SUBSEA SERVICES
PIPETLINE INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT

Pipelines represent a very important part of the energy infrastructure. Proper operation is crucial to a company’s export capabilities. We ensure safe, continuous and economical product transportation.

An essential aspect of pipeline integrity management is identifying locations along the pipeline that are most vulnerable to corrosion. Another important aspect is forecasting corrosion over a period of time in order to predict the possibility of pipeline failure (corrosion rate versus time to failure).

We hold years of experience in maintaining and securing pipeline integrity on a large number of offshore and onshore assets.

We ensure:
- Continuous production
- Identification of high risk areas for corrosion
- Effective use of mitigation, monitoring and inspection resources
- Improved public health, safety and environmental protection

Three categories of pipeline integrity management

Direct assessment: Internal and external conditions assessment, pipeline risk ranking, flow modelling, corrosion rate and profile calculation.

Integrity plan: Definition of operations and procedural manuals, corrosion mitigation, corrosion monitoring, maintenance and inspection.

Project Management: Data management, burst pressure calculations, fit for service calculation, third party verification, corrosion management audits.

Software & tools

CorPos-AD®
CorPos-AD® is a software tool developed to assess the corrosion profiles for entire pipelines. It combines modelling with monitoring and inspection data for an integrated approach to increase safety control.

CorPos-AD® provides and stores data on:
- Actual corrosion risk situation
- Risk status (maximum corrosion depth vs. acceptable corrosion depth)
- Remaining service life (e.g. requalification / life extension of the pipeline)
- Optimum time to next inspection
- Requirements for chemical treatment (inhibition) and other Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- “What-if” situations

FiGS® CP survey

FiGS® is a unique approach to integrity management and life extension of offshore structures and pipelines with cathodic protection (CP). On both exposed and buried pipelines and structures, it provides an accurate condition assessment and detects even minor coating damages.

Performing a FiGS® survey provides you with an accurate image of the assets condition, which allows for qualified decisions and substantial cost savings when considering life extension and anode replacement.

A wide area of application, including but not limited to:
- Potential profile of pipelines and structures
- Accurate measure of current output from anodes

Risk based inspection planning

Risk Based Inspection (RBI) planning is a method for identifying the probability and consequence of component failure. An optimum inspection programme is determined, and detailed inspection plans are created.

Inspection planning includes various activities performed to optimise the use of inspection resources, thereby ensuring cost effectiveness while at the same time securing the technical integrity of the asset, increasing safety.

Pipeline & subsea inspection management

Proper management of pipelines and subsea equipment is critical to a company’s ability to maintain continuous production, including identification of high risk areas for corrosion, effective use of mitigation, monitoring and inspection resources, improved public health, safety and environmental protection.

We offer several solutions for these types of challenges, including, among other:
- Inspection planning
- Data analysis (e.g. pipeline degradation)
- Corrosion modelling (e.g. remaining life estimations, softwares)
- Recommendations on corrosion and materials
- Cathodic protection inspection (FiGS), modelling and analysis
- Advanced inspection/monitoring for subsea (e.g. vibration, field gradient sensor)
- Operational support

INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT

- Topside inspection management
- Risk based inspection (RBI)
- Pipeline & subsea inspection management
- WiLL corrosion management
- Integrity project management

MATERIALS

- Material selection/verification
- Cathodic protection (CP)
- Coating & surface protection
- Corrosion control
- Laboratory service (testing/analyses/WPQ)
- Failure assessments

INSPECTION / MONITORING

- NDE inspection
- Advanced & subsea inspection
- Certification & training of personnel
- Load & response sensors
- Monitoring systems

STRUCTURE

- Design
- Reassessment/Modification
- Third party verification
- Global/local analyses
CATHODIC PROTECTION SERVICES

To prevent corrosion from damaging and tearing down valuable assets, cathodic protection systems are installed. We have more than 35 years of experience within cathodic protection and offer various types of solutions.

We provide a wide range of cathodic protection (CP) services and solutions that prevent and control corrosion as a part of integrity management of fixed platforms, including:

- CP modelling
- CP design
- FiGS® survey (p. 6)
- CP management and consulting

Several of these services draw from SeaCorr®, a computer software designed to simulate CP systems. We also provide solutions for stainless steels prone to corrosion.

Combining a practical and theoretical approach increases the accuracy of our results. Accuracy is important when considering inspection intervals and life extension studies.

**CP modelling**

We provide cathodic protection modelling of all types of structures and pipelines. For this purpose, our experts have developed a powerful software: SeaCorr®. This software can be used to simulate a wide range of structures.

The main objective of CP modelling is to demonstrate the actual performance of a CP system. CP performance is simulated throughout the service life of structures both with and without coating. We use sacrificial anodes, impressed current as well as hybrid systems. SeaCorr® is an excellent tool when considering anode retrofit and life extension. It draws from our unique database with real life data to simulate the exact amount of retrofit anodes needed.

This comprehensive approach provides a competitive edge concerning the quality and reliability of our CP modelling. We have demonstrated large savings by using real life current densities as opposed to conservative design codes. We also verify CP designs, using design code values.

Typical cases evaluated by CP modelling:

- Current shadow effects, current drain and anode distribution issues
- Uneven anode consumption
- Over or under protection
- Protection in confined areas, small annuluses, etc.
- Galvanic corrosion
- Anode interference
- Interaction between connected structures
- Pipeline attenuation

CP modelling allows you to try out different scenarios to ensure the optimal protection of your asset.

**CP design**

When designing a structure, whether it’s a new one, a retrofit modification or a life extension, it’s important to ensure full cathodic protection throughout the entire design life. This is achieved through a proper cathodic protection design, where the required amounts of anodes are calculated, and anode placement is determined.

We have experts with experience from deep waters to onshore facilities, and from case studies to research and development. We provide CP design and evaluations of jackets, subsea structures, pipelines, FPSOs, semi submersibles, wind turbine foundations, caissons (and other confined areas), chain connectors and more.

Our design and modelling experience combined with on-site inspection allows us to keep the CP retrofit cost at a minimum, while still ensuring optimal operation.

Our services within CP design include:

- Traditional CP design with both impressed current and sacrificial anodes
- CP design verification
- CP retrofit design
- Anode protection range and attenuation calculations
- CP design of stainless steels (see RCP further down)
- Material compatibility with cathodic protection systems

**CP of stainless steels**

Resistor controlled cathodic protection (RCP) prevents internal corrosion of stainless steels. RCP is applicable in chlorinated seawater and produced water systems that are likely to experience severe corrosion, which in turn can increase the service cost. The system is based on sacrificial anodes with resistors that control the anode output. This enables very low current densities, allowing for significantly extended protection ranges from individual anodes. RCP anodes are easily installed and extend the service life of existing piping systems.

With RCP, you can improve the first time investment costs (CAPEX) with the addition of a smaller replacement cost during the operational phase. It allows for the use of inexpensive, low alloyed, stainless steels as an alternative to expensive components. RCP can also be used to prevent galvanic corrosion in couplings between materials and corrosion of various highly alloyed steel components in sea water systems.

Our clients have gained significant savings by using RCP, avoiding the use of costly materials, such as titanium. More than 6000 anodes have been supplied, and our list of satisfied clients is constantly increasing.

**CP management**

Proper CP management is important and necessary to stay in control of your cathodic protection system. Staying in control often results in improved cost efficiency with regard to inspection intervals and prevention of otherwise unforeseen corrosion damages and breakdowns.

We offer full management of cathodic protection systems and RCP installations, including site inspection and inspection management, data analyses and reporting as well as various assessments of CP and RCP systems.
**FIGS® CP SURVEY**

**FIGS® survey**

FIGS® is a field gradient sensor that measures current output from anodes, current density of steels and current drain, along with a potential profile of buried pipelines.

Performing a FIGS® survey gives you an accurate image of the assets condition, allowing for qualified decisions and substantial cost savings when considering life extension and anode replacement. This approach significantly increases the return on your investment, while providing you with the confidence level you need.

FIGS® sets a new standard with regards to sensitivity (signal to noise ratio), being about 50 times more sensitive than other sensors on the market. The high sensitivity is key to get viable data on buried structures and allows for inspections from a greater distance, making it fit for all types of pipelines.

Combination with GVI (general visual inspection) surveys.

It also provides the direction of the electric currents, enabling us to pinpoint areas of interest, such as coating damages, faulty anodes, stray currents and more. Knowing the strength and direction of the electrical fields tells us which anodes are protecting what, and how they interact with each other. This provides excellent input to CP computer modelling of single structures, or even entire fields.

**FIGS® + CP modelling**

FIGS® provides information on the distribution of the electric field, enabling the use of its data in subsequent computer simulations. FIGS® data is used e.g. to map the real life current density distribution, which is often significantly lower than design values. This provides a foundation for large savings when retrofitting the CP system in order to achieve a life extension of the infrastructure.

**ROV & AIV / AUV**

FIGS® can be connected to Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV), tagging it on to e.g. traditional GVI (general visual) inspections campaigns. Being a non-contact measurement method, it works perfectly with Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV / AVI).

**CASES**

**Survey of weight coated buried pipeline**

The line was inspected to determine the current density and anode performance of a 35 year old buried weight coated pipeline as input to a CP retrofit design. Current density proved to be 45 % less than design code. Calculated with remaining anode mass, detected by FIGS®, CP retrofit was reduced by more than 50 %.

**Survey of flange under concrete mattress**

Traditionally, the mattresses had to be removed by deploying divers prior to inspection, but FIGS® easily measured the covered flange and its anodes. The flange was found to be well protected, and the anodes predicted to last a minimum of 80 years. The client reduced HSSE risk and claimed to have saved GBP 250 000 on the base case cost of the diving operation.

**Survey of Xmas Tree**

FIGS® detected significant amounts of current flowing out down from the X-mas tree towards the well casing. This indicated that protection of the well casing was offered by the anodes of the X-mas tree. By quantifying the current drain to the well casing, we were able to calculate the remaining life of the CP system.

**Survey of buried infield flowlines**

A total of three newly laid flowlines (buried in the same trench) were inspected. FIGS® was able to separate the lines as well as the associated anodes - even though the lines were backfilled, rock dumped and lying right next to each other. The status of the CP system was as expected. The anodes were mainly protecting adjacent structures, which requires close follow-up of future anode consumption.

**Survey of flexible pipeline**

FIGS® was able to detect a minor tear in the outer shield. Combining data with CP modelling allowed us to estimate the size of the damage.

**ADDED VALUE**

- Potential profile of pipelines and structures
- Accurately measures current output from anodes
- Measures current density on structures (bare steel, coated steel and concrete) and pipelines
- Detects coating defects on structures and pipelines, including buried pipelines
- Measures current drain to buried structures such as piles and wells
- Significantly reduces time and cost

We also offer traditional CP inspection equipment:

- Dropcell (proximity potential measurement)
- Stab Probe (potential contact measurement)
- Remote Cell (continuous potential measurement)
Inspection, suited to your needs
At FORCE Technology, we combine our core strength within integrity management, material technology and structural analyses to create solutions that inspect with a level of accuracy that meets or exceeds the market standard. We offer simple and advanced inspection on both pipelines and structures, including:

- F-Pipe: Ultrasonic scanners for pipelines and pipe geometry
- F-EIM: Eddy Current inspection on structures, pipelines and pipe geometry
- FiGS®: Field gradient sensor for pipeline and structural inspection
- F-Level: Fluid level measurements, such as in buoyancy tanks
- F-FMD: Flooded member detection in vessels and structural members

Our tools and methods
Although several of our scanners are "off-the-shelf", 20 years of experience in designing and creating customised subsea inspection solutions allows us to solve and assist with whatever challenge you may be facing. The system that we apply is modular, making it easily adapted and easily modified to fit most geometry. We offer simple and advanced inspection on both pipelines and structures, including:

- F-Pipe: Ultrasonic scanners for pipelines and pipe geometry
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- F-Level: Fluid level measurements, such as in buoyancy tanks
- F-FMD: Flooded member detection in vessels and structural members

Key features include:
- Corrosion mapping of piping: both straight and bent pipes, ranging from, but not limited to, an outer diameter of 2" to 36"
- Precise ovality measurements for subsea piping interventions, hot taps and more (qualified accuracy of up to 0.2 mm)
- Narrow access scanners (line scanners, ring scanners, segment scanners and sector scanners)

All scanners can be equipped with eddy current testing probes to map surface-breaking flaws/imperfections on piping.

FiGS® survey
FiGS® is a unique approach to integrity management and life extension of offshore structures and pipelines with cathodic protection (CP). On both exposed and buried pipelines and structures, it provides an accurate condition assessment and detects even minor coating damages. Detailed on pages 6-7.

Eddy Current inspection on structures and pipes
We use Eddy Current to detect cracks in subsea structures. This tool allows us to effectively map the topography and inspect the surface for cracks.

The EIM, a small eddy current inspection machine, is designed to follow complex weld geometry on nodes. The Eddy Current crack detection feature has a high sensitivity towards surface imperfections, and the size of the scanner allows it to access nodes with sharp angles. The scanner can be designed to move along a skid, to drive the scanner precisely along a large structural weld, reducing the ROV handling time.

Fluid level measurements in buoyancy tanks
The F-level uses ultrasound for level measurements inside submerged buoyancy tanks. When placed on the bottom surface of the tank, perpendicular to the water level, the scanner is able to measure the water level inside the tank with high accuracy. This is useful if the built-in sensor is old or likely to be measuring incorrectly.

Flooded member detection (FMD)
This tool detects flooding in structural members and horizontal buoyancy tanks. It consists of an ultrasonic probe that detects water ingress behind offshore steel structure members. We provide various ultrasonic solutions for flooded member detection, typically tailored to each assignment, depending on geometry and thickness.

PIPE & PIPELINE
- Corrosion scanning and mapping
- Thickness readings
- Lamination detection
- Ovality measurements
- Weld inspection, ToFD (time of flight diffraction)
- Crack detection

STRUCTURES
- Corrosion cracking and mapping
- FMD (flooded member detection)
- Weld inspection, ToFD
- Crack detection
Condition monitoring of pipelines is carried out by intelligent pigging. Pigging is a fast technique to get a reliable status of the individual pipeline but the technique only provides relative wall thickness measurements. This is acceptable when there is limited or no corrosion in the pipeline. When more severe corrosion is detected the pigging must be supplemented with an additional inspection technique to provide absolute wall thickness measurements in order to provide a more accurate remaining life assessment.

Subsea P-scan
For more than two decades, we have provided subsea corrosion mapping with the subsea P-scan inspection tool. The subsea inspection tool is based on the P-scan system, which is an automated ultrasonic inspection system developed in-house by FORCE Technology. This well proven technology has been used worldwide to provide accurate measurements of remaining wall thickness in pipelines and subsea structures.

The P-scan system is a computerised ultrasonic system for automatic, mechanical or manual ultrasonic examination of welds and materials. The P-scan system is in regular use in the industry for applications in power plants (conventional, nuclear, wind), offshore industry, refineries, shipbuilding etc. It has documentation and storage facilities (hard disk, USB stick, optical disk etc.) for all data related to each inspection operation, and includes visualisation of the inspection results in the form of images of the material volume examined. The subsea P-scan can be deployed either by diver or by ROV.

The corrosion mapping can be supplemented with Time of Flight Diffraction (ToFD) corrosion measurements of the welds to provide full coverage of the pipeline.

Magnetic wheel scanner
The base of the P-scan inspection system is the magnetic wheel scanner, which can be configured for numerous applications. The scanner is fitted with powerful permanent magnetic wheels, which will attach to any steel surface including paint coating. The wheels are mounted in a boogie setup, which gives the scanner a small footprint on the surface to be inspected and allows the scanner to be easily steered remotely. For sideways movement of probes, the scanner can be fitted with tracks of different length from 250 mm and upwards. Standard is 500 mm. The scanner is fitted with encoders, which gives accurate position measurements of all the thickness measurements allowing for an accurate mapping of the obtained data.

The magnetic wheel scanner is fitted with a handle, which lifts the magnetic wheels from the surface allowing for easy mounting and removal from the pipeline by diver or ROV.

Preparation of surface
In order to get accurate measurements, the surface of the pipeline must be thoroughly prepared. Eventual concrete weight coat must be removed and the pipe surface grit blasted.

Reporting of results
The obtained data can be visualised as a colour coded map in the P-scan software and exported as images for reporting. The corrosion mapping data can also be exported to a spreadsheet for further evaluation. The level of reporting can be adapted to fit client requirements.

The benefits of subsea P-scan are:
- Cost-effective, sturdy durable design which is easy to handle by diver or ROV and hence fast inspections
- Wide range of technologies ensuring the most beneficial equipment for the individual task
- High quality data with high resolution, providing excellent basis for remaining life assessment
- Flexible magnetic wheel scanner which can be adapted to numerous applications
- Proven track record.
To perform these inspections, FORCE Technology uses the in-house developed automated ultrasonic system, P-scan.

**P-scan**
The P-scan system provides A-scan, B-scan, C-scan, T-scan (thickness mapping) and Time of Flight Diffraction (ToFD) mode, including averaging for sizing of defects.

Furthermore, the system provides projection images of the object under examination, e.g., images of the weld or part of an object. In the three projected images, TOE, SIDE and END views, the flaws, which are detected, are automatically shown at their correct location.

The base of the inspection system is the magnetic wheel scanner, which can be configured for numerous applications. The scanner movement is programmed and controlled remotely, and includes both forward and sideways movement of the probes.

The current subsea scanner is pressure tested down to 1,000 m water depth, and a scanner for 3,000 m is under development.

**Inspection procedure**
The main purpose of the inspection is to verify that no service-induced indications are present in the welds. Welding flaws are also detected, but it is assumed that their size is below the original acceptance criteria and therefore shall not be taken into consideration during development of an inspection procedure.

The development of the inspection procedure includes a simulation of the inspection setup on the actual weld geometry to ensure that the chosen setup fulfils the requirements. The simulation can also include a “Probability of Detection” (PoD) study for selected flaws. The simulation is afterwards verified on a full-size mock-up.

FORCE Technology has the facilities to qualify the inspection system under realistic conditions with a large water tank and overhead crane for hoisting mock-up and inspection system into position.

**Preparation of welds**
To ensure that inspection of welds can be carried out fast and without interruptions, the marine growth must be cleaned off the weld and the area where the scanner will operate. Usually, this is 200-300 mm on each side of the weld.

The selection of welds for inspection is normally carried out by the owner of the offshore construction. The decision is based on the loads on the tether strings and history, if any of the tethers have been exposed to stress larger than normal, or records show that welding defects close to the original acceptance criterion are present in the welds.

FORCE Technology has an in-house development department with substantial capacity within mechanics, electronics and simulation, which allows continuous adaptation and construction of new inspection systems for a broad variety of applications.

**Conclusion**
The FORCE Technology subsea inspection system has over a decade proven to perform valuable inspection on tether string welds and has at least the same capability as the inspection system used to perform inspection during production.

The inspection system has 16 ultrasonic channels which can be fitted with any type of ultrasonic probe, shear wave, compression wave, creep wave or ToFD. The probes can be combined arbitrarily as required by the inspection procedure. The inspection system also allows for addition of up to 8 eddy current channels.

FORCE Technology participates in projects involving extensive specialised knowledge, from the initial concept until delivery of the turnkey project.
Approximately 30% of incidents and leaks that occur in offshore process facilities are related to corrosion and erosion. Corrosion management is therefore essential in order to maintain the integrity of the facility.

To achieve full control, all relevant data must be used, including data on process and production, corrosion and erosion, as well as inspection and maintenance. The key to success is related to the complete management of all data available, achieving corrosion control and ensuring focus on high-risk items.

We offer:
- Material selection and verification
- Corrosion management
- Corrosion monitoring
- Corrosion modelling and assessment

Material selection
We provide material selection and verification as part of ensuring the technical integrity of installations throughout their service life. We can assist during both design of new installations, and during modifications and life extension studies.

Years of experience within material selection and corrosion evaluations for the oil and gas industry ensures robust material selection for new installations. Corrosion performance sets the premise for material selection for new installations.

In addition to client specific recommendations and guidelines, we also comply with NORSOK M-001 and ISO 21457, which provide guidance and requirements for material selection and corrosion protection for oil and gas production systems. Environmental limits for materials exposed to H₂S containing environments are defined by ISO 15156.

Corrosion management
Corrosion management is a dynamic approach where we control and monitor technical integrity related to material degradation such as corrosion, erosion, cracks and fatigue. It is a part of the overall management system, and is described in a Corrosion Management Strategy.

A corrosion management strategy aims to define roles and responsibilities and ownership, ensuring focus on high-risk systems and identifying barriers and Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

Four steps of a continuous cycle:
- Planning
- Implementation
- Measure
- Improve

This enables you to:
- Know the corrosion status of all monitored systems at any given time
- Predict and prevent leaks and failures due to corrosion
- Reduce maintenance cost with proactive actions
- Receive valuable feedback on chemical treatments and other corrosion mitigation actions
- Minimise unplanned downtime, thus enhancing profit
- More accurately predict the remaining service life of the asset/system
- thereby reducing risk and increasing asset and personnel safety

Corrosion monitoring
Together with sub-suppliers, we offer a comprehensive range of corrosion monitoring services, applicable to any offshore or onshore oil/gas production and storage asset. We have years of experience with both servicing and manufacturing of corrosion monitoring equipment.

We provide:
- Installation/replacement/maintenance of probes and coupons
- Corrosion monitoring support systems to analyse and present corrosion status and trends
- Management of the necessary operations for the installation/replacement of monitoring equipment in onshore/offshore installations
- Collection, analysis and presentation of biological contents to control Microbiologically Induced Corrosion (MIC)

Corrosion assessment and modelling
Corrosion assessment
Corrosion performance sets the premise for material selection for new installations.

In addition, there is a demand for evaluation of corrosion and other degradation mechanisms to ensure further operation as a consequence of process modifications, life extensions and incidents. Corrosion assessments are also an integrated part of material degradation risk assessments or risk based inspection where corrosion performance under various conditions is essential.

When appropriate, recommendations for corrosion control and mitigating actions are offered. In-depth knowledge of degradation mechanisms and extensive field experience are the foundation of our corrosion evaluations.

Corrosion assessments are the foundation for:
- Material selection
- Degradation risk assessments (RBI)
- Failure investigations

The assessment covers both internal and external environment.

Corrosion modelling
We prefer to use models for degradation rate predictions. However, good models are only available for certain environments. Under more complex conditions, in-depth knowledge on material performance, field experience and literature surveys make up the basis for our analyses.

Recognised models are used for CO₂ corrosion (e.g. NORSOK M-506) and exposure to H₂S containing environment (ISO 15156). From years of experience, we have developed in-house models for galvanic corrosion, H₂S and O₂ corrosion as well as MIC (microbiological induced corrosion). Our software tool, CorPos-AD, which is used for corrosion predictions in pipeline, includes all these models.

In order to evaluate corrosion resistant alloys for seawater applications, we use our understanding of electrochemistry and material characteristics.
MONITORING OF FLEXIBLE RISERS

Increase safety and reduce the risk, and implications of, damages or reduced service life through careful, real-time monitoring of your flexible riser / pipelines. Since the early nineties, FORCE Technology Norway has had an active part in the development of monitoring systems for flexible risers.

VGM Flexible Riser monitoring unit

Real-time data for improved decision making
We offer three systems for monitoring flexible pipelines; vent gas monitoring (VGM), polymer coupon monitoring (PCM) and ‘load & response’ monitoring.

Vent Gas Monitoring
The increased focus on health, safety and environment (HSE) in the offshore industry calls for pre-emptive actions in order to increase safety and minimise unnecessary stress on the environment.

The VGM system answers to that by supplying real-time and historical data on the condition of the flexible riser annulus, providing the operators with an opportunity to make qualified decisions based on actual measurements.

VGM is highly beneficial:
• at start-up
• during routine inspections to see that the riser is working according to specifications
• during the day to day normal operation
• in case of unplanned events
• when considering life extension
• when planning for replacement.

Sudden changes in the annulus composition may suggest a breach in either the outer sheath, the inner liner or in the end fitting seal. Via composition data and monitoring of flow rates and volume directly, it is possible to detect the various types of breaches.

Polymer coupon monitoring
Flexible risers consist of several layers of polymer, one of which works as a sealing between the bore fluids and the surrounding layers. Keeping this layer intact and under control is crucial with regards to operational safety. The PCM system allows for continuous monitoring of the integrity of this layer, maintaining security and control.

Polymer coupon monitoring monitors the integrity of the polymer sheath of the flexible riser. Coupons are placed inside the pipeline in order to expose them to the exact same conditions as the riser in question. The coupons are easily retrieved for examination with our patented method for evaluating polymer integrity.

Unlike metal parts, the deterioration of plastic parts is difficult to assess. Typically, one would periodically replace the pipelines prior to the end of its expected service life. This often leads to unnecessary replacements, which is ineffective when considering the huge costs involved with such a replacement, in addition to profit-loss during unexpected shut-downs due to a pipeline integrity breach. The PCM system is intended to determine the remaining service life, as well as evaluating the performance characteristics of the sheath of a flexible riser, providing the operator with a powerful decision tool.

Exposure to bore fluids and bore environment ages the polymer, either chemically or physically. It has been found that the underlying ageing mechanism for PA-11 (a polyamide) is a chemical degradation of the polymer chains themselves. Therefore, monitoring the molecular weight of the polymer chain allows one to determine the exact rate of deterioration, and hence predict the remaining service life. This method has been developed and patented by FORCE Technology.

Polymer integrity

‘Load & response’ monitoring
We monitor motion within the flexible riser over time to estimate the level of fatigue. Several techniques may be used to determine the level of fatigue, but we typically monitor critical areas, such as the bend stiffener and sag bend, which are the most fatigue prone areas of the flexible riser.

By installing inclinometers, accelerometers, strain gauges, temperature sensors and pressure gauges, the mechanical state of the riser can be monitored and analysed in real-time. The mechanical state may be influenced by local forces and bending moments, curvature, inclinations, accelerations and velocities on any axis. The combination and distribution of various sensors can be optimised to give a better estimation of any mechanical property of interest.

Through the implementation of a proper combinations of sensors, we are able to assess loads and calculate the accumulated fatigue damage and load history of near all structural elements in a riser or other mechanical structure.

Consultancy and Expertise
With FORCE Technology, you can always count on receiving expert consultancy throughout the process. Because of our extensive experience within monitoring systems in the offshore industry, we offer solutions that are tailored to your needs specifically.
Connecting a rig to a wellhead requires the operator to ensure operational safety given the history and the loads a new rig will add to it.

Although there have been few, if any, actual failures, wellhead fatigue is a key topic for both the industry and authorities. Including new wellheads, wellheads in operation and old wellheads to be reopened or reused, safe reuse or prolonged use of existing wellheads can prove profitable.

Operational life
The operational life of the wellhead based on fatigue is a limiting factor for the efficient production from a well. This is usually estimated from rig and riser models as well as information and statistics on weather, wave and current, plus the appropriate safety factors. Being a limiting factor, wellhead fatigue is essential if planning to reopen or prolong the use of wells with limited estimated remaining service life.

By using monitoring equipment, the actual loads inflicted on the structure can be measured. In many cases, monitoring will reveal an extension of the operational life of the structure; actual loading for a set of operating conditions is often less than the loads predicted from calculations.

While calculations are based on a combination of worst-case scenarios and conservative safety margins, monitoring can give a more accurate picture, and the gathered data may be used to improve the calculations.

Monitoring increases the safety
This implies that the use of monitoring equipment and data from monitoring increases the safety of the operations because the actual loads are known. The operational window can be increased, while the level of safety is maintained, which is cost efficient for the operator.

Small fields with existing wells can be reopened because new technology now makes the production viable.

Subsea wells have a limited fatigue life. For new wells, utilisation and fatigue damage data can be accumulated from day one to reduce future uncertainty. For existing aged wells, with an uncertain predicted remaining service life, control of the additional damage for each new additional operation may increase the number of days the well can be accessed.

Conditions in the field can be rough; under certain circumstances, it can be beneficial to use monitoring systems on new wellheads as well (e.g. if the rig is large and heavy or placed in areas with strong currents or shallow waters).

We also provide equipment that can be attached close to the BOP connector of the rig or on the riser system and provide measurements such as monitoring of tension, moments, movements and vibrations, for instance by use of an inclinometer that can measure tilt angle and linear accelerations and rotation velocities.

Client benefits
In addition to providing high-quality monitoring equipment, including acquisition and visualisation of acquired data, we also analyse the data; we add to the analysis know-how from areas such as riser analysis, wellhead fatigue, structure design, material analysis and corrosion control.

We continuously improve and develop the reliability, user friendliness and accuracy of our monitoring systems - allowing for a system that is tried and tested and improved. The system may be used in rig advisory systems and as part of safety-critical applications.
Although the use of monitoring equipment to reduce the amount of labour and cost-intensive inspection is more common subsea and other inaccessible/hazardous areas, it is also relevant for offshore structures. This reduction is achieved when monitoring activities become part of a risk based inspection philosophy, and in particular when the monitoring systems are installed as part of the initial design.

In order to uphold safety and ensure continuous operation, it’s vital to prevent excess utilisation of components. Strain, curvature, vibration, pressure, temperature, geometry, corrosion and movement are all factors that affect the remaining service life of an asset.

We have more than 25 years of experience with load and response monitoring; all our solutions are field proven. Having our systems installed allows you to make qualified decisions regarding utilisation, fatigue damage and life extension, generating considerable cost savings.

Decisions to modify and remedy can be taken at an early stage, before damage has occurred. This provides increased operational reliability and safety, as well as prolonged service life, while meeting government requirements in a cost effective way.

Verification of design
During design, structural assessments are made using available information (load cases coming from sea current, wind and wave exposure, mass, drag etc.) combined with the geometrical considerations of the structure. Load data is important to get the simulation accurate to reproduce the behaviour of the structure for various scenarios. We use design codes and regulations to cover any unknown safety factors.

A monitoring system measures how the structure reacts in reality, which can verify that the models and boundary conditions are conservative, and that the responses are according to the design assumptions.

Calibration
Next, we use the load response information to calibrate the structural model and simulations. This includes improving the transfer functions and bringing the correct load into the structure for different exposure conditions, as well as tuning the structural model to reflect the actual measured data.

This implies adjusting stiffness, material properties, soil interaction, interfaces, and safety factors etc., as well as the exposure, to transfer functions until one finds agreement: i.e. a model that reproduces the actual exposure to a reasonable load and response. Known safety factors may be added into such a model.

Exposure history & accumulated damage
Continuous monitoring of the structural response and exposure conditions improves the calibration of the model and identifies any abnormal behaviour, indicating changes in the integrity of the structure.
Structural simulations identify hot spots, and accumulate fatigue damage to these, thus providing the structural integrity management with updated information on areas of interest - where the condition is acceptable or where there may be a need for further inspection.

Life extension
Using the calibrated structural model, with the accumulated damage at the various hot spots, forecasting and scenarios of future damage is performed with the statistical exposure cases, providing accurate input to service life extension process and decisions.

We offer monitoring solutions during fabrication and after the structure is placed offshore (above and below sea level) for:

• Jackets and mono piles
• Foundations and grouted connections
• Concrete structures
• Risers and mooring

Using online or autonomous units, we use sensors measuring both the structural response and exposure with interfacing to existing sensor system. Data handling, data quality assurance, data storage, data analysis and structural model calibration are all within our scope of expertise.
Assessments & extensions
Most offshore structures in use today, have a projected service life of about 20 to 30 years. The improvement of drilling and well technology has allowed for extended oil recovery, which has lead to an increased interest towards extending the service life of these structures.

We offer an accurate and well founded assessment of your structure with regards to fatigue life, new environmental conditions and subsidence to verify life extension. We have an extensive track record with offshore load bearing structures, comprising design, verification and reassessment studies.

Work process and outcomes
In addition to evaluating the general condition of the asset, we also determine the effects of modifications, tie-in and corrosion, which could reveal reserve capacities.

When suited, we perform inspection and NDT (non-destructive testing) monitoring, involving continuous monitoring of critical components or areas.

The outcome of these analyses is either an inspection programme, a proposal for structural modifications or validation for extended operation. We have listed a few of our services as follows.

Engineering
- Evaluations
- Analyses
- Documentation

Drafting
- 3D models
- Conceptual level
- Detailed level
- Shop Drawings

We maintain close cooperation with our clients when defining the design basis and quality assurance program.

Structural reanalysis system
During the service life of an offshore asset, the structure will be subjected to a number of modifications, including new risers or pipelines, or new and additional process equipment.

We provide a structural reanalysis system (SRS) for your structures with regards to in-place analyses, new environmental conditions, modifications or subsidence to verify the jacket for any modification.

Emergency response
Accidents can cause reduced capacity, making an immediate structural analysis critical. We offer re-evaluation of the structural integrity at very short notice.

Benefits of SRS
By using updated models of your structure, we can quickly perform an accurate reanalysis, ensuring our clients, as well as the authorities, that the structure is fit for purpose.

Significant changes performed during the service life is systematically implemented into the computer model. We keep track of all changes and any part accessing the SRS. We apply advanced analysis techniques and leading industry software when performing our assessments.

We maintain a close cooperation with our clients, and we take part in any structural discussions related to the structural integrity.
FORCE Technology Norway AS is an accredited and recognised third party certifier within both welding and brazing; we also hold the appropriate approvals to certify welding personnel. Our services may be executed at the learning facilities, in your workshop, or on-site prior to performing the task at hand.

The certification process
Certification is maintained in accordance with international standards and legislations for approval of such personnel. When the welder/brazer holds the necessary skills and workmanship, we usually follow up with an exam, which may result in a welder or brazer approval certificate.

Certification typically includes the following steps:
• Assessment of the welder’s professional skills
• Welding of test coupon in accordance with an approved WPS (Welding Procedure Specification)
• Testing of the weld test coupon (the test coupon shall undergo Non-destructive and/or mechanical testing)
• Issuance of certificate
If the examiner judges that the welder is not capable of passing the welding test, we advise more training in necessary areas. FORCE Technology Norway AS does not participate in the training of welding or brazing personnel.

Get your welding certificate digitally or on paper
On average, testing and issuance of certificate is taken care of within the week. The certificate is issued digitally, or you may have it printed on paper.

If you receive a digital certificate, you will be registered in the FORCE Certification’s on-line database, as well as the WeldEye PQ® database. This allows you to receive information on biannual confirmation and extension of certificates. Your company can perform the biannual confirmation of the welder’s certificate on FORCE Certification’s server.

Standards
Our Certification Body (CB) FORCE Technology Certification is appointed third party by Norwegian authority, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB), within the following:
• Certification of welders, welding operators and brazers/brazing personnel
• Approval of welding and brazing procedure qualification (WPQR/BPQR)
• Some of the standards we follow:
  • ISO 9606-1 Qualification testing of welders – Fusion welding – Part 1: Steels
  • ISO 9606-2 Qualification testing of welders – Fusion welding – Part 2: Aluminium and its alloys
  • ISO 9606-3 Approval testing of welders – Fusion welding – Part 3: Copper and copper alloys
  • ISO 9606-4 Approval testing of welders – Fusion welding – Part 4: Nickel and Nickel alloys
  • ISO 9606-5 Approval testing of welders – Fusion welding – Part 5: Titanium and zirconium
  • ISO 14732 Welding personnel – Qualification testing of welding operators and weld setters for mechanized and automatic welding of metallic materials
  • ISO 13585 Brazing – Qualification test of brazers and brazing operators

The 5 ISO 9606-x standards all apply to handheld welding, while ISO 14732 is for welding operators that perform either automated or mechanical welding. Welders and welding operators that are certified according to these standards are also approved for welding pressure equipment, in accordance with PED Pressure Equipment Directive.

You may also have certified welders and brazers for other standards*:
• ASME IX Welding, Brazing, and Fusing Qualifications
• AWS D1.1 Structural Welding Code – Steel
• AWS D1.2 Structural Welding Code - Aluminium
• AWS D1.6 Structural Welding Code – Stainless Steel API 1104 Welding of pipelines and related facilities

*This activity is not accredited and the certificate/approval sheet will not carry the accreditation logo.
INSPECTION & TESTING

We offer both standard and advanced NDT services, onshore, offshore & subsea. Failure of a component, structure or weld can cause significant hazard to the environment and often leads to significant costs. Ensure safe, continuous and cost effective performance of your asset through reliable results; a good foundation for good decision making.

Non-destructive testing (NDT)
NDT is fundamental in ensuring the safety of assets, because it allows for safe and complete testing without damaging or otherwise altering the test object.

For decades, we have delivered high quality NDT services to all industries manufacturing and utilising steel structures, including offshore installations, power plants, pressure vessel pipelines, storage tanks and much more. We perform NDT during fabrication, in-service as well as during shut downs and maintenance.

Our standard NDT Techniques:
• Ultrasonic testing (UT)
• Radiography testing (RT)
• Visual Testing (VT)
• Eddy Current testing (ET)
• Penetrant testing / Dye penetrant testing (PT / DPI)
• Magnetic particle testing (MP)
• Leak testing (LT)

Advanced NDT techniques
We are a world leading supplier within advanced inspection, and supply a variety of customised inspection solutions, both onshore and subsea, including:
• Phased Array (PAUT)
• Digital Radiography
• P-Scan
• ToFD
• 3D MFL (Magnetic Flux Leakage)
• tailor made solutions for technical challenges

Destructive testing
Verify and examine the mechanical properties of various materials and welded assemblies through destructive testing at top modern facilities.

At our modern laboratory facilities in Norway (Kristiansand) and Denmark (Brøndby), we are able to ensure that you achieve an effective material economy. We hold several years of experience within destructive testing for a wide range of industries, including offshore, maritime, infrastructure, food processing and many more.

Through various types of testing, we secure that your chosen material is prepared and tested in accordance with appropriate material and application specification.

We offer:
• Verification of material physical/mechanical properties
• Material certification
• Testing of welded assemblies in order to verify compliance between weld and base material
• Verification of welding consumables
• Failure and crack analysis

Modern testing facilities
Our testing facilities are among the most pristine and advanced testing facilities within destructive testing in the Nordics. We provide mechanical and corrosion testing in accordance with numerous of international and national standards, codes and specifications upon request.

Tests and measurements:
• Tensile testing (0-600KN)
• Charpy V-notch impact test (0-450 Joule)
• Hardness measurements (HV5, HV10, HV30)
• Macro examination (1-50x magnification)
• Micro examination including ferrite count and determination of inter-metallic phases (50-600x)
• Fatigue testing CT/OD testing
• Corrosion testing (ASTM G48 and ASTM G28)
• Chemical analysis (Optic emission spectographic, OES)

Tailor made subsea solutions
We are among the leading suppliers of customised scanners for both topside and subsea inspection. These inspections are often highly advanced and require special equipment and qualifications. Read more on pages 8-9.

Courses & training
Additionally, we are the leading provider of courses within NDT in the Nordics, with modern training facilities located in Kristiansand, Norway and Brøndby, Denmark.
LOCATIONS WORLDWIDE

- Norway
  - Hvalstad
- Denmark
  - Copenhagen
- UK
  - Hengoed
- Sweden
  - Västerås
- USA
  - Houston
- UAE
  - Abu Dhabi
- China
  - Beijing
- Singapore
- Australia
  - Perth