



Enhancing Local Testing Capabilities for Subsea Control Modules: Adaptation of a Deepwater Hyperbaric Test Facility

An Innovative Industry Collaboration Project by-
JTSI, SICA, Matrix Composites & Engineering and Baker Hughes



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Regional Deepwater Test Facility



Problem Statement

Subsea Control Modules (SCM) currently have to go to Europe for hyperbaric testing

- Supply Chain Risk – Cost – Lack of Transparency
- Existing local facilities too small or not designed for required pressure testing

Opportunity for a Regional Deepwater Testing Facility

- Upskilling and a subsequent increase in the inspection and repair capability locally and the creation of new jobs and training requirements
- A direct increase in the local content quotas for operators and OEMs
- Increased transparency of failure root cause analysis
- The potential for having a more comprehensive testing and repair facility linked to the Hyperbaric Chamber facility
- Significantly reduce supply chain risk
- Open up regional opportunities





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Feasibility Study Key Points



- **Initial work was focused on SCM Hyperbaric testing and repair**
 - Significant cost savings per SCM per test~80%
 - Estimate of 8 tests per year
 - A suitable local facility identified for modification
 - Initial modification cost estimated \$1.2M
 - A recent study carried out by Subsea UK for the Scottish Enterprise Board and the building of two new chambers in Norway have both indicated increased testing and repair work through having local facilities



3 Phased Approach

Phase 1

Hyperbaric Test Facility

Setup a hyperbaric test facility for testing and repair of Subsea Control Modules

- Secure funding
- Design, build and commission the required modifications
- Work with AMC CUF to develop appropriate third party engagement procedures to allow work to be carried out on the facility including IP protection
- Launch new facilities

Phase 2

Additional Facilities

Setup additional facilities for additional testing, repair and forensic work

- Setup clean room and associated testing facilities
- Hydraulic safety systems to allow variable water depth testing.

Phase 3

Expand to APAC Market

Market the new facility to the rest of the APAC region

- Develop marketing strategy and material
- Work with Austrade to identify potential clients



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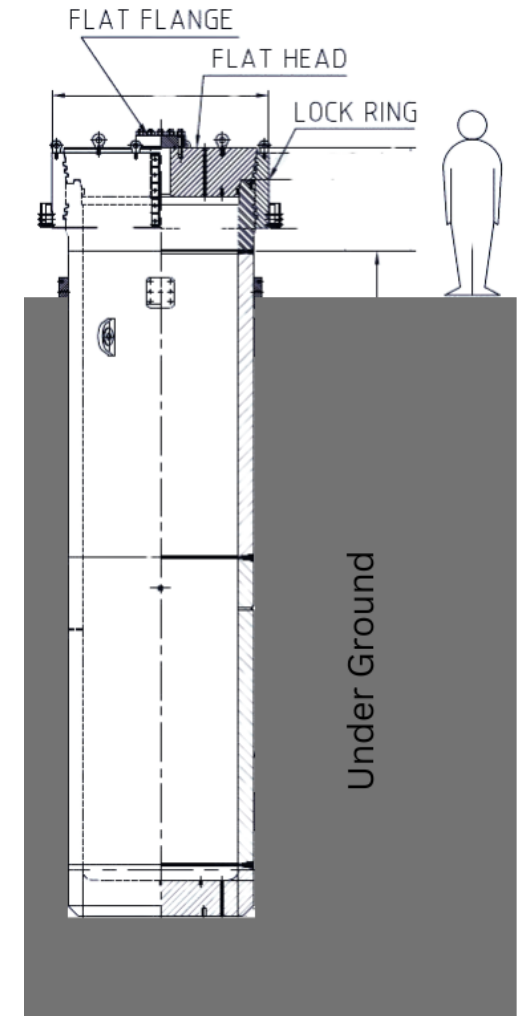
Matrix Hyperbaric Test Facility



Existing Capability

- 2 Large Hyperbaric Chambers (HC) designed and built to test riser buoyancy and floatation production modules to API 17L and API 16F standards .
- Design registered and operated per AS1200 regulatory requirements.
- 40 T crane to service 330 m² area
- Kraken Chamber was well suited for the new application with low utilization .

Hyperbaric Chamber	Kraken	Meg
Inner Diameter (ID.)	1.52 m ✓	1.6 m
Depth	6.0 m ✓	6.4 m
Pressure rating	340 bar ✓	520 Bar
Avg yearly utilization over past 5 years	< 10% ✓	>75%
Remaining HC Shell design fatigue life	> 90% ✓	
No. of additional Penetrations	2 ✗	





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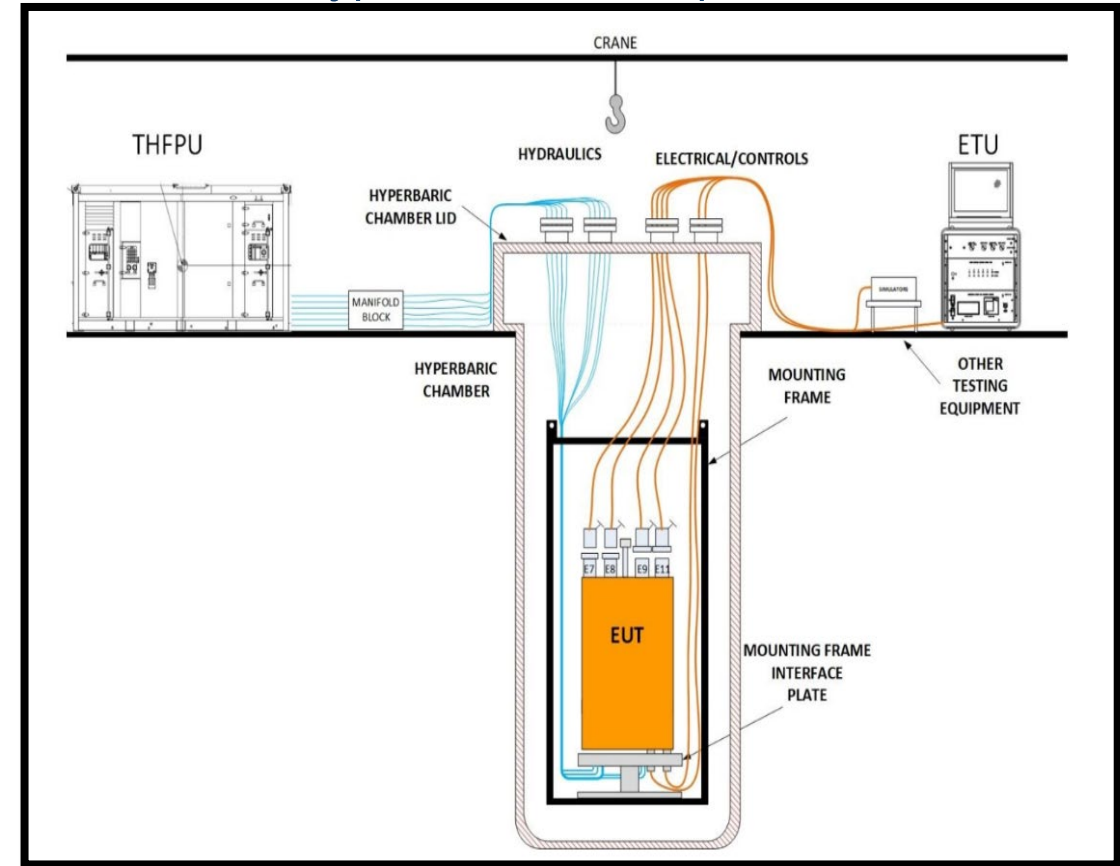
Defining Scope of Work



API17F 5th Edition specifies the below for a reworked subsea module:

“SCM and other subsea units containing pressure compensation and/or electronic components shall be pressure tested. The test shall include verification of any pressure compensation, hydraulic and electrical function, and frame loss testing of electrical Ethernet.....”

Typical Test Set Up





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Defining Scope of Work



Baker Hughes UK Test Facility Capabilities

For any given BH subsea equipment ,a maximum of 4 flanges would be required to fully function test the equipment which involves

- Up to 15 electrical penetrations
- 10 hydraulic penetrations
- Up to 4 fibre optic penetrations

	1	2	3	4	5*	6
Purpose	Electrical	Electrical	Electrical	Optical	Electrical	Hydraulic
Functions	5 x SCM/PCDM Output 2 x SCM/PCDM Input (SEMStar5 & SEM2k)	7 x PCDM Output	2 x SCM Input (SEMStar5) 1 x HV Input 1 x High Current Input		6 x SCM Output	2 x LP Input 2 x LP Function 1 x LP Return 2 x HP Input 2 x HP Function 1 x HP Return
Connections	5 x HDM306-13P 2 x blank	7 x HDM306-13P	2 x HDM506-13S ^{2 off} 1 x HDM508-4S/HV 1 x HDM508-4S	2 x Seacon 2 x blank	6 x HDM306-13P ^{7 off}	5 x LP 5 x HP
SCM Testing	✓		✓		✓	✓
PCDM Testing	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Use Flange 2
Design - common part

Use Flange 2
Design - Common part



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Lid and Flange Design



Basis of Design

Wood Group was engaged to design chamber lid and flanges.

Design objective:

Lid design to accommodate maximum number of penetrations possible to meet SCM functional testing, chamber operational (min. 2000 cycles) and safety requirements.

Design Criteria:

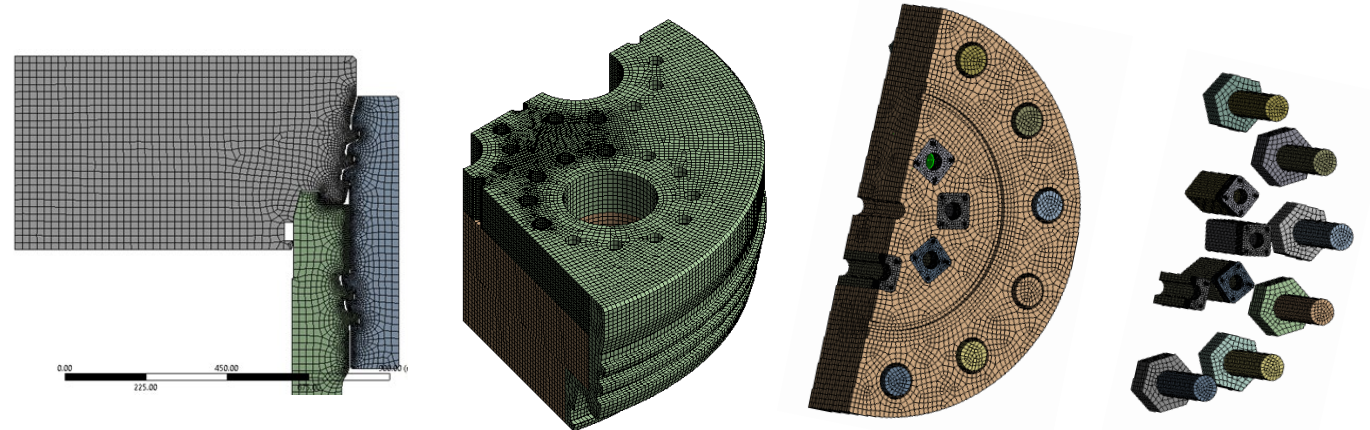
- AS 1210-2010, +A1, +A2 standard as primary design code
- Class of construction: 1H
- FEA analysis to confirm to ASME VIII-2 Part 5 criteria

Design Verification:

- By independent engineering consultancy other than design company

FEA Analysis

- Axi-symmetric model of the chamber, cover and locking ring.
- 3D model included penetrations and bolt holes for cover flanges.
- Multilinear isotropic hardening material was used for this analysis
- The load factor 1.5 was applied to all loading to provide safety margin.





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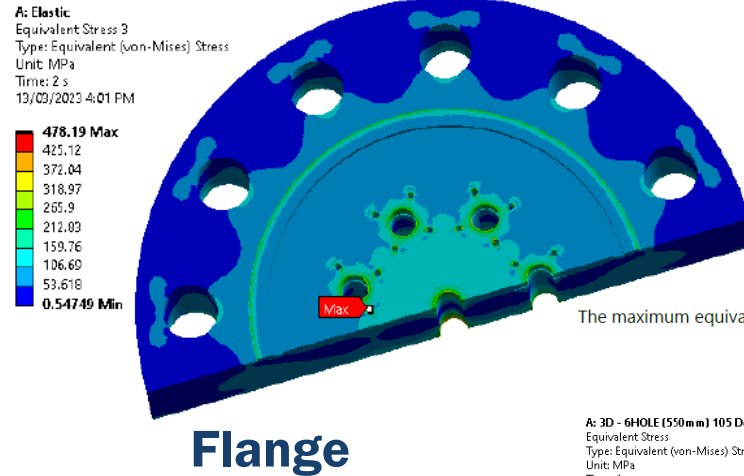
Lid and Flange FEA Analysis



FEA Analysis Outcome

- A 550mm-thick forged flat head meets the design requirements.
- Maximum allowable number of pressure cycles are at minimum 3 times and up to 10 times the design requirement – far exceeds the life of chamber lid
- Maximum equivalent stresses on elastic model is 533.94 Mpa occurred at the bolt holes

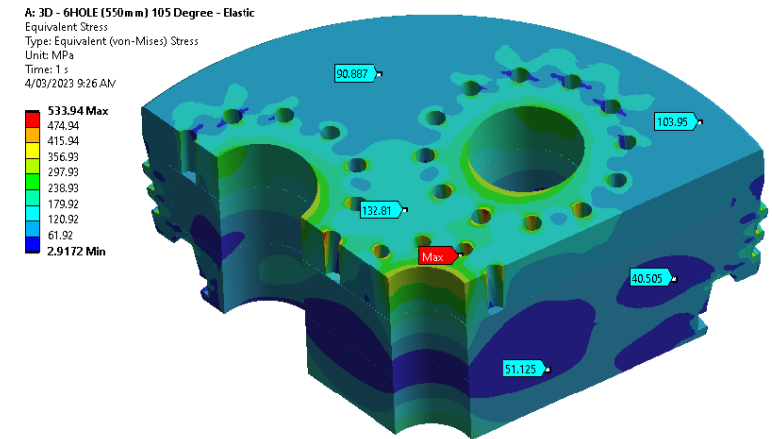
Figure C- 1 : Equivalent Stress Plot for Elastic Analysis



Chamber LID

The maximum equivalent stress occurred at the bolt, which can be considered the maximum fatigue stress.

Figure C-1: Equivalent Stress Plot for Elastic Analysis



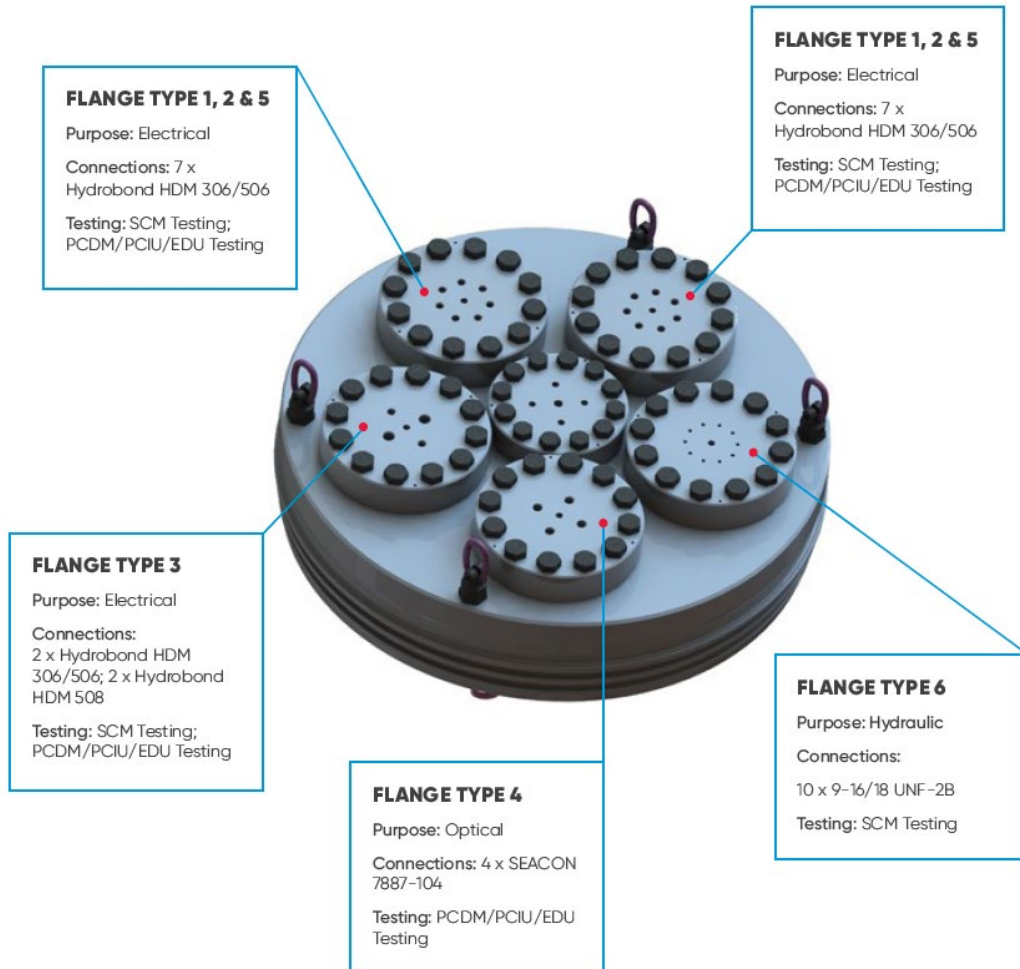
Flange No.	Max. Stress (MPa)	Max. Fatigue Stress (MPa)	Max. All. No. of Cycle	Design No. of Cycle	Judge
Type 1,2,5	478.19	478.19	16358	2000	Pass
Type 3	441.11	441.11	20547	2000	Pass
Type 4	483.44	483.44	15871	2000	Pass
Type 6	536.13	536.13	11984	2000	Pass
9" Flange	667.54	667.54	6808	2000	Pass

Maximum allowable cycle number is calculated in accordance to Appendix M, AS 1210-2010.



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Hyperbaric Chamber- Upgraded Capability



Chamber Upgraded Capability

New lid has 5 interchangeable flanges to suit any equipment under test requirements. Additional blank flanges were fabricated to suit bespoke penetration requirements from clients.

❖ Existing 5 flange penetrations has a total of

- 21 Electrical Penetrations
- 2 HV Penetrations
- 10 hydraulic penetrations
- 4 Fibre optic penetrations

❖ That can be configured to test

- Up to 10 Hydraulic function lines on SCMs
- Up to 12 Electrical harnesses on SCMs
- Up to 15 Electrical harnesses on PCDMs
- Up to 4 FO Harnesses
- Up to 2 Low Voltage (power, COPS or CAPS)
- 1 off High Voltage (project dependant)



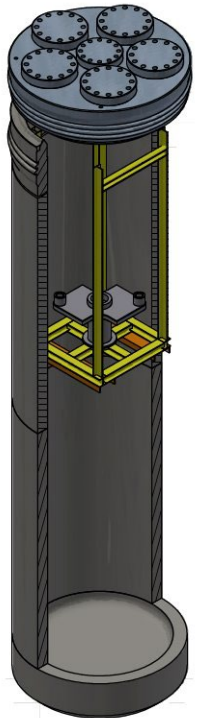
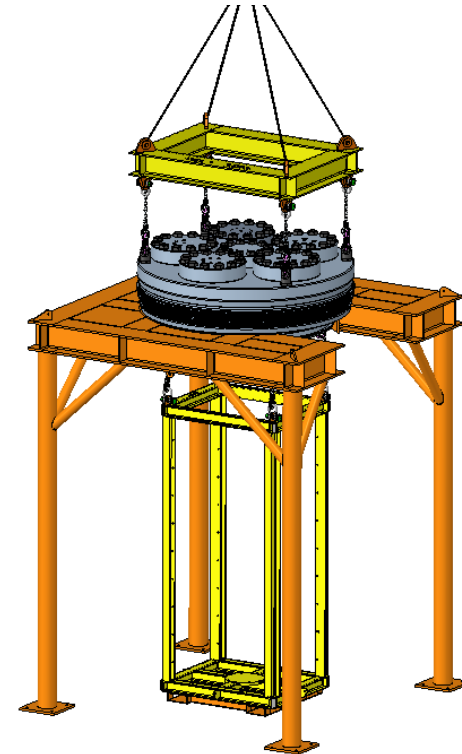
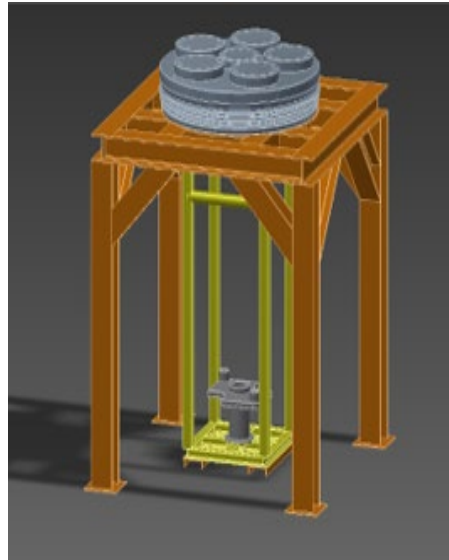
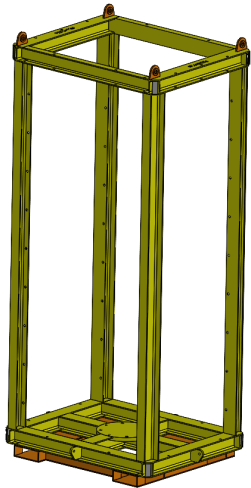
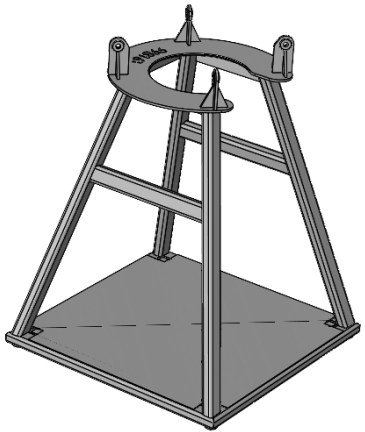
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SCM Support and Assembly Frames



Apart from Lid – project required support structure and lifting frame to enable assembly, lifting and loading of SCM into Hyperbaric chamber

Main support frame



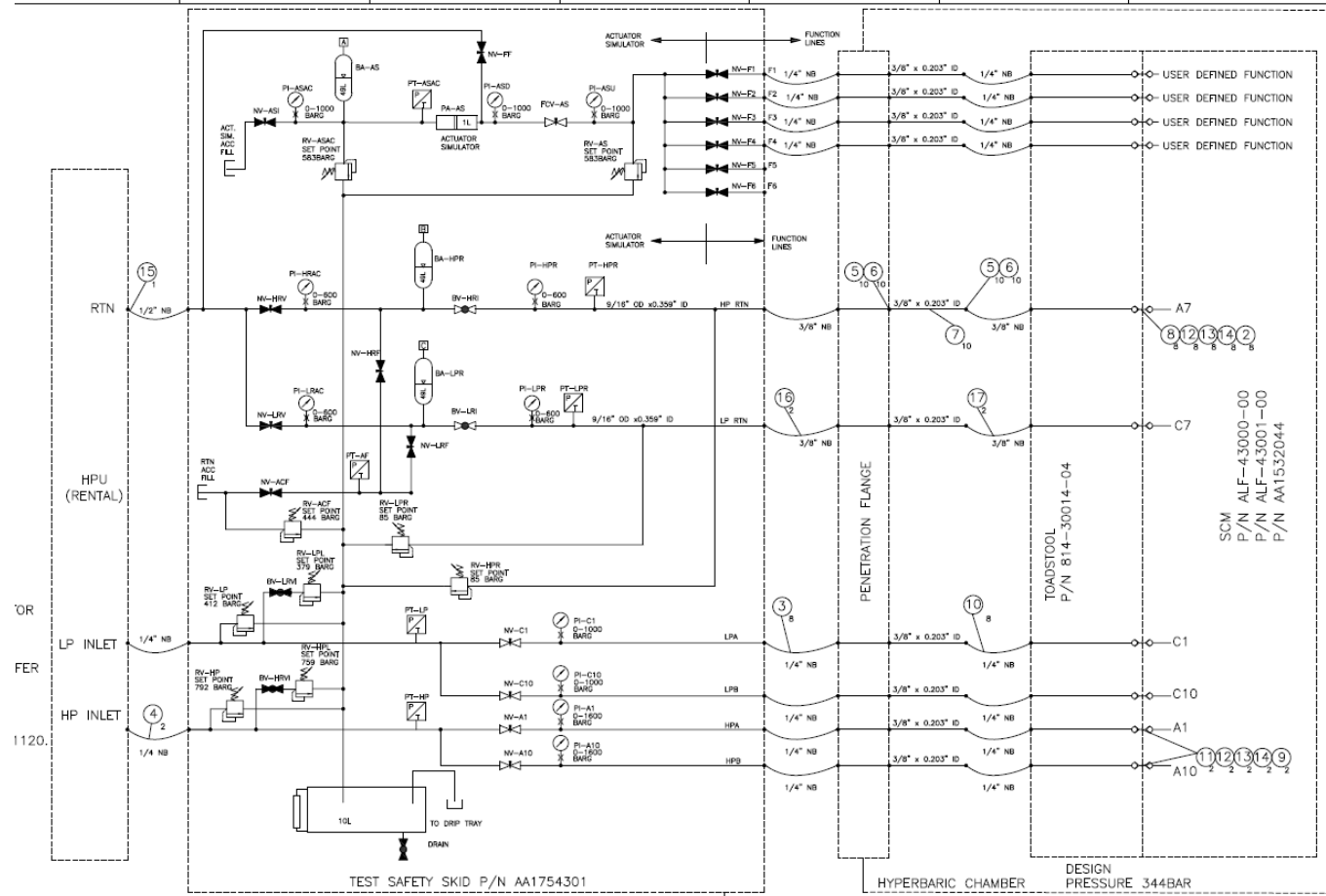


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Hydraulic and Electrical Scope of Supply



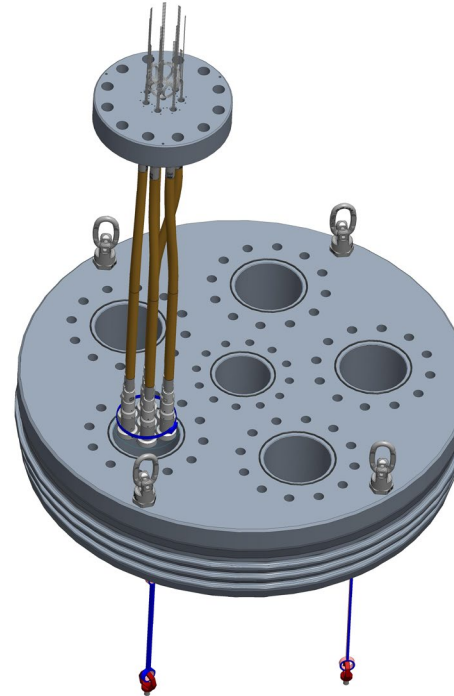
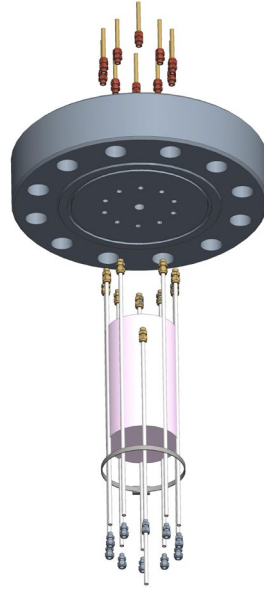
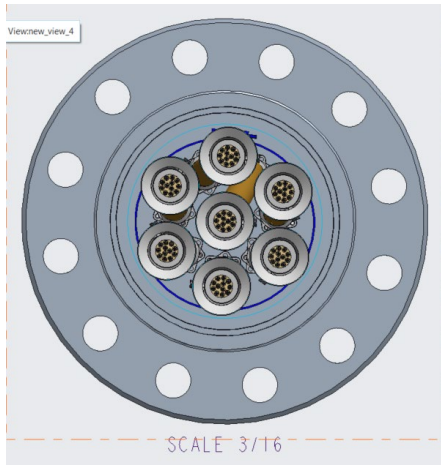
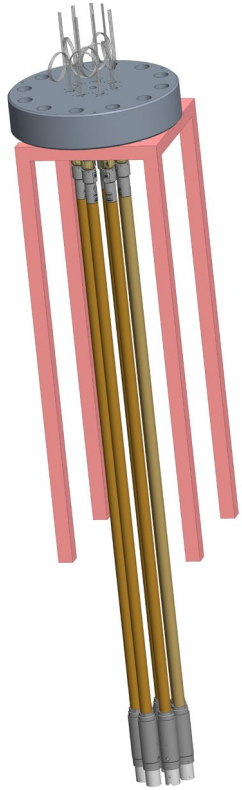
Generic Hydraulic Panel
to Support all types of
Baker Hughes SCMs





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Assembly Process



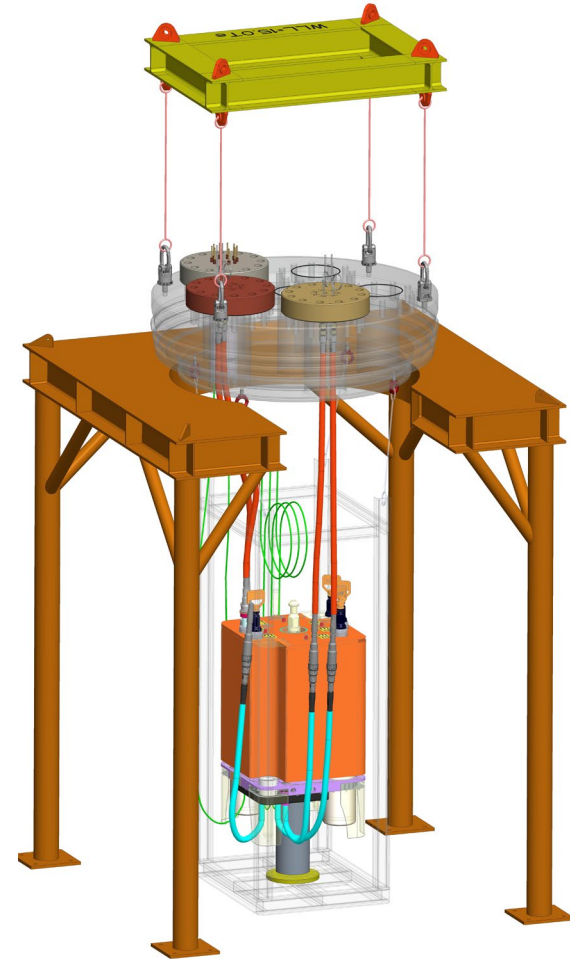
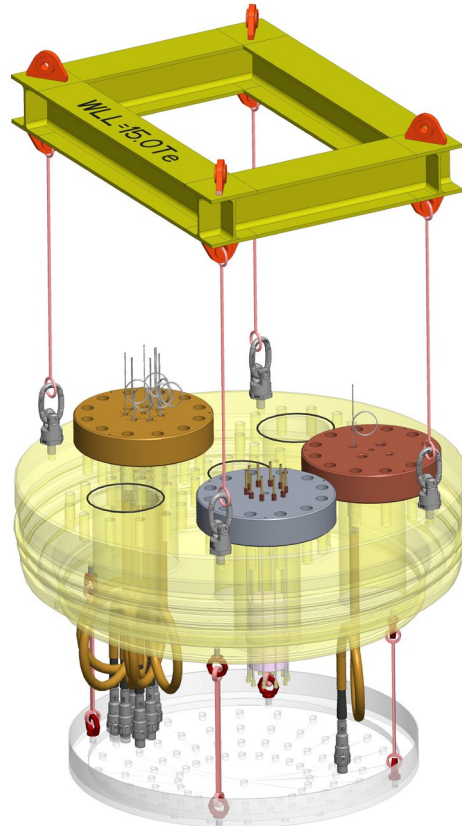
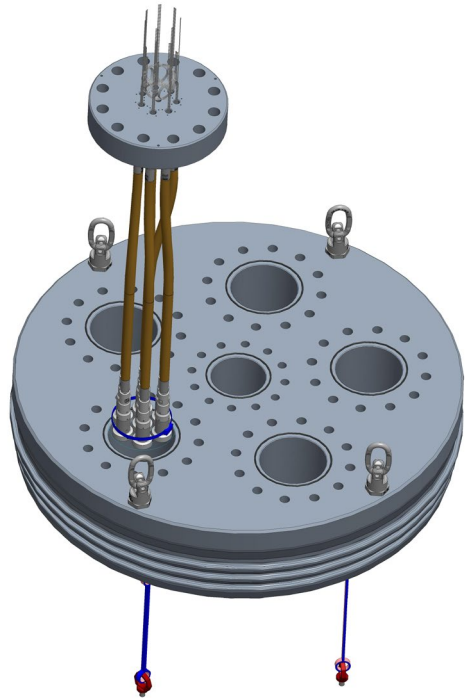
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Assembly Process



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Matrix Deepwater Hyperbaric CUF - Chamber Commissioning



Hydrostatic testing of Hyperbaric Chamber

- Tested to AS4037 (1999) , AS1210 (2010) standards
 - 1.43 times design pressure (492 bar)
- Upgraded chamber was re-registered with Work Safe WA
- Testing witnessed by 3rd party inspector along with SICA and BH representatives



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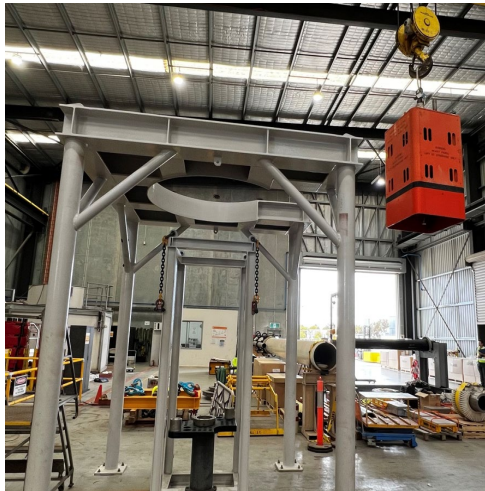
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Site Integration Test



Society for
Underwater
Technology

Used dummy SCM for the SIT



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Successful SCM Interface Test



Test Objective

Rig-up and test 2 Tonne SCM to 330 bar pressure.

Result

- Successfully pressure tested to 330 bar with zero leaks and consistent temperature.
- Witnessed by both OEM and operator involved.

Impact

- Customer met operator's deployment timeline for their flagship project at a fraction of the cost.
- Derisked delays in shipping via sea and air freight to Europe

Test Date: June 2024



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Next Step



**First function testing of SCM is planned for Nov 2024
in the newly established Matrix Deepwater Hyperbaric
Common User Facility!**

Questions??

