres in Perth (Australia), Aberdeen (UK) and Dubai (United Arab Emirates), supported with sales and rental offices in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) as well as distribution agents.

Peak Well Systems – Australia
info@peakwellsystems.com
www.peakwellsystems.com

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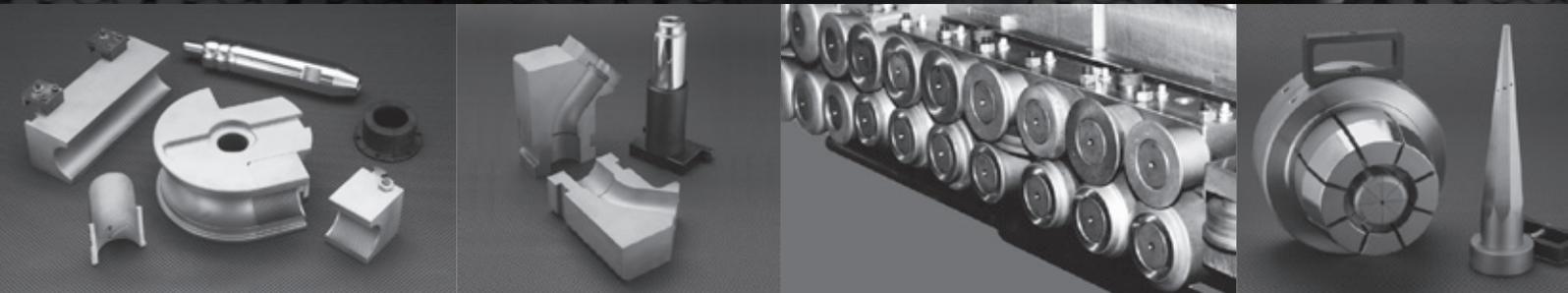
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Sinarsky launches new type of boiler tube

Sinarsky Pipe Plant, a TMK subsidiary, has launched production of a new type of boiler tube, commissioned by Krasny Kotelshchik Taganrog Boiler-Making Works, one of Russia's largest manufacturers of power engineering equipment.

The 31.75mm cold-drawn tube with 6.1mm walls, produced to ASME SA-210/SA-210M international standard, will be used in the manufacture of equipment for the Long Phu 1 thermal power project in Vietnam. Krasny Kotelshchik Works is involved in the construction of the 1,200 MW thermal power project as part of Power Machines, a Saint Petersburg-based power engineering company.

Sinarsky Pipe Plant won the supply

contract in a tender process that involved 12 Russian and foreign boiler tube producers. The new production is based at Sinarsky Pipe Plant's tube drawing shop No 2, and uses billets produced by Seversky Tube Works, which is also part of TMK.

The customer's representatives attended the acceptance tests of finished products at the plant. In April/May, the plant supplied the first batch of 250 tonnes of tubular products to the customer; shipment of the second batch was scheduled for June.

"The successful fulfilment of a challenging order and our ASME certificates demonstrate the high level of our advanced production capabilities and are yet another confirmation of

TMK's competitive edge in the global market," said Vyacheslav Popkov, managing director of Sinarsky Pipe Plant.

"The expansion of cooperation with Krasny Kotelshchik Works through the thermal power plant project in Vietnam will reinforce our position as a reliable supplier of cold-drawn boiler tube."

TMK manufactures and supplies steel pipe for the oil and gas industry, operating more than 30 production sites in the USA, Russia, Canada, Romania, Oman and Kazakhstan, and two R&D centres in Russia and the USA.

TMK – Russia
tmk@tmk-group.com
www.tmk-group.com

Trelleborg receives Argentinian IRAM certification for pipe seals

Trelleborg's pipe seals operation has received certification for its Power-Lock, Sewer-Lock above 450mm and Anger-Lock systems, by the Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación (IRAM).

Recognised as a mark of quality and a strict requirement for a range of products in Argentina, IRAM certification was awarded following stringent product testing and a comprehensive audit of the company's warehouse facilities in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Alan Guzowski, managing director of Trelleborg's pipe seals operation in the USA, commented, "With increasing demand for high performance sealing solutions among pipe manufacturers across South America, Argentina has become strategically very important to our business.

"Our new distribution site in Buenos Aires, coupled with the award of IRAM certification, are key to the expansion and broadening of our presence in the region, and ensures that we are best placed to

meet ever-growing customer demand, in terms of both capacity and quality."

The F-601 Power-Lock integrated seal for plastic pressure pipes features a pipe socket that is formed over the seal during manufacture, resulting in up to a 50 per cent reduction in joint tolerance. The seal's jointing force requirements are very low, reducing the risk of seal displacement. The F-605 Sewer-Lock for sewer applications uses an inexpensive single component mandrel. As a result, the adjustment, cleaning and repair costs associated with collapsible segment mandrels are reduced. Pipe diameter changes are also simpler and quicker.

The F-576 Anger-Lock locked in system is designed for PVC pressure pipes and fittings with an Anger bell design. Designed for potable water applications, the F-576 seal is a composite combined lip and compression sealing system that is installed inside the socket after the bell has been formed, eliminating the risk of seal displacement during pipe transportation and joint assembly.

Trelleborg Pipe Seals – Sweden
www.trelleborg.com



Trelleborg's Anger-Lock Seal for PVC-O pipes has received IRAM certification

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Sponsorship gets off to a flying start

A sponsorship deal between GR Motosport and Tungum Ltd, a manufacturer of corrosion-resistant tubing, got off to a flying start at Silverstone, UK, in April. The first race of the British Super Bike season saw the GR Motosport team triumph with a podium placing thanks to rider Tarran

(Taz) Mackenzie, who finished second in the The Dickies British Supersport 600 category.

Tungum Ltd partnered with GR Motosport earlier this year, signing a two-year sponsorship agreement covering both the British Superbike

and Supersport classes. "This is a new venture for us here at Tungum, but the synergy between our target audience and those who follow British Superbikes made it seem like a great opportunity," said Sean Hammond, sales and marketing director, Tungum Ltd. "We're looking forward to following the riders throughout the season and developing our networks in this field."

As part of the sponsorship agreement, the Tungum logo appears on the Stauff Connect Academy rider Taz's Kawasaki ZX-6R and the leathers for the Motorpoint British Supersport Championship. The company's logo is also on the seats of Team WD-40 Superbike riders Jack Kennedy and Sam Hornsey in the MEC British Superbike Championship. GR Motosport was formed in 1995 and has since won one European and twelve British titles.

Corrosion-resistant Tungum tubing has been proven to deliver safety critical, long-lasting solutions in demanding environments.

Tungum Ltd – UK
sales@tungum.com
www.tungum.com



SCADA order for Bangladesh gas pipeline project

Yokogawa Electric Corporation has announced that Yokogawa India has received an order from the Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) to supply a monitoring and control system for a gas pipeline system in Bangladesh. The project will involve the revamping, modernisation and expansion of GTCL's existing supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

GTCL owns and operates a network of pipelines for the nationwide transmission of gas from gas fields that are primarily concentrated in the eastern part of Bangladesh. The company is planning to build an integrated SCADA monitoring and control system that will ensure the stable and efficient

supply of gas to three of the country's eight administrative divisions: Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet. It plans to increase its gas transmission volume to 550mn standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd), up from 400 MMscfd in 2013.

The order is for Fast/Tools SCADA software and a Stardom™ network-based control system for pipeline monitoring, DPharp EJA and DPharp EJX series differential pressure/pressure transmitters, other field instruments, a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system, and a telecommunications system for central monitoring and control. Targeting delivery within 22 months, Yokogawa will be responsible for the engineering, installation and commissioning of these systems.

Yokogawa proposed a bespoke automation solution, which was selected because of the company's reputation and experience in supplying SCADA systems for oil and gas pipeline projects.

Tsutomu Murata, managing director of Yokogawa India, commented, "I am honoured to receive this order, which is Yokogawa India's largest project to date in Bangladesh.

"By carrying out this large project, we aim to help ensure a stable energy supply for the people of Bangladesh."

Yokogawa Europe BV – Netherlands
info@nl.yokogawa.com
www.yokogawa.com/eu

Technip awarded Mediterranean natural gas field contract

Technip has been awarded a major contract to develop the Bahr Essalam, Phase II development in the Central Mediterranean Sea.

This natural gas field development, which is operated by Mellitah Oil & Gas BV Libyan Branch, a consortium between National Oil Corporation and ENI North Africa, will be tied back to the Sabratha platform, which is situated approximately 110km off the Libyan coast in a water depth of around 190m.

From concept to project delivery, Technip will build on its integrated model combining its subsea and offshore capabilities.

The scope of work will see Technip perform the overall design and detailed engineering, and deliver the project management, as well as procurement, installation, tie-ins, pre-commissioning and commissioning.

This will be associated with the provision of a gas gathering system, comprised of production pipelines, subsea isolation valve (SSIV) and umbilicals, and extensive diving and installation campaigns.

It will also include modifications to the Sabratha platform regarding the topsides. All offshore mobilisations will be undertaken from Malta.

Offshore installation is scheduled for the second half of 2017 through to the second half of 2018. A range of vessels from the group's fleet will be involved.

Thierry Pilenko, chairman and CEO, commented, "We are proud of this contract award, which is a strong recognition of Technip's broad capabilities across a variety of areas. It is also testament to our team's ability to adapt to the challenging market environment, and to provide solutions that still enable field developments.

"We very much look forward to working with Mellitah to safely and successfully deliver this large project, by leveraging our strong know-how and experience

in high-quality product manufacturing and subsea installation."

The gas gathering system provided by Technip will incorporate 13km of 20" production pipeline with a 4" piggybacked service line; 11km of

10"/14" pipe-in-pipe production line with a 4" piggybacked service line; and 10km of 8"/12" pipe-in-pipe production line.

Technip – France
www.technip.com

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Valve World Expo 2016

Valve World Expo, the global exhibition for industrial valves, is to be held in Düsseldorf,

Germany, for the fourth time, from 29 November to 1 December 2016.

The entire spectrum of industrial valves will be covered by the event in three exhibition halls.

The ranges encompass valves, valve components and parts, actuator drives and position controllers, compressors, engineering services and software, associations and publishers.

Visitors are expected from the fields of oil, gas and petrochemical industries, chemical industry, food industry, marine and offshore industries, water and waste water management, automotive and mechanical engineering, pharmaceutical industry and power plants.

By mid-2016, more than 19,600m² of net exhibition space had been booked, with 638 exhibitors from 39 countries having registered.

Most European companies come from Italy, the UK, Germany, Spain, France, Turkey and the Netherlands, while overseas visitors will mainly come from the USA, India, Taiwan, South Korea and China.

The accompanying Valve World Conference will again be organised by KCI. Alongside topics of the future such as material selection, new technologies and processes for the production and application of valves, new energies and the analysis of new services, an in-depth debate about the structure of the industry will take place.

Lectures, workshops and seminars will deepen the content covered by the conference.

Experts from all over the world are expected to exchange with conference delegates on innovations from the dynamically growing area of valve technology, including its upstream and downstream technologies.

The Pump Summit, the International Exhibition & Conference for Pump Technology, will take place on the ground floor of Hall 7.0 on 29 and 30 November, allowing producers, distributors and users of pumps, seals and compressors to present their products and exchange knowledge.

The agenda of the Pump Summit's accompanying conference features talks and selected workshops on pump and seal applications in a wide variety of industries.

Messe Düsseldorf GmbH – Germany
valveworldexpo@messe-duesseldorf.de
www.valveworldexpo.de

OMS completes pipeline fit-up for Ichthys

Inspection and measurement technology specialist Optical Metrology Services (OMS) has completed the measurement phase of pipeline fit-up work for the Ichthys LNG project, located 220km offshore Western Australia.

The project is the largest discovery of hydrocarbons in the region for 40

years and is being undertaken by global energy company INPEX. With production due to start in Q3 2017, Ichthys involves some of the largest offshore facilities currently operational in the industry.

Commissioned by Pipeline Technique Ltd (PTL) and Heerema Marine Contractors (HMC), the project has seen more than 7,000 pipes measured during various mobilisations.

With strict HiLo tolerances of less than 1mm, OMS's precision measurement solutions and compatibility with SmartFit™ software was integral to success.

Paul Eagle, head of client solutions at OMS, said, "The Ichthys LNG project is the largest of its kind OMS has worked on to date and demonstrates the value of pipe measure-

ment and fit-up for oil and gas projects. Process improvement across the industry is crucial and pipe fit-up is a key area demonstrating this. No two pipes will ever fit together with zero misalignment, so minimising HiLo through precision measurement and analysis helps to increase project success."

PTL was impressed by the efficiencies the project gained from the involvement of OMS. Derek Duddy, site manager, commented, "We would like to thank OMS for all of their efforts over the duration of a challenging and complicated project. OMS personnel have performed excellently during the Ichthys campaign on site."

OMS pipe measurement and fit-up services allowed PTL and HMC to complete the pipeline construction with improved integrity, leading to increased lifespan.

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



Range of electrolytical processes for pickling and electropolishing

Condoroil Stainless offers a complete range of electrolytical processes for the pickling and/or electropolishing of stainless steel tubes, which is called Elettra.

According to the need of the customer, three different units are available: electrolytical pickling tunnel using induced current for application in line with the welding profile; electrolytical unit for the inside and outside pickling of tubes having diameter below 250mm; and electrolytical unit for the inside and outside pickling of tubes having diameter above 150mm.

The electrolytical technology, when compared with chemical processes, gives several advantages.

These include elimination of toxic acids like hydrofluoric and nitric acids from storage, working baths, gas emission



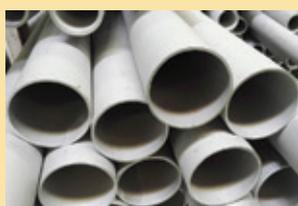
and waste water; reduction of the pickling time, especially when duplex or high nickel alloys are processed (for example from 30 minutes to 20 seconds for AISI 304 and from 2 hours to 2 minutes for duplex alloy); and treatment cost reduction. The Elettra technology can also be conveniently used for pickling

of coil sheets, plates, profiles, wire rods and bars. A new design allows the reduction of pickling solution volumes for coil sheets and plates.

Condoroil – Italy
info@condoroil.it
www.condoroil.it



Jingning Junwen Steel Co., Ltd



Stainless Steel Seamless Pipe / Tube

Type: Austenitic stainless steel seamless pipe
Process Method: Cold Drawn / Cold Rolled
Surface Finish: Bright Annealed / Pickling / 180# 240# 320# 400# 600#
Manual Polished / Mechanical Polished
Grade: TP304, TP304L, TP316 / 316L Dual Grade.
Standard: ASTM (ASME) SA / A312 / A213 / A269 and DIN, GB, JIS
Size: OD 3/16"-1 1/2" (6mm-38mm), WT 0.028"-0.118" (0.7mm-3mm)
Tolerance: Outer Diameter: ±0.08mm (0.00315"), Wall Thickness: ±10%
Certification: ISO9001:2000, GB/T19001-2000



Stainless Steel Cold Drawn Seamless Tubing in Coils & Pipe Coils

(Made of Cold-Drawn Pipe Billet Instead of Plank-Welding)
Type: Austenitic stainless steel seamless pipe
Process Method: Cold Drawn / Cold Rolled
Surface Finish: Bright Annealed
Grade: TP304, TP304L, TP316 / 316L Dual Grade
Standard: ASTM (ASME) SA / A312 / A213 / A269 and DIN, GB, JIS
Size: OD 3/16"-1" (4.76mm-25.4mm), WT 0.028"-0.083" (0.7mm-2.11mm)
Tolerance: Outer Diameter: ±0.08mm (0.00315"), Wall Thickness: ±10%
Length: 100ft-2,000ft, or according to customers' requests
Certification: ISO9001:2000, GB/T19001-2000

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Salesman: Sam | Mobile: +86 13305889498 | Tel: +86 578 5973358 | Email: jw.sam@qq.com

www.pipe-coil.com



products & developments

Medical gas product range

Providing medical gas connections that kill pathogenic microbes

Medical Gas fittings from Conex Bänninger can assist in killing pathogenic microbes in medical and pharmaceutical scenarios, helping specialist pipe networks circulate a wide range of essential gas compounds around hospitals, including oxygen, nitrous oxide, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and medical air.

Made of copper, with its anti-microbial properties, Conex Bänninger's Medical Gas fittings require a copper-to-copper braze installation – the only type of jointing method permitted on medical sites, allowing for capillary attraction to ensure a mechanically strong, leak-proof joint. The copper alloy Medical Gas products within the range are also manufactured from red brass materials with high resistance to corrosion.

Available in a comprehensive size range from 6 to 159mm, each Medical Gas

fitting is degreased on the surface to below 0.01mg/cm² of hydrocarbons contamination, and complies with HTM 02-01 medical gas pipeline regulations, which minimises opportunity for impurity.

The low profile of the fittings allows for a neat joint, especially where space is restricted, and helps reduce flow restriction.

The complete Medical Gas product range is quality assured in accordance with ISO 9001:2015 and independently tested and certified for cleanliness. Each unit is capped, sealed and cleaned in accordance with BOC/MEDAES 3000000 specification, and carries the BSI Kitemark stamp of approval.

Each product is individually bagged in clear, protective polythene, with an easily removable label stating the

degreased specification, product code and product batch number.

Bill Barlow, Conex Bänninger's UK business unit director, stated, "We take great pride in the fact that our Medical Gas specialist copper brazed fittings deliver excellence across the board, ensuring the highest possible quality, reliability and durability is met for all medical gas installations in the UK and across our global network.

"Ultimately, a hospital's medical gas connection network is as important as the treatment itself, and our products ensure that these vital compounds are successfully delivered to medical practices for patients in need, and quality is never compromised."

Conex Bänninger – UK
salesuk@ibpgroup.com
www.conexbanninger.com

Updated laser tube cutter for metals and plastics

Amada Miyachi America Inc, a manufacturer of laser welding, marking, cutting and micro machining equipment and systems, has introduced its updated Sigma Laser Tube Cutter, which can be used with both microsecond fibre and femtosecond disk lasers.

The new cutting system provides edge quality for both metals and plastics, making it suitable for medical device applications, including a wide range of tubes and stents.

With three and four axes motion options, and the ability to cut tubes with diameters from 0.2 to 25mm, the Sigma is suitable for both wet and dry cutting. It features an automated tube loader option and a 22" graphic user interface on a swing arm.

The Sigma Laser Tube Cutter allows users to maximise throughput with high speed direct drive integrated X and Theta 'lathe' axes stages.

Featuring two, three and four axes options, the tube cutter can be configured to the specific cutting application for both on- and off-axis cut geometries. The lathe stages are mounted directly to a granite base, while the vertical and horizontal stages are mounted to a granite gantry secured to the granite base.

Two different laser source options are available. The microsecond fibre laser offers excellent beam quality and high pulse repetition rates for high speed precision cutting.

The femtosecond disk laser provides cut quality using cold ablation cutting to produce edge quality that reduces post-processing costs.

Small tube diameters cut with the fibre laser are cooled using a self-contained water system that features flow and



Sigma tube cutter

level sensors to monitor operation. The lathe stages and all connections are sealed for use in wet cutting.

Enclosure options include Class 1 systems in both open and closed frame, and Class 4 systems, customised to specific integration, access and loading speed requirements.

Amada Miyachi America, Inc – USA
info@amadamiyachi.com
www.amadamiyachi.com

High performance circular saw with modular design

Behringer Eisele's robust PSU 450 H is a high performance circular saw in modular design, for universal use in workshops and factories. With saw blade diameters of up to 450mm it is suitable for a broad range of tasks.

With the PSU 450 H, the basic machine comprises a robust frame in which the base plate and turntable including the sawing assembly are embedded as a central unit.

The sawing assembly consists of a powerful motor and hydraulic feed cylinder, and a worm drive helical gearbox with rotation compensation. For the semi-automatic, the swivel range is very broad.

The operator control panel is covered by a cowling, and a protective cover, which

swings up, provides secure protection during the sawing process.

The rapidly adjustable and exchangeable clamping units are advantageous under different sawing conditions. The clamping units are fitted both horizontally and vertically. An aluminium clamp block operating as long-stroke cylinder with 160mm displacement and clamping force monitor clamps the materials safely and precisely.

The clamp force can be set independently in both directions, and is readable on two manometers. The large swivel range enables acute angles of $\pm 30^\circ$ to be sawn.

Behringer Eisele GmbH – Germany
info@eisele.behringer.net
www.behringer.net



PSU 450 H from Behringer Eisele

Alltube backs growth strategy with BLM investment

Alltube is a specialist supplier of manipulated tube and pipe components and assemblies. The company's recent growth, with increased sales and a more diverse customer base, has led to the decision to invest in new equipment, including a major investment in the latest tube manipulation system from BLM Group.

The introduction of the BLM Elect 102 all-electric tube manipulation system has enabled Alltube to increase its machine capacity and improve manufacturing efficiency.

Managing director Kevin Cope commented, "We recognised where the problems lay and set about rebuilding relationships, delivering to customer expectations with strict scheduling of lead times. Adding value for customers was also part of the strategy; this involved manufacturing kits of parts for customers, delivering to line-side storage and taking over the stock management of all parts supplied by Alltube to its customers' production

The BLM Elect 102 has ten all-electric axes



lines. Putting these in place gave us the confidence to then look for new business and increase the variety of industries that we work with."

Alltube now produces a range of manipulated tube products including hydraulic tubing, tubular welded fabrications and hose assemblies for customers in the commercial vehicle, construction equipment, agricultural machinery, mining and automotive after-market parts sectors.

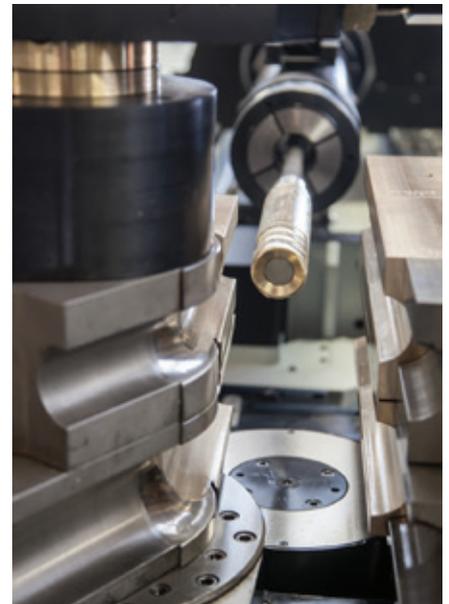
The BLM Elect 102 is a ten-axis machine capable of bending tube up to 102mm diameter with a 2mm wall thickness. It is part of a family of seven Elect machines, the largest of which can handle tube up to 150mm diameter.

A key feature of the Elect 102 is its ability to stack eight sets of tooling, which assists in reducing set-up times at Alltube. Paul Fuller, technical and development director, who took responsibility for the purchase and implementation of the machine at Alltube, explained, "One of the first jobs that we put onto the new machine was a 50mm diameter stainless steel tube that had five bends, with differing bend angles and rotations. We previously did this job on an old hydraulic single axis machine. This has greatly improved our efficiency. Changeover with the tool stacking capability of the machine is measured in minutes, with most set-ups needing little more than a change of mandrel. The productivity and versatility of the BLM machine means that we now have very few limitations and the Elect 102 will certainly open up new markets for us."

The control system of the BLM Elect 102 manages the critical machine setting parameters, such as clamping, pressure die, mandrel and centreline radius data. The Siemens control also manages the all-electric



The control on the BLM Elect 102 stores operating parameters to simplify set-up



Due to the eight-stack tooling, set-up can be as simple as changing a mandrel

activation of the ten axes, with each position/adjustment saved with the individual part program. This means that when a tool is changed there is no need to perform adjustments, as these are done automatically by the electric movement of the axes.

The Elect 102 also makes use of BLM's VGP3D programming software, which guides the operator through the process, highlighting any possible collision points, and optimises operations to generate the most efficient cycle time.

BLM Group UK Ltd – UK
sales@blmgroupp.com
www.blmgroupp.com

Alltube Engineering Ltd – UK
info@alltube.co.uk
www.alltube.co.uk

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Features of metal-seated ball valves and special alloy ball valves

As well as soft-seated ball valves, Valwell Development Enterprise Co provides customers with further options, with metal-seated ball valves and special alloy ball valves.

The metal-seated ball valves provide excellent sealing between ball and seats by metal-to-metal design. Coating materials include hard chrome and tungsten carbide, with precise machining to achieve a zero-leakage promise. The valves offer advantages such as tight shut-off, low torque design, fire safe, abrasion and corrosion resistance, and a wide range of operating temperatures up to 500°C.

Valwell Development can manufacture the ball valves with special alloys by austenitic, super austenitic, nickel-based alloys, and duplex and super duplex alloy, which can be supplied on request.

Special alloys provide a number of characteristics, including maintaining high performance of mechanical strength under high operating temperatures, and corrosion resistance in difficult working environments.



The metal-seated ball valves and special alloy ball valves are suitable for applications in the chemical, petrochemical, marine/offshore, oil/gas, refining, and pulp/paper industries. The ball valves are available in sizes from ½" to 24".

Valwell Development, established in 1998, specialises in the design and manufacture of ball valves and blind flange valves, with full product ranges including conventional, metal-seated, multiple-way, high-pressure ball valves.

The company will be exhibiting at Valve World Expo in Düsseldorf, Germany, on stand 3H02.

Valwell Development Enterprise Co, Ltd – Taiwan
sales@valwell.com.tw
www.valwell.com.tw

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ALLOY STEEL : ASTM A182(F5, F9, F11, F22, F91)

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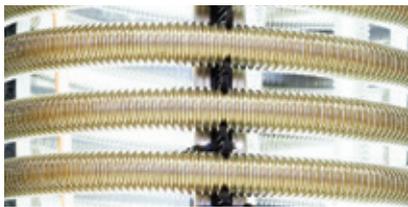


Flexibility is our expertise. We've been developing our product range and the types of hoses for all industrial requirements since 1980's.

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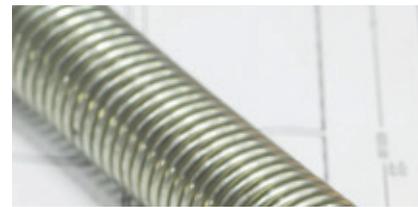
CORRUGATED STRUCTURE



Corrugated structure of the flexible metal hoses provides almost double surface area in comparison with rigid pipes. Higher surface area means better heat transfer capacity especially for heating units.



SINGLE PIECE UP TO 1000m



Flexible metal hoses could be produced as single piece in 1000m length. This allows the users to complete the assemblies without using any additional fittings or welding, helps to reduce labor costs.



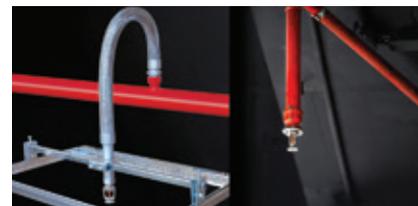
SECURITY FOR MOVABLE PARTS



Flexible metal hoses provide required flexibility for the movable parts like feeding units of machinery where connections should enable these movements without causing trouble.



FLEXIBLE IS THE KEY



The use of flexible hose against rigid piping is the key for reducing the time and the effort spent on completing assemblies in the tightest places like sprinkler connections. It's fast, easy and secure.



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Voss extends offering for OEMs and dealers

Voss Fluid has extended its service range and now, in addition to hydraulic coupling technology, also offers customised tubes and hoses, as well as a wide variety of accessory components. As a result, the company can now serve OEMs and dealers of fluid technology more efficiently and extensively.

Within the framework of programme extensions, central service offerings ranging from consulting and pre-assembly to logistics have been further strengthened.

With this extended solution offering, customers are able to standardise the quality of their hydraulic systems and reduce their number of suppliers.

Pre-assembled tube geometries, assembled hose lines, tube fittings and flange couplings, hose fittings, measurement connections and accessories are all now offered by Voss Fluid from a single source.

In its new tube competence centre in Germany, Voss Fluid processes thick- and thin-walled hydraulic lines with lengths of up to 6m and an outer diameter of up to 60mm, precisely in line with customer specifications. The lines are manufactured on the basis of an exact copy of existing tubes, or based on a sample or directly from design drawings. Customers can choose from tubes made of steel or stainless steel, or steel tubes with an organic corrosion coating.

Hose lines are an important part of hydraulic systems. The Voss Fluid product range covers the entire spectrum of conventional hydraulic hose lines, including fittings up to 2" and all pressure ranges.

All of the company's components, including hose fittings, are equipped with a long-term corrosion protection zinc-nickel coating. Hose fittings with tear-off protection provide a high degree of safety in sensitive pressure areas.

Voss Fluid is also expanding its consulting services, so customers can increase productivity in purchasing. The company provides advice on installing lines and designing hydraulic circuits, discloses savings potential by means of cost-benefit analyses, and supports customer-site installation by providing further educational measures and practical training programmes on site.

The pre-assembly of tube geometries is a new, extended service offering from Voss Fluid



The company directly supports the OEM market in the assembly of components. For example, Voss assembly kits contain individually combined components as pre-sorted material, fully in compliance with the respective production step.

In addition, the company takes care of the pre-assembly of individual components, upon request, and supplies them as a ready-to-install system.

Voss Fluid GmbH – Germany
www.voss-fluid.de

Molecor launches DN125mm orientated PVC pipe

Molecor has launched orientated PVC pipe in a new DN125mm dimension, increasing the possibilities of network design, with diameters that ensure effective pressure and required flow.

The company has already pioneered the manufacture of orientated PVC pipes of DN500, 630 and 800mm, and is committed to innovation, research and development to provide solutions and meet the challenges presented by the water supply market.

The molecular orientation process is claimed to provide the TOM® pipe with improved mechanical and hydraulic characteristics compared to other materials. These include higher hydraulic capacity, enabling the conveyance of greater volumes of water for the same diameter; lightness, removing the need for machinery for large diameters, and being easily manipulated and installed up to DN 250mm; and better behaviour with regard to water hammer.

The pipe system being fully watertight prevents leakages and head losses, which result in a decrease of the volume of supplied water.

These characteristics provide solutions to optimise the available hydraulic resources and to reduce the energy costs and hydraulic infrastructures.

Molecor Tech – Spain
info@molecor.com
www.molecor.com

Miniature proportional valve for high flow and low power

The Precision Fluidics division of Parker Hannifin has announced the release of its VSO® Max HP miniature high flow proportional valve. This latest innovation combines delivery of high flow rates with 25 per cent less power consumption than comparable miniature proportional valves.

VSO Max HP provides flows greater than 200 SLPM at 3.10 bar, while consuming less than 2 watts of power, making it suitable for medical applications that require pressure and volume control, such as ventilators, insufflators and anesthesia delivery machines. As the reduction in size of medical devices without compromising on reliability becomes paramount, VSO Max HP has been engineered to deliver an operating pressure of up to 8.27 bar, which

eliminates the need for an inlet regulator. This allows for a smaller medical device design that offers optimum results, and the consistent flow performance of the VSO Max HP delivers reliability throughout the product life.

REACH and RoHS compliant, cleaned for oxygen service use and with proven performance up to 25 million life cycles, the VSO proportional valve family has been recognised in life sciences applications for over a decade.

Parker Hannifin Ltd – UK
ppfinfo@parker.com
www.parker.com



VSO miniature proportional valve

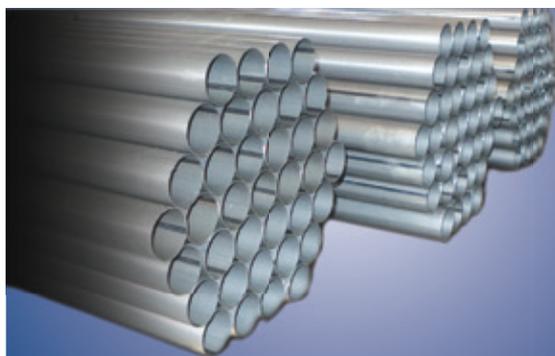
Air valve sizing software

Val-Matic's Air Valve Sizing Program is a web-based software program designed to aid in selecting air valves along a pipeline. Users are able to enter and save design information specific to their pump, water pipeline or wastewater force main, to calculate the locations and sizes of AWWA air valves.

The program will also calculate the collapse pressure, slope and gravity flow in the pipe.

Recommendations are given for air valve locations, sizes and model numbers for pipeline and pump discharge locations.

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



Silva Mash EOOD is a specialist in the production of precision and high-tensile electro-welded tubes according to standard EN 10305.

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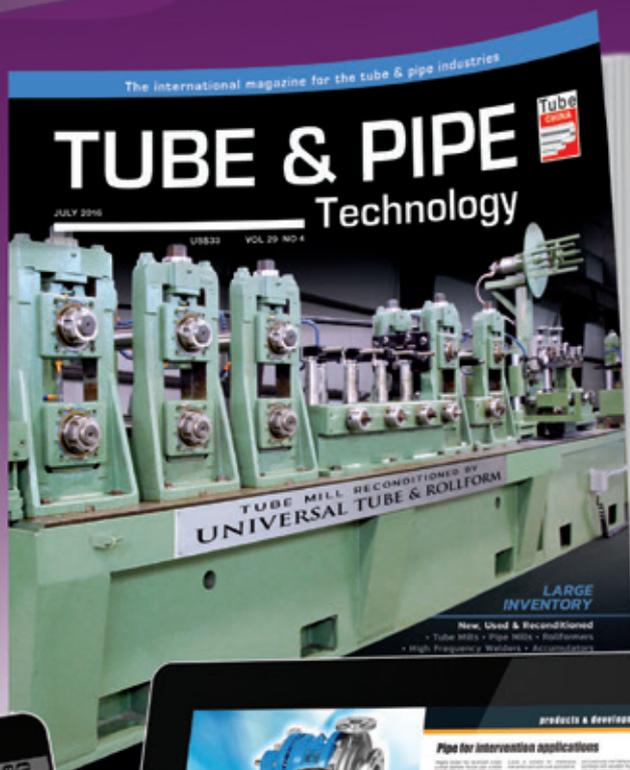


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Specialist in stainless steel tubes

Tecnofar SpA manufactures and sells high-performance longitudinally welded stainless steel and nickel alloys tubes, including austenitic stainless steels, duplex stainless steels, ferritic stainless steels, and alloys with a high nickel content. The company has recently increased its production unit, with a modern 5,000m² plant opened in January.

Working with important European stainless steel mills, at the base of the supply chain, Tecnofar offers a semi-finished quality product – a fundamental requirement for cost-efficient and environmentally friendly component parts. In the automotive industry, Tecnofar's tubes are used in components mounted on millions of passenger cars and commercial vehicles around the world. Applications include pipelines (fuel/oil/air), glow plugs, EGR tubes and exhaust systems.

The company states that its advanced engineering department and a

continuous search for improvements and technological developments make it a leading manufacturer of quality stainless steel tubes. Combined with constant attention to customer needs, Tecnofar contributes to increasing the performance of customers' products.

The company's 11 TIG welding lines are equipped with efficient control systems and induction annealing furnaces that work in a protected atmosphere, giving Tecnofar tubes high corrosion resistance and the right mechanical characteristics to perform processes such as bending, hydroforming, expanding, drilling and flanging.



Tecnofar tubes are regularly subjected to strict control tests, in accordance with specific ASTM, DIN, EN and PED standards. The production range for welded tubes ranges from 3 to 76mm and thickness from 0.15 to 3mm, with the possibility of heat treatment and surface finishing by satinising (grain 60 to 800 micron). To meet the production requirements of all customers, Tecnofar tubes can be supplied in long bars, coils or fixed-length cut pieces, de-burred and cleaned.

Directly connected to the production of stainless steel welded tube, Tecnofar produces welded cold-drawn precision tubes with an external diameter ranging from 0.3 to 20mm and thickness from 0.1 to 2mm, available in bar, rolls and cut to size, used in applications that require high precision and quality.

Tecnofar SpA – Italy
info@tecnofar.it
www.tecnofar.it



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Pipeline integrity assessment solution for NDT service and pipeline operators

Creaform, a specialist in portable 3D measurement and engineering services, has announced its latest release of the Pipecheck 3.3 NDT pipeline integrity assessment solution. The comprehensive, easy-to-use tool is designed to enable NDT service companies and pipeline operators to strike a balance between the need to fulfil mounting demands for energy and guaranteeing the public's safety.

Pipecheck puts accurate assessments into the hands of users in order to quickly detect and characterise pipe defects (internal and external), such as corrosion and mechanical damage. With reliable, traceable results and code compliance (ASME B31G/ASME B31.8), Pipecheck automatically provides critical inspection data to determine the level of integrity and remaining service life of an operator's most valuable assets.

Creaform gathered requests from its pipeline operator clients and developed new Pipecheck features to address the challenges they face. Enhancements in the latest version include:

- A new method for dent size calculations: More precise dent

calculations that replicate repeatable and user-independent on-field measurements more accurately will enable users to better evaluate mechanical damage.

- Strain-based assessments 2.0: This new approach introduces advanced strain calculations, according to ASME B31.8, along the pipe, as well as visualisation tools for strain-based assessments. Users will be able to more efficiently interpret results, facilitating decision making with respect to the repair actions to take.
- A new feature for corrosion classifications: Based on standards issued from the Pipeline Operators Forum, Pipecheck now further characterises the type of corruptions on a pipeline, such as pitting, generalised corrosion, and axial and circumferential grooving.
- Automatic anomaly vs cluster classifications: Pipecheck can now automatically distinguish and identify clusters from anomalies, helping operators pinpoint critical issues on a pipeline. This feature also helps to evaluate the performance of a pig as it detects anomalies and clusters. This in turn optimises where priority excavations must be performed.

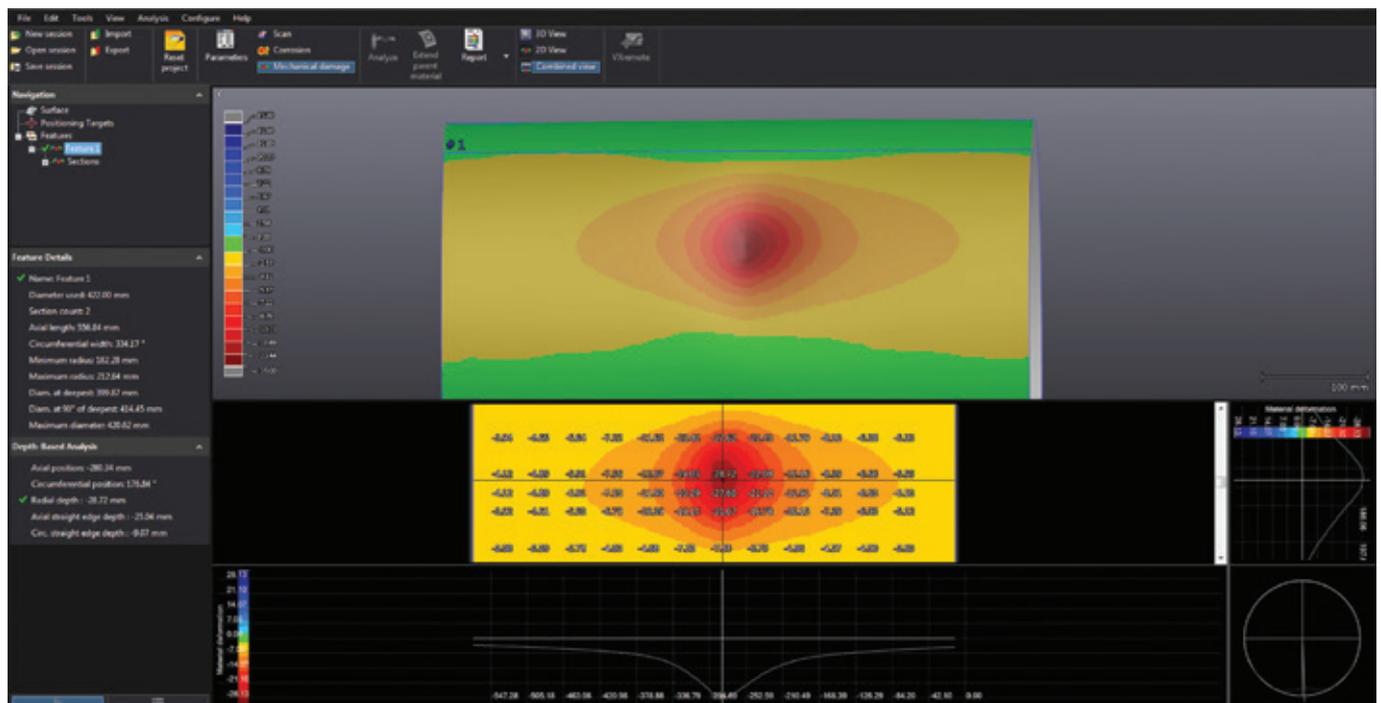
"Pipecheck 3.3 is an operator's go-to solution to ensure public and environmental safety, meet regulatory requirements, prove compliance, decrease maintenance and repair costs, and streamline risk management procedures," explained Jérôme-Alexandre Lavoie, product manager at Creaform.

"Performing reliable pipeline assessments has never been more important in today's volatile market, and Creaform has stepped up to the plate with a customer-driven software that operators can rely on."

Creaform offers solutions such as 3D scanning, reverse engineering, quality control, non-destructive testing, product development and numerical simulation (FEA/CFD). Its products and services cater to a variety of industries, including automotive, aerospace, consumer products, heavy industries, healthcare, manufacturing, oil and gas, power generation, and research and education.

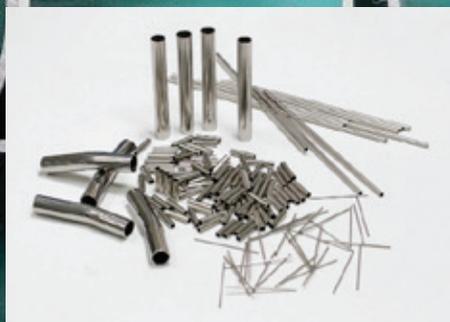
Creaform Inc – Canada
info@creaform3d.com
www.creaform3d.com

The new release of Pipecheck offers a range of feature enhancements



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Emergency gas pipeline repair clamp

Sheffield Forgemasters International Ltd (SFIL) has produced the largest ever forged sub-sea emergency repair clamp bodies for use on the world's longest sub-sea gas pipeline. The company has delivered two clamp bodies for Oil States, each to form a crucial emergency repair back-up for the 1,224km Nord Stream pipeline, which runs along the Baltic Sea floor from Vyborg in Russia to Lubmin in Germany.

The hydro-clamp, designed by Oil States Industries in Houston, Texas, USA, is designed to provide risk mitigation in the event of a breach in a sub-sea pipeline.

George Brown, group projects director at SFIL, said, "The Nord Stream clamps are hydraulically operated repair mechanisms, designed to reinforce the

Nord Stream pipeline at any required point along the Baltic Sea floor. The size of the forging exceeded the known parameters for the designated material selection and required a new engineering solution to make it possible. Sheffield Forgemasters excels in these realms of manufacture where the practicable realisation of process capability is considered alongside the theoretical metallurgy."

The clamp comprises two matched halves, which can be locked around the pipeline in order to stop any leakage. In order to provide the matched pairs of half clamps, the forging was produced as a single piece before being cut longitudinally. This was achieved by working close to the limits of capable production: starting with a 120" diameter ingot, a singular form for the whole

clamp was forged, rough machined and heat treated.

This provided a safe envelope for the finished shape, which was then cut along its 22ft length to produce two forgings that could be independently machined to the tight tolerances required, before being finally reassembled and pressure tested.

"With a forged weight of over 200 tonnes, no sub-sea clamp of this size has ever been produced before and, if required, can restore full structural and pressure integrity to the Nord Stream pipeline in the event of a leak or identified weakness," said Mr Brown. "The unique capability we have at Sheffield Forgemasters, to go from creation of the material to completion of the finish machined pieces, was fundamental to the successful outcome of the clamp manufacture."

The clamps are in the testing phase at Oil States in Houston, before they are shipped to the Nord Stream project, where they will be reserved for emergency back-up use.

Nord Stream uses twin pipes that take 27.5bn cubic metres of natural gas per year from the Russian continent to the European grid, for use in European domestic and business markets. The pipeline is owned and operated by Nord Stream AG, a conglomerate of Gazprom, Wintershall, E.ON Ruhrgas, NV Nederlandse Gasunie and GDF Suez.

Sheffield Forgemasters International Ltd – UK
www.sheffieldforgemasters.com



SFIL's forgings for the Nord Stream pipeline

'Super big size' press-fittings ready for sale

The range of Eurotubi Pressfittings has been expanded, with new 'Super Big Size' diameters now being available in the AISI 316L stainless steel fittings line.

Increasing requests for press fittings for large industrial installations led Eurotubi to expand the range. Three new Super

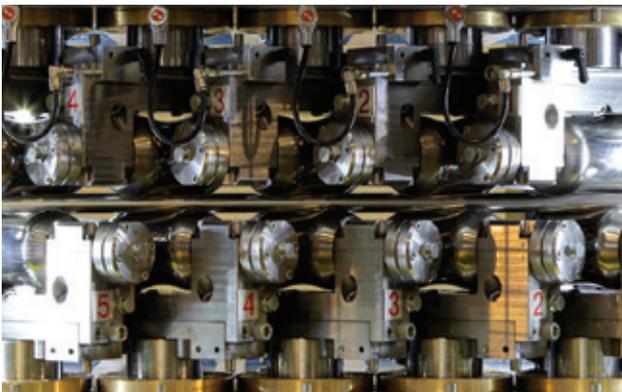
Big Size diameters are available on request in the stainless steel range: 114.3mm, 139.7mm and 168.3mm. The new diameters can be used in the same system as Eurotubi fittings if a straight, DVGW-certified pipe is placed between them.

Eurotubi Europa and its partner Isotubi

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Fine Tubes and Superior Tube continue to extend nuclear capabilities

Fine Tubes, a manufacturer and global supplier of precision tubes for critical applications, continues to extend and promote its nuclear capabilities, together with its sister company, the USA-based Superior Tube. Both companies showcased their latest high-specification tubing ranges in stainless steel, titanium, zirconium and nickel alloys at the World Nuclear Exhibition (WNE) in Paris, in June.

The companies have long records of working closely with nuclear reactor suppliers on new build, maintenance and decommissioning projects, including the manufacture of critical heat exchanger tubing for the Flamanville European pressurised reactor in France.

Fine Tubes has also raised its profile further across the entire nuclear industry supply chain by successfully completing the Fit for Nuclear (F4N) programme run by Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC). F4N is a service designed to help UK manufacturing companies win contracts in the civil nuclear supply chain by measuring their operations against the exacting standards required by the nuclear industry. Whilst primarily a UK initiative, F4N status provides Fine Tubes with additional global exposure through Nuclear AMRC's international partners.

Nuclear AMRC was established in 2009, in response to the UK Government's Low-Carbon Industrial Strategy, and led by the University of Sheffield and the University of Manchester, with Rolls-Royce as lead industrial partner. Other founding partners were Areva, Westinghouse, Sheffield Forgemasters and Tata Steel.

Fine Tubes' involvement in the nuclear power industry began when the company started supplying nuclear fuel cans to the UK's first generation of gas-cooled reactors. Since then the company has manufactured products for advanced gas-cooled, pressurised water, light water, heavy water and fast breeder reactors. Today, its products are deployed in plants throughout the European Union, the USA, Canada, India and China.

Superior Tube, which has had an association with the nuclear industry since the 1930s, continues to work with the US Government on a wide range of nuclear energy projects.

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Composite repair system applied to manufacturer's own plant

Henkel's main manufacturing plant in Düsseldorf, Germany, incorporates 18km of pipe bridges and 300km of pipelines. Over time, sections had become corroded, and their repair was subcontracted to the company Xervon. In order to repair leaks quickly, safely and sustainably, Xervon used Henkel's recently introduced Loctite® Composite Repair System, also creating a reference site for the process.

The system allows corroded pipes to be repaired without interrupting operations, avoiding the high costs associated with unplanned shutdowns. It effectively eliminates the need for pipe sections to be replaced, and extends the lifetime of the repaired pipework system.

"Our target is to extend the service life of pipes by 20 years and we are confident the Loctite Composite Repair System will last far beyond that," commented Carsten Sperlich, who heads the technical infrastructure department at the Düsseldorf site.

The first step of the process is cleaning, by sandblasting the surface of the defective pipe section to a cleanliness level of SIS SA 2.5. The blasting also produces a roughness of 75 micrometres peak-to-valley height in the steel surface, and the resulting surface texture ensures physical anchoring in addition to the adhesive bonding with the coating material.

Application of the first layer of Loctite PC 5085 glass-carbon fibre tape



Loctite SF 7515 is applied as a short-term corrosion inhibitor to prevent flash rust. The pipe is then wrapped with several layers of the high strength, glass-carbon fibre tape Loctite PC 5085, which has been impregnated with the two-part epoxy resin Loctite PC 7210. Finally, several layers of topcoat – Loctite PC 7255 – are applied as corrosion protection.

The repair system has been certified by DNV CL in accordance with the global quality standard ISO 24817. This standard defines the criteria for the use of composite systems in petrochemical, oil and gas industries. The method has also been approved by Lloyd's Register, in conformity with ASME PCC-2 standard, and by TÜV Rheinland.

"Certification is a very complex procedure," said Henkel's Bernd Hammer, global market development manager, adhesives technologies, for oil and gas and refineries. "We are the only supplier in the market that is certified by the three inspection authorities and this gives our customers the assurance that the system really delivers what it promises."

Xervon, one of a growing number of service providers that make up the Henkel Certified Applicator network across Europe, underwent an extensive qualification process to achieve the status.



The Loctite Composite Repair System



The final step in the Loctite repair system is the application of Loctite PC 7255 as corrosion protection

The company's managing director, Thomas Peter Wilk, added, "I consider the Loctite Composite Repair System to be an excellent solution and our joint project at Henkel's Düsseldorf site is an excellent way to demonstrate its effectiveness to industry."

The Composite Repair System is being used in refineries, petrochemical plants, power plants and water treatment systems. Core applications are in the oil and gas industry, where the system can be used in all upstream, midstream and downstream areas.

The high number of production plants around the world that have reached an age when they require a general overhaul has prompted interest in the capability of the Loctite repair system, according to the manufacturer. "That's why it was so important to apply the system in our own manufacturing plant in Düsseldorf," concluded Mr Hammer. "It gives us an easily accessible reference site for potential customers and also allows us to monitor its effectiveness over the long term. This way everyone can see for themselves the level of quality this repair provides."

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Wireless plumbing leak protection technology for homes and businesses

Reliance Detection Technologies (RDT), maker of the FloodMaster line of products, has introduced the RS-360 wireless alarm and automatic water shut-off system for protecting homes/facilities from plumbing leaks and frozen pipes.

Special features and benefits of the system include reduced insurance claims (and, in some cases, insurance premium discounts); closed loop wireless system (not Wi-Fi) with self-monitoring capabilities to inform the

owner that the system is working; and water conservation.

No hard wiring is required, as the system is wireless and provides on-board battery back-up during power outages. The smart-home and building-friendly systems can also be easily integrated with most security platforms.

The systems are configurable to meet the needs of large or small installations. For smaller areas of coverage, RDT's FloodMaster line of appliance-based

(water heater, washing machine, HVAC condensate pans) leak alarm/shut-off kits, localised leak protection systems and basic water alarms are also available.

The RS-360 is available through select wholesale suppliers and dealer installers.

Reliance Detection Technologies, LLC – USA
info@reliancedetection.com
www.reliancedetection.com

Dual-certified performance steel

SSAB has introduced Strenx 700 OME performance steel, which meets ABS, DNV-GL and Lloyd's Register classification rules, and provides the offshore industry with new opportunities to save weight and reduce welding costs.

The dual-certified Strenx 700 OME meets the standard requirements of ABS AB EQ70, DNV-GL NVE 690 and LR EH69. In addition to the class approvals, SSAB has certified the steel according to Strenx guarantees, which represent the company's ambition of enhancing its promise of workshop properties by offering exceptionally strict tolerances with regard to thickness tolerance, flatness tolerance and formability.

Strenx performance steels are also characterised by consistency in mechanical properties throughout the plate and from batch to batch. The improved tolerances and consistency enable Strenx 700 OME to be used in cold formed profiles with production efficiency.

Strenx 700 OME guarantees the mechanical properties in the Z direction and can be ordered in compliance with the requirements of Z15, Z25 or Z35.

Strenx 700 OME is a clean steel that is guaranteed to meet the EN 10160 E1S1 standard regarding impurities and porosity, with the option to meet higher requirements in extra

critical applications. The cleanliness in combination with lean composition makes Strenx 700 OME easy to weld with retained properties.

By using Strenx 700 OME in offshore and marine structures, SSAB claims there is a potential to save 30 per cent on weight in comparison with a standard EH36 or S355 plate.

Reducing the thickness can also save 50 per cent in welding costs, and in many cases will also reduce handling and installation costs.

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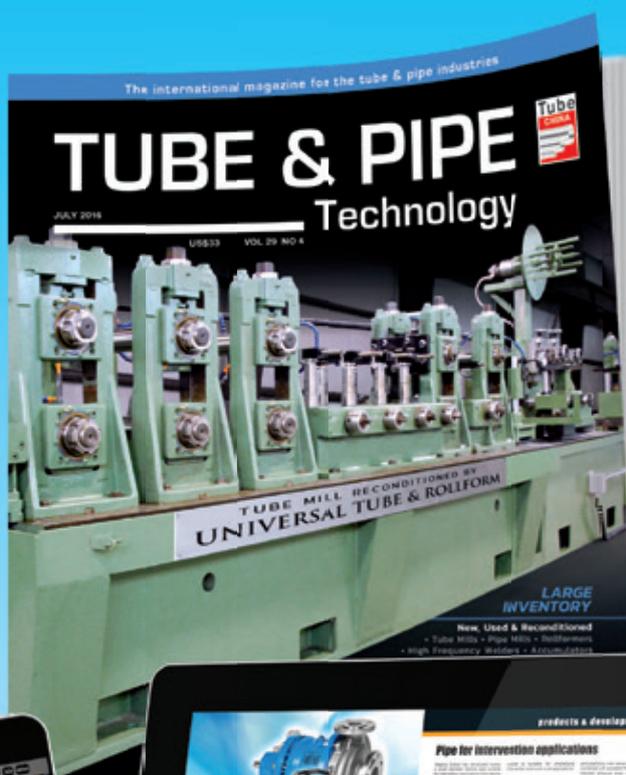


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20 years of surface protection for steel pipes

The introduction of GRP coating for steel pipes 20 years ago, marketed as the BWB system, was a success story for BKP Berolina. Since then, more than 110,000m of gas pipes (DN 100 to DN 1,400) have been coated with this special and highly resistant GRP coating.

The BWB system contains resin-impregnated glass fibres tangentially and axially wound on the PE coated steel pipe. Meanwhile an environmentally friendly and styrene-free resin is cured by using UV-light. The coating protects the steel pipes from being damaged by obstacles in the soil when being installed by horizontal drilling or similar methods that might cause corrosion.

The on-site protection of welded joints is applied by attaching glass fibre mats combined with resin and cured by UV-light. The BWB system is not sensitive to the pulling direction, giving the contractor more flexibility when putting the pipeline together, and avoiding mistakes on-site. In the case of stuck drillings, pulling back the pipeline is still an option as far as soil and equipment conditions allow it.

In 1995, the first test was performed in cooperation with the former Wingas

Holding the 90m-long pipe section in the right position



GmbH. A special testing device was developed to determine the mechanical level protection. The results showed that the protection of a steel pipe coated with the

BWB system is three times better than a polypropylene coating and eight times better than a polyethylene coating.

BKP Berolina replaced the formerly used styrenated resin with an environmentally friendly and styrene-free resin. For special applications where the pipeline is winched into an existing host pipe, in 2011 the company developed additional GRP spacers already applied with the BWB coating.

The advantages of these 50mm-thick spacers were demonstrated during the exchanging of a gas pipeline near Schlüchtern, Germany, last summer.

On a section of the MIDAL (Mitte-Deutschland Anbindungs-Leitung) – a connecting gas pipeline in the centre of Germany – some divergences in the galvanic protection had been determined through routine monitoring.



DN 1,200 casing tube (black), and BWB-coated steel pipe (green) with GRP spacer (brown)



The target pit, close to a highway ramp

The PE-spacer rings had caused damage in the PE-coating of the existing pipeline. The affected section had to be removed and replaced by DN 800 BWB system-coated pipes with additional GRP spacers.

To winch the 90m-long pipe section into a DN 1,200 casing tube, a 40mm-thick steel rope was pulled by an 80-ton winch through a 45° deviation. Michael Muth, manager at Gascade Gastransport GmbH, commented, "The BWB system combined with the factory-installed spacers withstands any situation and proved its reliability by 100 per cent."

BKP Berolina Polyester GmbH & Co KG – Germany
info@bkp-berolina.de
www.bkp-berolina.de

Easier design of technical insulations

Proper design and installation of an insulation layer is critical to the safety and energy efficiency of HVAC systems and process industry pipelines.

As in the case of building insulations, it is crucial to provide certain pipes, ducts and equipment with the best-suited technical insulation solutions, especially when considering numerous variables that need to be taken into account. In order to make it easier for clients to design and construct HVAC and industry pipework, Paroc has introduced Paroc Calculus.

When calculating optimal insulation for pipes, ducts, flat surfaces and process industry tanks, designers need to consider factors such as potential and maximal heat loss, content and environment temperature, the medium's flow velocity, and pipe material and dimensions – all in accordance with EN ISO 12241 (thermal insulation for building equipment and industrial installations). Based on this standard, Paroc Calculus offers thorough calculations for various types of HVAC and process industry objects: pipes, ducts, flat surfaces and circular and rectangular tanks.

The accessible interface allows designers to implement a large number of project parameters, ranging from the object's physical dimensions (length, thickness, inner diameter), content (medium type, initial and final temperature, flow rate), environment (indoor/outdoor, ambient temperature and air velocity, relative humidity), to the energy characteristics (energy source, annual operating time, price of energy). For products that require support for external cladding, influence of the heat loss can be specified (typically values between 15 and 25 per cent).

All calculations are based on equations described in standard EN ISO 12241. Operating on the given data, Paroc Calculus helps to choose an optimal solution for different types of constructions – the program provides specific product suggestions and economically viable insulation thickness. By adding additional insulation layers, users can follow real-time changes in performance results, eg heat loss and uninsulated heat loss volume, surface temperature, dew point, CO₂ emission and average annual savings. In cases where product properties are exceeded, a warning is displayed.

The program's product database is expandable: builders and designers can add other insulation products for inclusion in future calculations. In order to do so, the program will ask users to fill in thermal conductivity at four different temperatures as well as the emissivity of the surface. The program then calculates the Lambda – temperature curve.

Paroc Calculus is available in a web-based version, and a downloadable version with increased functionality.

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Improving pipeline efficiency

Measurement and inspection technology specialist Optical Metrology Services (OMS) has engineered a new pipe bevel measurement tool that can help deliver improved weld quality and superior pipeline integrity. Bevel 360 was launched at the Pipeline Technology Conference in Berlin in May.

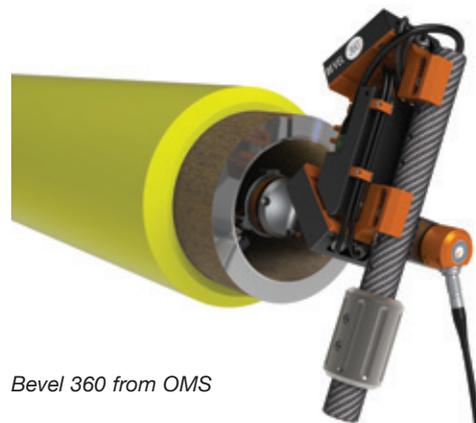
OMS claims that the Bevel 360 device will provide welding contractors with new insights and understanding of bevel geometry at a time when cost pressures and process efficiencies, especially in the oil and gas sector, are paramount.

Designed and manufactured in the UK, Bevel 360 uses blue laser technology, designed specifically for use on reflective surfaces. The tool performs a complete scan of a pipe end within 30 seconds, producing a highly detailed 360° measurement profile of the bevel face. The tool interfaces with OMS's Bevel Pro software to provide engineers with a simple traffic light go/no-go system. The software is supplied on a dedicated laptop as part of the Bevel 360 system.

Undertaking more than 1,000 scans in under 30 seconds, the tool is capable of measuring pipe diameters ranging from 6" to 48" with a maximum pipe wall thickness of 45mm. The Bevel 360 is easily deployed into the pipe end by a single operator and is flexible enough to be utilised across a wide range of projects. Running off a standard 110-240 VAC system (with RCD), the tool is supplied with a tough case, making transportation simple.

The robust design is also able to measure an array of bevel types including plain, J-prep, J-prep with back bevel, compound and compound J-prep bevel.

Denise Smiles, CEO of OMS, said, "Bevel 360 is a hugely exciting development for us and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to new product innovation. While the natural inclination for many suppliers to the oil and gas industry has been to pull back on investment, we took the decision last year to focus on the long-term future of the sector.



Bevel 360 from OMS

"With this in mind, we're determined to create value for businesses operating in this challenging sector. For us, this means creating solutions that improve efficiency, increase accuracy and reduce waste. Our Bevel 360 will revolutionise the task of ensuring that bevel profiles are consistently within project specification across the oil and gas industry."

OMS – UK
info@omsmeasure.com
www.omsmeasure.com

Forged gate valve

Flowserve, a provider of flow control products and services for the global infrastructure markets, has released the new forged Equiwedge™ gate valve design.

Integrating two industry best practices into one design, the valve features the increased wall thicknesses found in critical areas of valves designed in accordance with US standards, while also capitalising on the reduced weight benefits of equivalent European standards. This allows the valve to perform under the difficult pressure and temperature conditions typical of supercritical and ultra-supercritical coal-fired power plants. The new forged design is claimed to maximise safety and reliability.

Key benefits include a streamlined hybrid design that selectively increases wall thicknesses in critical areas to improve reliability and lower the chance of equipment failure, while also reducing weight; and a single-piece body that

eliminates fabrication welds, reducing accidents and body failures that could result from poor welding.

Supercritical and ultra-supercritical power plants operating at up to 290 bar (4,200 psig) and over 600°C (1,100°F) account for 35 per cent of installed global coal-fired generating capacity and over half of all new plant construction. These plants operate at thermal efficiencies of up to 45 per cent (LHV), which is a 7-10 percentage point improvement over older subcritical plants that generally operate below 185 bar. This efficiency improvement results in a corresponding reduction in CO₂ emissions of up to 15 per cent per GW generated.

The new valve is available in NPS sizes from 4 to 26 (DN100-650) and with materials including carbon steel, low alloy steel and creep strength-enhanced ferritic steels.

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Don't miss the special events scheduled for FABTECH 2016. While at the show you can make plans to stop by the keynote presentations, expert panel discussions, Welding Thunder Team Fabrication Competition and more.

An expert panel will review the 2016 election results and discuss the impact on the manufacturing industry and the business climate for capital investment, tax updates, and what it means to your business. There will also be an event celebrating the role of women in engineering and manufacturing and a talk on advances in 3D printing and what it might mean for you.



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A new structure, and many new developments

Marcegaglia reorganises and presents its innovations to the market

It is now one year since the launch of Marcegaglia's new organisation, which separated its activities with carbon steels from those with stainless steels, and created three new companies dedicated to specific sectors – Marcegaglia Carbon Steel, Marcegaglia Specialties and Marcegaglia Plates.

Now the Italy-based company is also strengthening its position in terms of production, presenting to the market several innovations both in processes and in products in the flat steel sector.

It is through innovation that leadership expresses itself. It is an affirmation of the intrinsic values of a company that continues to transform itself so as to be an ever-closer partner facing the requirements of the market, shaping steel with innovative processes and developing innovative products, not only in terms of new solutions, but also the improvement of current solutions.

Marcegaglia has been able to transform itself, creating a new business structure divided into three new companies, each dedicated to specific products – Marcegaglia Carbon Steel (for carbon steel tubes and flat products), Marcegaglia Specialties (for stainless steel tubes and flat products, and cold-drawn bars – both stainless and carbon steel), and Marcegaglia Plates (for the manufacture of heavy quarto plates).

In this way it can enhance its role as a key player in the international steel scene, sustaining its role with a commitment to transform itself in terms of R&D. In particular, the company is concentrating on flat steel products that will be on show during the upcoming EuroBLECH 2016 in Hanover, Germany, where Marcegaglia will be present among the steel leaders (Hall 17, Stand B34).

Project ACE-PICK: alternating current electrolytic pickling process

A clear example of this innovation is the research and experimentation conducted by Marcegaglia and Centro Sviluppo Materiali within the EU-financed project 'First worldwide full-scale demonstration of alternating current (AC) electrolytic pickling on carbon and stainless coils (ACE-PICK)'.

The intermediate results of the project, which has been in operation for more than 15 months, were presented at the annual meeting of the Technical Group Steel N.5 (Finishing and Coating) held in the Marcegaglia HQ in Gazoldo degli Ippoliti, in northern Italy. In particular, the experimentation concerns the first line in the manufacturing of stainless steels at the Gazoldo degli Ippoliti plant, as well as the system for the thermal treatment and pickling (of both ferritic and austenitic grade stainless steels).

The project has two fundamental objectives: to improve surface quality of the processed products, and to increase line productivity and flexibility of the line at the same time.

The intermediate results demonstrated that the two targets have been achieved through the development of an innovative electrolytic pickling process based on alternating current (AC) instead of the direct current (DC) commonly used.

The AC electrolytic pickling process can significantly reduce – by up to 50 per cent – the treatment times normally required in conventional processes, on both hot- and cold-rolled products.

This highlights how, in the continuous treatment lines for flat rolled products, the alternating current process can be used in order to:

- totally or partially replace sandblasting and/or brushing treatment with positive benefits for surface quality with the same productivity and length of line
- increase, with the same length of production line, the productivity of the pickling section

Applied on both hot-rolled and cold-rolled AISI 3XX and 4XX, it significantly reduces the pickling times, both electrolytic and chemical, while obtaining a much better surface from an aesthetic point of view.

Advanced high strength steels (AHSS) for the automotive sector

The future of the automotive industry is concerned with steel. It focuses attention on advanced high-strength steels that respond positively, in terms of production and performance, to the requirements of the sector: weight/energy efficiency, safety and costs.

Marcegaglia: flat universe

Today Marcegaglia has a well-established presence in the flat steel products sector (both carbon and stainless steel), including the manufacturing of heavy quarto plates and pre-painted products. It is a key international player capable of supplying not only other service centres but also specialised customers with a wide range of products in terms of steel grades and applications: a unique range of services with quick response times thanks to its stock availability in standard sizes.

Last but not least is the efficiency of the distribution network connecting the manufacturing plants with each other and with customers: 11 logistic intermodal terminals (or hubs) strategically located in harbours on the Mediterranean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, as well as storage areas near important railway connections, significantly cutting delivery times as well as carbon emissions, and enhancing flexibility and service.

Today, Marcegaglia, at its plant in Ravenna, Italy, the main manufacturing unit dedicated to flat carbon steel and the intermodal logistic hub of all group's activities, is aiming at increasing the production of hot-dip galvanised dual-phase DP600 steels, manufactured in accordance with EN 10346, and, with its internal R&D team, on the higher grades DP800 and CP800.

These steels allow vehicle weight reduction, actively contributing to carbon dioxide emission reduction (as regulated by the EU), while guaranteeing maximum safety. The hot-dip galvanising process also allows higher durability in terms of corrosion resistance and better performance in the long-term.

Magnetic steels: new semi-processed grade M310-50K

Today, the R&D in the magnetic steels field is focusing – both for GO (grain-oriented) and NGO (non-grain-oriented), which represents about 80 per cent of the market – on improving the efficiency of electrical motors by selecting materials with high magnetic properties.

This is a result that can be attained only through the optimisation of the entire manufacturing process: from hot rolling to cold rolling and skin-passing steps.

Accordingly, Marcegaglia presented, during the “7th International Conference Magnetism and Metallurgy WMM '16” the development of the new grade of semi-processed magnetic steel M310-50K, based on a 2.0 wt% Si non-oriented magnetic steel through the optimisation of the microstructural characteristics of the semi-finished product by means of the thermo-mechanical processing (TMP) conditions and the following cold rolling, annealing cycle and skin-pass processes.

Microstructure and ODF analyses were carried out on samples that were hot rolled, cold rolled and annealed, and after final decarburisation and secondary recrystallisation annealing.

The results of the case study confirmed that in order to develop favourable textures and to achieve the target magnetic properties a thorough approach for the whole production chain has to be adopted.

Pre-painted steels: two new finishes for unique aesthetic levels with steel safety

In the pre-painted steels sector, Marcegaglia is developing new finishes with high aesthetic qualities giving efficiency and durability, along with the safety of the steel itself. This is the case, for example, with the brand-new product that simulates wood surfaces – in three colours and finishes – through a process of painting and finishing directly on steel.

It is an innovative coating that can be used for several applications, especially in the field of architecture, that combines the aesthetic value of wood with structural steel materials and their mechanical properties.

The exclusive brand-new polyester resin coating system SHIMOCO (free of hexavalent chromium and heavy metals) is formulated to allow the best UV and corrosion resistance, guaranteeing maximum flexibility and durability, while having sophisticated and intrinsic aesthetic qualities thanks to the composition and textural pattern of the paint itself.

Thanks to these features, it is particularly suitable for roofing applications and also for cladding and façades.

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www.marcegaglia.com

Wide diameter tube and pipe



*Photo: Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc, USA
ADS N-12 large diameter corrugated HDPE pipe is one of
the products that will be manufactured at the new plant*

ADS expands manufacturing footprint

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc (ADS), a global manufacturer of water management products and solutions for commercial, residential, infrastructure and agricultural applications, is to build a new pipe manufacturing plant in Harrisonville, Missouri, USA, approximately 40 miles south of Kansas City, to better serve growing customer demand in the region.

Joe Chlapaty, chairman and CEO of ADS, commented, "We are pleased to announce our plans to expand our manufacturing footprint in Harrisonville, MO.

"In addition to freeing up production capacity in the Midwest for our pipe products, the new plant will allow us to meet the growing demand for all of our products in the region while helping to reduce the time and cost of delivery to our customers."

The 65,000ft² plant is scheduled to open during the first half of 2017, and will produce the company's single- and dual-wall, high-density polyethylene

(HDPE) and polypropylene pipe. The facility will also operate its own fleet of dedicated delivery trucks, and the full portfolio of ADS products will be available at the site, including ADS N-12[®] HDPE pipe, HP Storm and SaniTite[®] polypropylene pipe, StormTech chambers, Inserta Tee[®] and other fittings, Nyloplast[®] drain structures, and geosynthetic fabrics and grids.

ADS manufactures thermoplastic corrugated pipe, providing a comprehensive suite of water management products and drainage solutions for use in the construction and infrastructure marketplace.

Its products are used across a broad range of end markets and applications, including non-residential, residential, agriculture and infrastructure applications.

Founded in 1966, the company operates a global network of 61 manufacturing plants and 31 distribution centres.

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc – USA
www.ads-pipe.com

The new ADS plant will include a fabrication operation



Asset achieves health and safety accreditation

Water management solutions manufacturer Asset International Ltd has attained a top accreditation for its health and safety practices from international business standards company BSI.

Asset, which specialises in manufacturing large diameter plastic pipes for the water management and construction industries, has achieved the BS OHSAS 18001 accreditation after a period of rigorous assessment.

BS OHSAS 18001 sets out the minimum requirements for occupational health and safety management best practice.

It is a framework for an occupational health and safety management system, which helps organisations put in place the best policies, procedures and controls required to achieve the optimum working conditions and

workplace health and safety, all aligned to internationally recognised best practice.

Asset hopes that such recognition from BSI will attract more business from companies who use the accreditation as a pre-qualifier for the procurement process.

Speaking about the new certification, Graham Bennett, operations manager at Asset International, commented, "Working in the heavy manufacturing sector, our approach to health and safety is the most vital element of what we do, from the factory floor all the way to our project sites around the globe. The world of health and safety is ever evolving and by achieving and maintaining the standards of best practice outlined by industry leaders like BSI, we can ensure we provide our employees with the best

possible working environment in which to operate."

Established in 1901, BSI was the world's first national standards body. The BSI Kitemark, which Asset already possesses, has provided reassurance for over 100 years, and the company is in possession of a Royal Charter.

BSI is one of the largest independent certification bodies for management systems, and works with more than 80,000 clients every year in 172 countries to help them adopt and cultivate the habits of best practice.

Asset is currently involved in a number of high profile projects around the UK.

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egeplast and MBS Naturstromspeicher to cooperate

The companies egeplast and MBS Naturstromspeicher GmbH, with construction company Max Bögl Group holding an interest in the latter, have agreed on cooperation around the realisation of the Naturstromspeicher, a natural energy storage plant in Gaildorf, Germany.

The Naturstromspeicher represents a unique combination of wind power and hydropower. The signing of the cooperation agreement was preceded by extensive R&D activities on the part of both companies.

The innovative concept for the natural energy storage plant developed by MBS Naturstromspeicher GmbH is a combination of a wind farm and a pumped-storage power plant, simultaneously using the foundations of the wind turbine towers as a water reservoir.

Major differences in height (150-350m) between the lower reservoir located in the valley and the wind tower base, as well as the envisioned capacity of the pumped-storage power plants (16, 24 and 32 MW) present particular technical challenges for the pipe systems involved.

As an innovator for plastic pipe systems, egeplast developed a customised pressure pipe system made

of polyethylene for the project. The pressure pipe will be used to connect the upper and the lower reservoirs – the high-pressure segment of the line.

The 2,000mm OD high-pressure pipe system is designed to withstand a 20 bar operating pressure for a minimum of 50 years. It can also be classified as non-critical with regard to plant-related sudden pressure surges in daily operations.

The product was developed in the egeplast Technology Centre in Greven, Germany, as a logical follow-up of the patented egeplast HexelOne® technology.

The HexelOne production process not only enables the new product to fulfil the technical requirements, but also reduces the required wall thickness of the pipes by more than 50 per cent compared to PE 100 pipes.

MBS Naturstromspeicher GmbH is in the process of developing an efficient installation platform. This technology will make it possible to also install the large-diameter pipe system along pre-existing routes in order to blend with the landscape.

The installation is based on existing radii even under cramped conditions



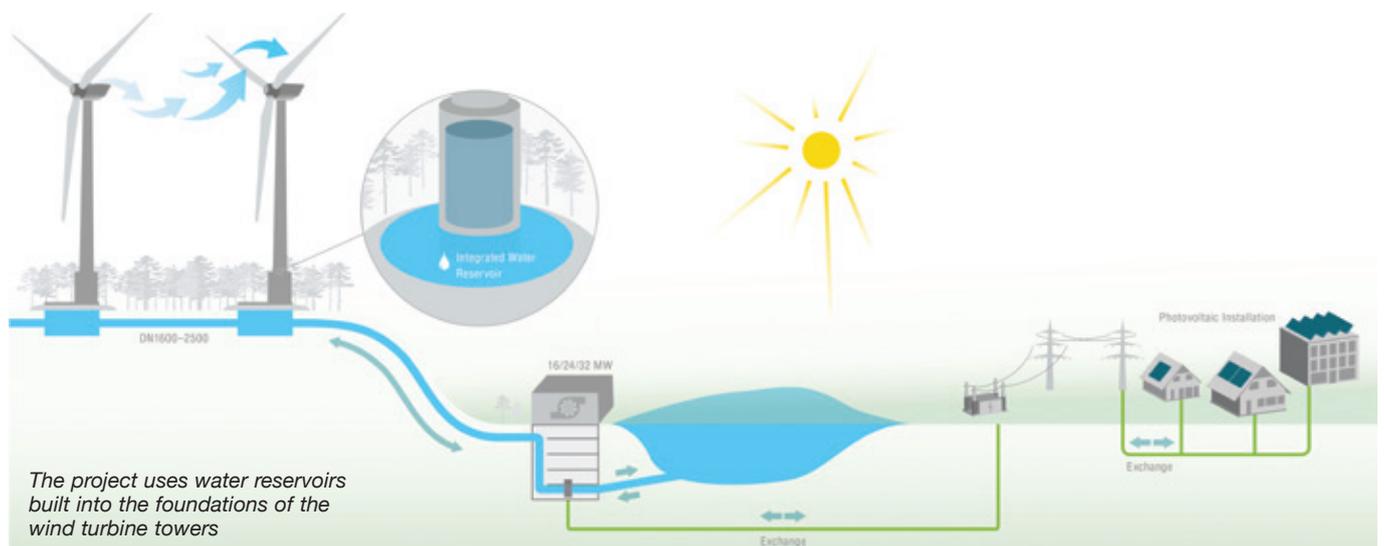
The large-diameter pipe system made its public debut at IFAT 2016

in the natural environment. The system is characterised by high process safety and by meeting the highest standards with regard to occupational safety, while at the same time ensuring productivity.

The cooperation around the combination of hydropower and pumped-storage power initiated in the context of the Naturstromspeicher Gaildorf will be continued in the future, and both partners have signed a memorandum of understanding for this purpose.

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The project uses water reservoirs built into the foundations of the wind turbine towers

Mill investment helps Tata Steel break Gulf of Mexico record

More than 140km of pipeline manufactured at Tata Steel's recently enhanced double submerged arc welded (DSAW) mill has becoming the deepest to be laid in the Mexican section of the Gulf of Mexico.

The company was awarded a contract to supply 457mm OD x 28.6mm WT API 5L PSL2 X65MO line pipe from its large diameter 42" DSAW mill in Hartlepool, UK, for the development. The project marked the first time that a pipeline had been laid at water depths greater than 3,000ft in the Mexican section of the Gulf. Tata Steel was selected for the project due to its experience in the manufacture of small diameter and thick wall deep-water line pipe.

The mill has been the focus of significant recent investment to enhance technology and processes and increase power efficiency. More than 125 improvements were completed in 2015 to strengthen its overall operational and performance capability.

The improvements include upgrades to welding equipment using the latest closed loop digital weld control technology to deliver greater weld stability, reduced repair rates and total traceability of the process. Tata Steel has also invested in a laser profiling system to provide a 3,600-point profile to monitor pipe straightness and provide a full dimensional survey of the pipe end. This data can be used to ensure minimum 'hi/low' in girth welding for high fatigue and other applications. Energy-efficient inverters have replaced more than 50 traditional transformers/rectifiers on production lines to enable quick and repeatable set ups while cutting the mill's electricity demand by nearly a third, allowing Tata Steel to produce more pipe with less energy.

The mill's 'O' press control has been upgraded to optimise the forming process, ensuring uniform pressing along the full length of pipes to achieve optimum pipe shape. This has benefits for deep-water operations, as both the shape and balancing of the 'forming ratio' of the pipe are critical for deep-water collapse resistance.

Richard Broughton, commercial manager, energy and power, Tata Steel, said, "The overall benefit of the investments can be seen in the welding quality performance achieved during the project in the Gulf of Mexico. Where small diameter and thick wall pipe is typically more challenging, on this project a combined repair rate of 0.25 per cent was achieved. This was delivered not only due to the investment in welding technology, but also through a programme of continuous improvements in the welding area, which has seen similar developments across many sizes of pipe."

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Mother of all jack stands

Sumner Manufacturing Co, Inc, USA

In the early 1960s, Sumner Manufacturing recognised that all pipe jack stands were hand made by welders, and what one person made would vary in size and capacity to what someone else made. Parts were not interchangeable, features were questionable, and there was no standard. Compared to our highly safety-regulated society today, home pipe stands could be found on job sites which had no load rating and the construction of the stand was dubious.

Sumner's Heavy Duty jack was the first commercially built pipe jack that offered weight rating, independent load tested, interchangeable parts, safe operation and three legs for stability. It is from this pipe jack that an industry standard has been established, and today most commercially built stands duplicate this design.

As the Heavy Duty jack gained popularity, a new need grew among the independent welders who worked on rigs. They required a stand that had a 900kg capacity, and the same features as the Heavy Duty stand, but legs that folded up to store easily in their vehicles. Sumner developed the folding jack stand, which has turned out to be the most widely used three-legged stand in the world.

For larger pipe, there was a need for greater stability, and for the ability to level the pipe and rotate it for rollout welding. Sumner's Adjust-A-Roll, also introduced in the 1960s, featured 900kg capacity and the ability to adjust the pipe level from either side of the stand. Later, the ProRoll was introduced and offered stand height adjustment that improved welder comfort when working a variety of different sizes of pipe.



Perhaps the greatest innovation was a stand that not only allowed the welder to level and rollout weld, but could also be used as a transport cart. Sumner's Max Jax was developed in the 1990s, and became widely used because it reduced the number of times a pipe was lifted by a crane to be moved from station to station in a fab shop.

The patent-protected Max Jax2 is the latest version, and offers a new roller head design for better roller-wheel-to-pipe contact and an invertible stand (a base that offers both high and low operating positions). Pipe rotators are commonly used in fab shops, and the combination of pipe sizes and rotator operating height can be a nightmare for a shop foreman. The 4 to 36" Max Jax2 can accommodate this situation as well as transporting the pipe around the shop.

Pipe clamps come in all flavours

Pipe and tubing clamps are like flavours of ice cream – there is a wide variety to choose from. Like vanilla and chocolate, four or five styles of clamp are the most preferred.

Patent records are loaded with old designs of clamps, from a vee frame that holds two mating pipe lengths together with a chain, to wooden wedges that are used under pipe for alignment on a welder's table.

Today, the most popular style of clamp attaches to the end of a pipe and has three 4-, 8- and 12-o'clock adjustment positions to level a mating pipe, fitting or flange. An example of such a clamp is the patented Sumner Ultra Qwik Clamp.

Available in three sizes from 1 to 12", the Ultra Qwik has stainless steel contact points, so it can be used on stainless or carbon pipe. The adjustment handle slides so that the clamp can be used on short pipe lengths against a wall. A final feature is a push-button release to allow the arms to open and close rapidly.



Ultra Qwik Clamp



Internal fit-up clamp



DX Clamp



Clamp Champ

A similar style of clamp is the DX Clamp, which has the same 4-, 8- and 12-o'clock adjustment positions, but the arms are made of dropped forged steel.

Available in four styles from 1 to 14" pipe range, the DX Clamp tends to be popular in Central Europe.

Fitting up flanges can be a challenge, but the Sumner Internal Clamp easily handles 2 to 12" slip-on and weld neck styles flanges.

The clamp uses two expanding mandrels that have stainless contact points so that the tool can be used on carbon or stainless pipe and flanges. One handle is for mounting the tool in the pipe and positioning it to the axis of the pipe. The second adjustment aligns the flanges to the end of the pipe. The internal clamp is a fast and accurate solution for flange fit-up work.

Chain clamps offer 'does all' fit-up work, and are generally more economical than other clamps. They handle pipe-to-pipe, pipe-to-flange and to-fitting. The range is normally greater than other clamps. For instance, Sumner Clamp Champ has a range of 1 to 16" or 10 to 36".

While chain clamps are more universal to use, they tend to take longer to operate than the other clamps because there are more adjustments. Chain clamps are available in stainless or carbon models.

Other clamps in the Sumner range can be found on the company's website.

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Not all tubes are created equal

By Stewart Jones, Tata Steel

Stewart Jones, senior customer technical services field engineer, conveyance tubes at Tata Steel, outlines the distinctive differences between hot and cold formed tube products, and discusses the training required to resolve confusion surrounding British and European standards.



Stewart Jones

Specification of any product is largely based upon the available budget and ensuring compliance with key legislation. Therefore, a product's manufacturing process can often be overlooked, with more influential drivers leading a specification. In the tube and pipework industry, this is often the case, with a tube's manufacturing process not taken into consideration.

Produced by two methods, either hot-finished or cold-formed, the two processes create products with similar specification information. However, there are several underlying factors and properties that should be considered.

Formed from a flat coil, cold-formed steel tubes are shaped when cold, then welded to produce the tube shape. During this process the material undergoes work hardening, interrupting the grain structure of the material and introducing internal stresses.

This occurs in the region surrounding the welded seam and is often referred to as the heat affected zone (HAZ). Within this region the steel has a distorted grain structure, producing a harder, less malleable material to work with. During fabrication and installation this distortion can be increased by additional working and product manipulation. This heightens the level of internal stress, consequently increasing the risk of the product cracking and failing.

Used in heating, air conditioning and ventilation applications as well as for general conveyance purposes, a cracking and failing tube product

can have a serious impact. Therefore reducing the risk of failure and consequently improving the health and safety of employees is of significant importance.

While the manufacturing process for hot-finished tubes is very similar to the cold-formed process, the addition of a vital step relieves any internal stress. To provide a full-bodied hot-finish process route, the steel tubes are heated to very high temperatures using a furnace or induction process. As the temperature of the steel rises, its internal stresses are relaxed and the HAZs are eradicated.

Removing the internal weakness within the steel tube means that hot-finished tubes present several benefits over their cold-formed counterpart throughout the product's lifespan. For example, with a uniform microstructure and no internal stress, the product has consistent and reliable mechanical properties throughout the entire product.

Furthermore, the heating process also improves the final product's structural integrity and ductility, its toughness and its ability to withstand high pressure. This means that hot-finished steel tubes will not suffer any loss of strength from additional welding and heating, and have an increased performance against corrosion. These characteristics are essential for tube products used in environments where product failure is not an option and employee health and safety is paramount.

As well as being structurally sounder and stronger, hot-formed tubes have added practical advantage over seamless



tubes. Hot-formed tubes have an improved ability to be threaded, grooved and bent to tight radii without splitting, creasing or collapsing. Moreover, the improved roundness and consistency of thickness makes end matching for joining a much easier process.

In addition to considering the manufacturing process, ensuring products are specified to the correct standards is of the utmost importance. Although often referred to in parts of the building services industry as the pipework specification standard, BS1387 was actually replaced in 2004.

The standard's successor, EN10255, ensures compliance for CE marking and with the European Commission's Construction Products Regulations (CPR), demonstrating that the products are fit for purpose. However, it alone does not provide differentiation between hot-finished and cold-formed products.

Specifiers should therefore also look towards the EN10217-1 standard, which does allow for both hot- and cold-formed products, ensuring compliance with the Pressure Equipment Directive (PED). To guarantee that a hot-formed product is specified correctly, it is vital to include EN10217-2 within the specification details.

By requesting an EN10217-2 compliant product, a 'GH' (Get Hot) hot-finished steel tube will be supplied, dramatically removing the risk of the product cracking or failing, and increasing the safety of where the steel tube is applied.

To guarantee certification with key legislation, multi-certified tube products, ie those that meet EN10255, EN 10217-1 and EN10217-2, are therefore ideal for removing any confusion surrounding compliance and ensuring the best product is chosen for an application.

Ensuring legislative compliance and manufactured within the UK is Tata Steel's Install Plus 235 hot-finished tube product range. Suitable for a wide range of pipework applications, each product was developed with the CE marking requirements of the Construction Products Regulations and with the Pressure Equipment Directive in mind. Achieved by manufacturing to the BS EN10255, BS EN10217 Part 2 and the Get Hot (GH) grade, a fully hot-finished robust product is guaranteed.

Confusion of when to use hot- and cold-form tube products, and misunderstanding with regards to the correct standard to comply with, has led to a state of uncertainty within the sector. Consequently, when it comes to specifying the right product for the appropriate application, further technical guidance is often required.

To aid in addressing this prevalent industry issue, Tata Steel is collaborating with the School of Civil and Building Engineering, Loughborough University, UK, to help establish the Building and Industrial Services Pipework Academy (BISPA) [as reported in the March 2016 issue of *Tube Products International*]. The aim of this initiative is to support the building and industrial services industry by improving awareness of pipework-related issues. Education is provided on issues such as tube specifications and the benefits of hot-finished tube products. Furthermore, BISPA provides participants the opportunity to get practical experience with



new and emerging industry innovations such as pipework Building Information Modelling (BIM).

When it comes to specifying a tube for a specific project, too often building professionals are somewhat short-sighted, opting for what appears to be the more cost-effective option. However, not all tubes are created equal. Therefore, when undertaking the process of matching a tube product for a specific purpose, a more meticulous look into the manufacturing process is strongly advisable. Tubes created through a hot-finished process, where the internal stresses and weakened regions of a cold-formed product are eradicated, produce an unparalleled level of reliability and durability, as well as delivering true fabrication, installation and service life benefits.

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www.tatasteel.com

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acc. to DIN, EN, ASTM and API standards from 17,2 to 1620 mm

- Longitudinal seal-welded or spiral-welded, Material: S355J2H, S235JRH
- Inspection certificate 10204 / 3.1. b

Structural hollow sections

Hot-produced acc. to EN 10210 and cold-produced acc. to EN 10219
40 x 40 - 400 x 400 mm
50 x 30 - 500 x 300 mm

- materials S355J2H, S235JRH, S235J2H
- Inspection certificate EN 10204 / 3.1. b

Precision steel tubes

acc. to DIN, EN, ASTM and API standards from 5,0 to 200 mm

Processed tubes available on request

- as customer – specific cuts
- with PE coating
- blasted and primed

A list of all deliverable dimensions/weights is available on request.

