

SMD Prototype and acceptance testing



Project Outline

Narec’s subsea marine testing facilities were used to perform submerged testing of SMD’s scale model prototype of RT-1 - the world’s largest, most powerful subsea rock trenching vehicle for the burial of pipelines.

Narec’s facilities were also used to test SMD’s first ever Fall-Pipe ROV for Belgian dredging company, Jan De Nul.

The RT-1 prototype was tested at Narec’s facilities in Blyth, Northumberland using our simulated seabed to recreate seabed conditions off the coast of Western Australia ahead of deployment. This enabled subsea engineering specialist company SMD to prove to their client, CTC Marine, the concept of the novel 3-cutter arrangement to excavate a 2 metre trench through up to 40MPa compressive strength rock beneath the pipe cutters.

SMD’s Fall-Pipe ROV is designed to carry out a number of offshore rock dumping operations and is equipped with state-of the-art survey equipment such as subsurface positioning, sonar sensors, cameras and monitoring equipment. The device underwent extensive subsea trials in one of Narec’s large marine wet docks to prove the performance of all critical systems.

Project Outcome

Following the successful marine trials, the RT-1 prototype was shipped to Singapore, prior to deployment off the western coast of Australia, while the Fall-Pipe ROV was shipped to Spain for vessel instalment.

Paul Arthur, Project Manager at SMD said: “Narec played a fundamental role in allowing us to carry out R&D prototype and acceptance testing on these systems. They provide a comprehensive testing environment, which is cost effective and delivered within a specialist, secure and controlled setting.”



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