

# Development of Mechanical Connector Technologies

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Connector Subsea Solutions

# What I will cover

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- Introduction to CSS
- What is a mechanical connector
- The challenge of Clad & Lined Pipe connections
- The JIP and Type Approval Process
- The CLiP Connector
- Summary

# Connector Subsea Solutions



Reliable Solutions for Complex Challenges

Who are we

- Founded in year 2000
- HQ in Norway, branch offices in UK, Croatia, Bosnia, Brazil
- 60+ Employees dedicated towards pipeline repair solutions

Complete Subsea Repair Solutions

- MORGRIP Pipeline Repair Connectors & Clamps
- Connector & Clamp Installation Frames & Tooling
- Pipe Lifting & Handling, Coating Removal, Pipe Cutting, Pipe-Prep, etc
- Lightweight, Robust, ROV friendly, Unique
- ISOTEK remote welding technologies





# Mechanical Connectors

A definition:

A Mechanical Pipeline Connector provides a safe, reliable, reversible means of affecting a mechanical connection between two bare pipe ends equivalent to a good welded connection.

A Connector should:

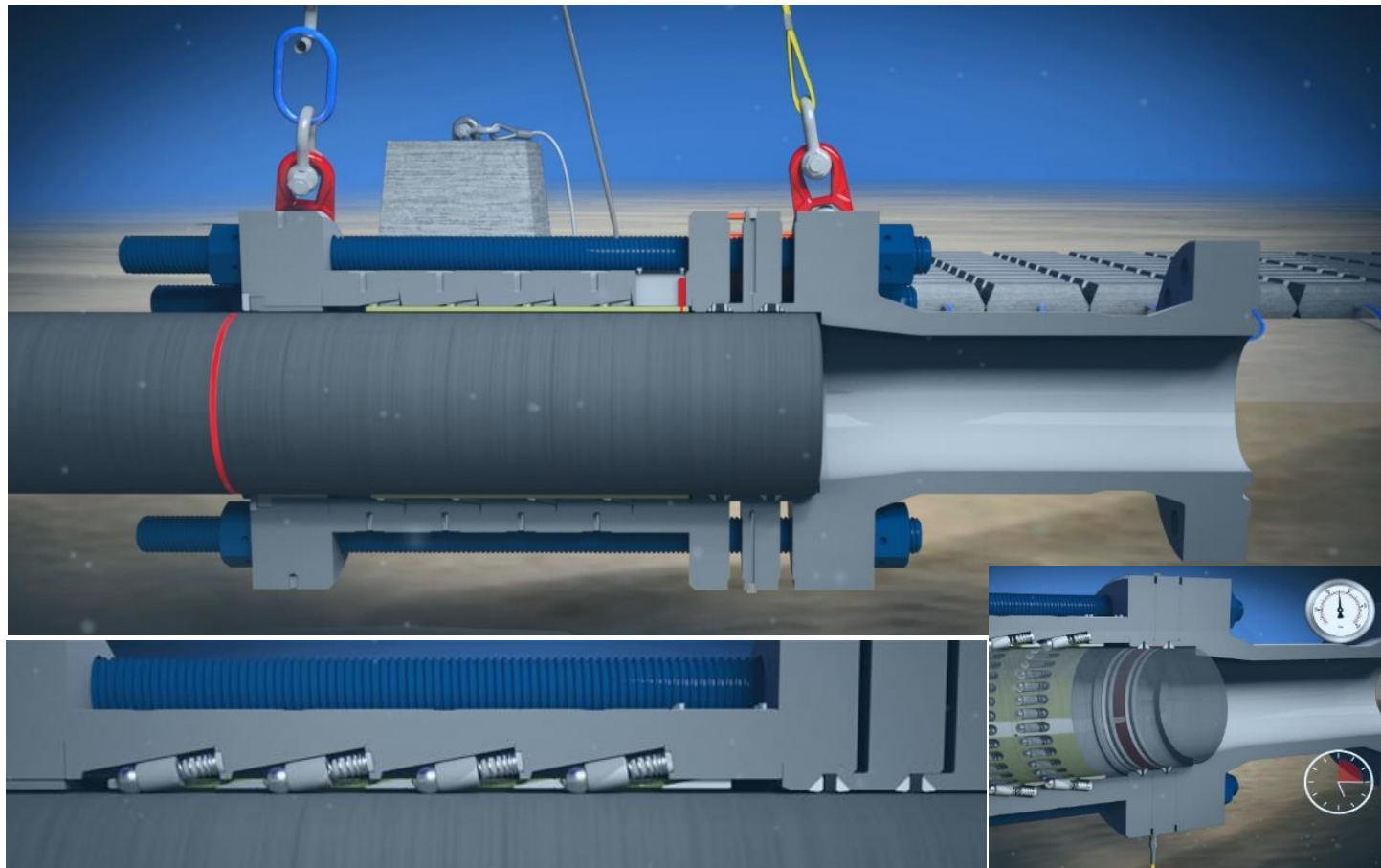
- Provide containment to suit line media, application pressure & temperatures
- Have sufficient gripping capacity to suit pressures and external loads

Wherever a pipe end needs to be cut to effect a new connection, typical uses:

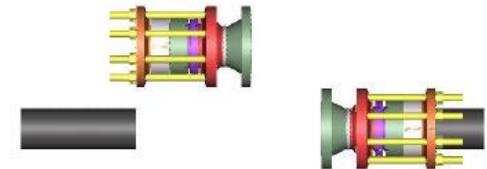
- Emergency and planned repairs, piping modifications
- Tie ins and bypasses for decommissioning & Life of Field Extension



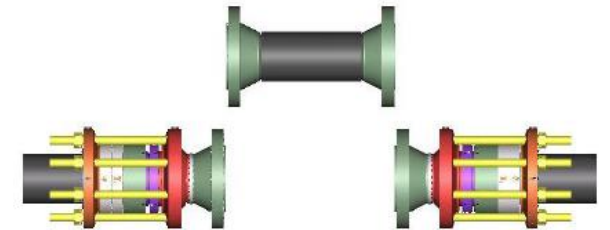
# How it works



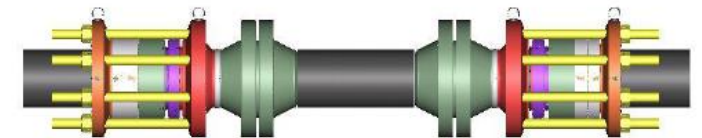
## Typical Flange Adaptor Installation



*Connectors deployed and stabbed onto pipeline(s), connectors activated.*



*Spool piece positioned*



*Spool piece connected to Morgrip*

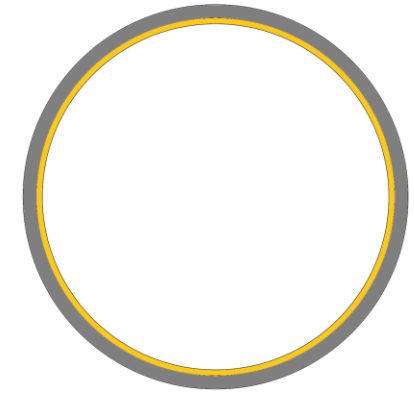
# Clad & Lined Pipe – The Challenge

The challenge set by Chevron & Woodside

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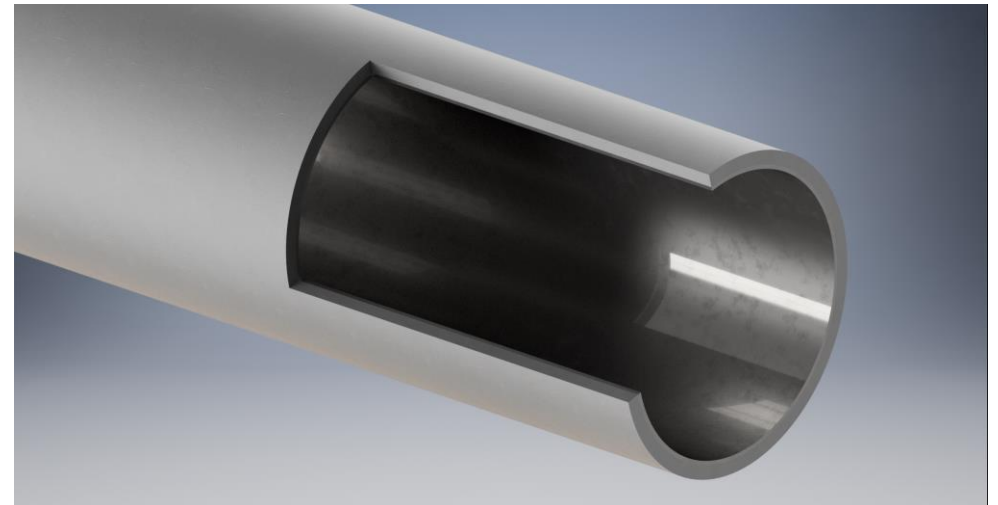
Clad & Lined Pipes are made of a parent pipe and an internal CRA barrier

- Used for pipelines containing aggressive line media – High  $H_2S$  content
- Cutting the pipe exposes the new pipe end to line media
- Parent metal and pipe to CRA interface is susceptible to corrosion



Welding repair options need:

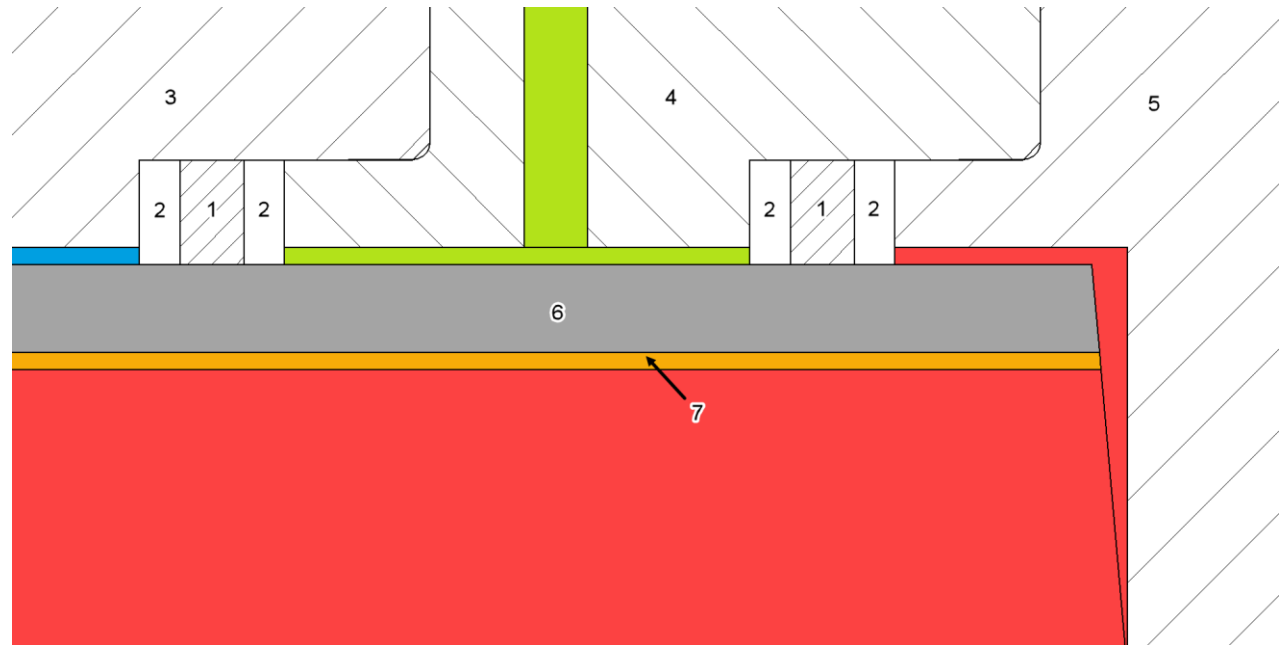
- Hyperbaric chambers & divers/remote systems
- Complex weld qualifications with dissimilar metals
- Limited availability of equipment and competence
- A change from conventional weld repair methodology



# Clad & Lined Pipe – The Challenge

Conventional repair connectors seal on outside of pipe only.

Typical conventional connector seal arrangement:



Any solution should:

- Be suitable for pigging operations
- **Protect the exposed pipe end from line media**
- Be resistant to line media for life of asset

- |                         |                      |              |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Graphite Seals       | 4. Twin Seal Housing | 7. CRA Layer |
| 2. Anti Extrusion Rings | 5. Transition Flange |              |
| 3. Seal Housing         | 6. Parent Pipe       |              |

# Technology Qualification Process



| Phase number | Description                        | How   | What  |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1            | Qualification basis - requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outlines problem, sets parameters and outlines solution</li></ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clad pipe,</li><li>• Size &amp; pressure range</li><li>• Concept(s)</li></ul>             |
|              | Technology Assessment              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identifying what's new and novel</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Main connector design proven</li><li>• New seal module is Novel</li></ul>                 |
| 2            | Threat Assessment                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FMEA of new/novel</li><li>• Iterative process updated for changes as project progresses</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify threats</li><li>• Use likelihood &amp; probability to quantify risks</li></ul>   |
|              | Qualification Plan                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Detail plan to address high risk threats</li><li>• Redefine parameters around risks</li></ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify models, testing etc that needs to be done</li><li>• Update as required</li></ul> |



# Technology Qualification Process



| Phase number  | Description              | How  | What   |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| 3   | Execution of Plan        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Production Unit design &amp; manufacture</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computational Models</li><li>• Small scale/component testing</li><li>• Review Full scale testing against predictions</li></ul> |
|   | Performance Assessment   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report based on project findings</li></ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quantify risk reduction &amp; residual risks</li></ul>   |
| Launch  | NPD Launch Documentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Internal process</li></ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CSS Technical and commercial documentation, training etc</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DNVGL-RP-A203 process for development of new CLiP Connector Seal</li><li>• Regular technical review carried out internally, with JIP partners and DNVGL</li></ul> |                          |  |  |

# Why use DNVGL Processes

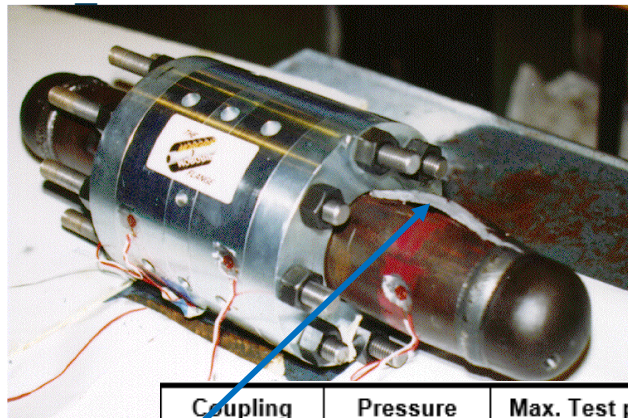


- DNVGL-RP-A203 is an established framework for new product development with a focus on developing robust solutions
- DNVGL Type Approval\* is a recognized process for approval of design of pipeline repair products
- Ability to minimise “double testing” where relevant validation is present in existing DNVGL Type Approval\*
- Design, Materials of Construction, FMEA, scale testing and full product testing combine to validate solutions
- Involves testing of products beyond their specified capabilities to prove high level of integrity (not just 1.5 times design pressure!)
- Requires a methodology for assessing full range of variables each application

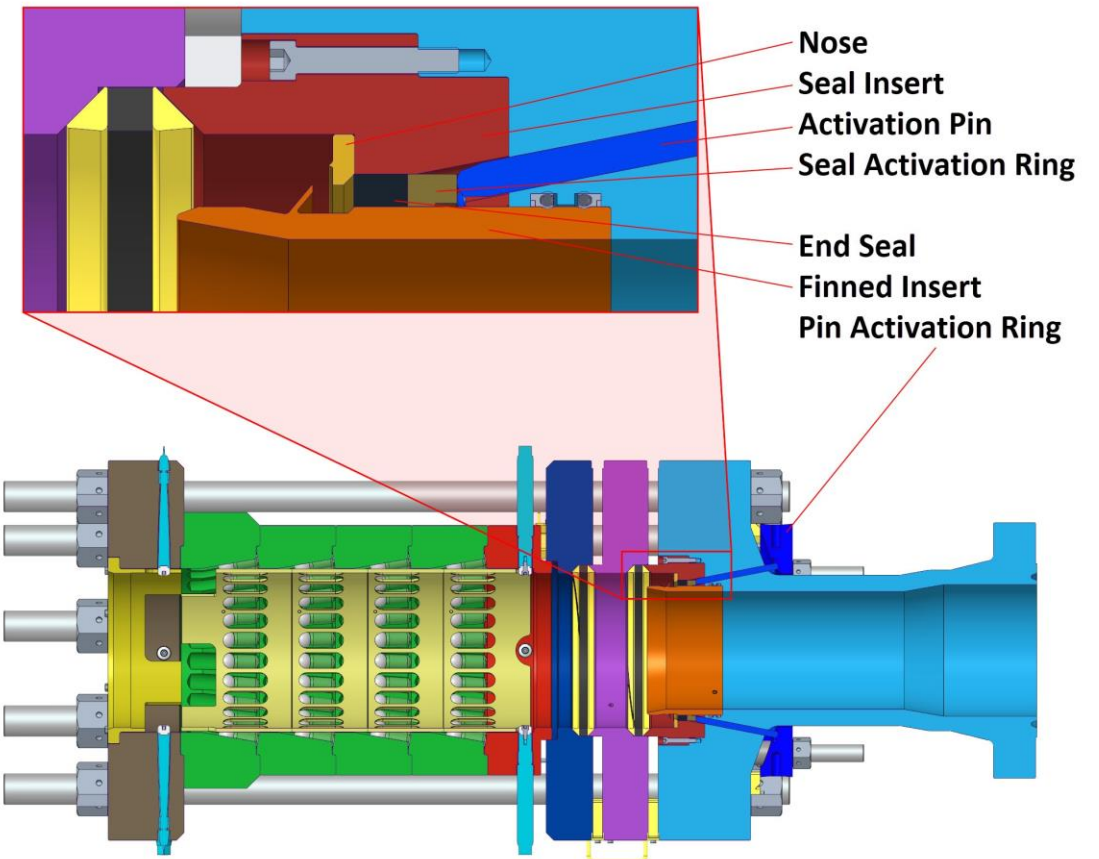
\* DNVGL Type Approval to DNVGL-ST-F101 and DNVGL-RP-F113

# Scope of Technology Assessment

- Main connector based on DNVGL Type Approved gripping and sealing technology via burst test, external load test, fatigue test etc
- Focus of JIP was to validate the NEW end seal module

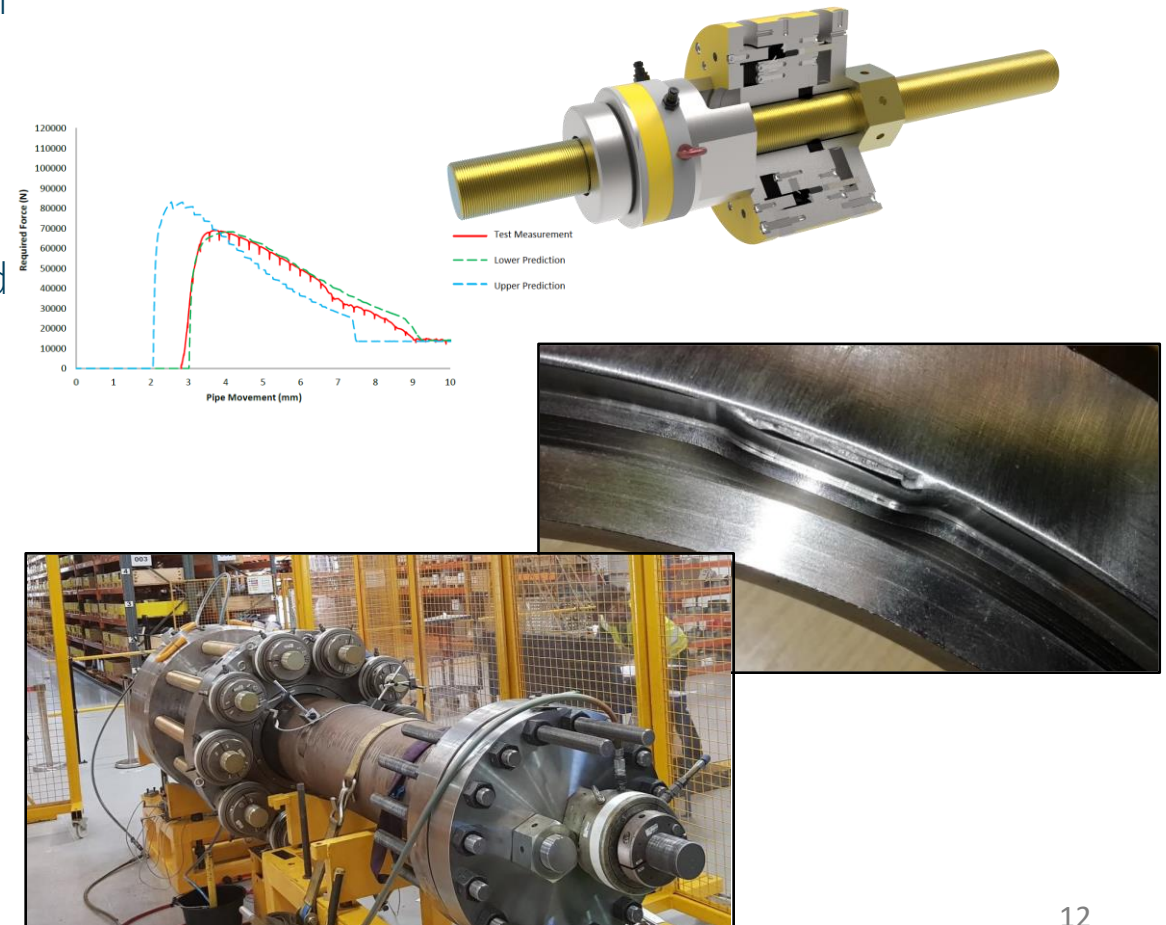


| Coupling Size | Pressure Class | Max. Test pressure (bar) | Ratio of:<br>Max. test pressure<br>Max. working pressure |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1"            | 900 lb         | 2033                     | 13.1   |
| 3"            | 900 lb         | 1389                     | 9.0  |
| 6"            | 900 lb         | 1412                     | 9.1  |
| 12"           | 900 lb         | 833                      | 5.4  |



# Technology Qualification Process

- Identification of key material – Alloy 625 with additional heat treatment controls
- Computer modelling of material behavior
- Small scale testing of seal module & validation of model
- Excellent performance of seal module at internal weld seam observed
- Corrosion testing of modified Alloy 625
- Full scale External Seal Test & Internal Hydrotest
- Internal Capacity Strength Test (over pressure)
- Compressive Strength Test
- Reporting for performance assessment closed out





# DNVGL Type Approval Awarded



For standard MORGRIP ½" to 42", 640bar(g), -40°C to 250°C for carbon, stainless & duplex steels pipes

For MORGRIP CLiP – defined by JIP partners

- Maximum design temperature of 149 °C
- Maximum working pressure of 364 bar(g)
- Size range 10" to 26"

**DNV GL**

**CERTIFICATE**

**TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify:

That the Pipeline Repair Connector

with type designation(s)  
MORGRIP® 150, 1000, 2000, 3000, 3000R, 3000Ri Series and CLiP-MC; Including Couplings,  
Pipe Adapters, Flange Adapters and End cap.

Issued to  
**Connector Subsea Solutions UK Ltd**  
Wednesbury, West Midlands, United Kingdom

is found to comply with  
DNV GL standard DNVGL-ST-F101 – Submarine pipeline systems  
DNV GL recommended practice DNVGL-RP-F113 – Pipeline subsea repair  
API Specification 6FB – Fire Test for End Connectors 1998, with modifications

**Application :**  
Material: Carbon, Stainless and Duplex Stainless Steels  
Temperature range: -40 °C to 250 °C  
Maximum working pressure: Up to and including ANSI/ASME Class 2500  
Size range: ½" to 42"  
MORGRIP® CLiP-MC connector type is limited to:  
Maximum design temperature of 149 °C  
Maximum working pressure of 364 bar.g.  
Size range 10" to 26"  
Further limitations and conditions are detailed in this certificate.

Issued at **Hovik** on **2020-02-12**  
This Certificate is valid until **2024-09-03**.  
DNV GL local station: **Manchester**

Approval Engineer: **Jonathan Wiggen**

for **DNV GL**  
**Anne Britt Høydal**  
Head of Section

This Certificate is subject to terms and conditions overleaf. Any significant change in design or construction may render this Certificate invalid.  
The validity date relates to the Type Approval Certificate and not to the approval of equipment/systems installed.

Form code: TA 251      Revision: 2016-12      www.dnvgl.com      Page 1 of 4  
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# Summary

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- JIP partners help define problem, provide funding and valuable engineering input, but can limit scope (to their area of interest)
  - JIP process can take time with gaps between phases – this was a 2 phase JIP
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Type Approval to suitable standards are an excellent means of providing assurance for a new product - always be willing to question if unsure, a good supplier will welcome this
  - DNVGL-RP-A203 provides a solid framework around which to develop a product for market
  - Lessons learnt: Process was longer and more complex than first expected but ultimately delivered a robust solution

What comes next... you tell us, give us your challenges!

Thank you

Contact

[mail@connectorsubsea.com](mailto:mail@connectorsubsea.com)