

LONG TERM GOVT TRIALS

German government testing agency, GKSS (Forschungszentrum Geesthacht GmbH) tested samples of Alocit formulations in long-term trials at the base of an offshore platform in the North Sea.

On July 23 1984, a first batch of steel panels was pre-treated by compressed air blasting underwater, coated manually to apply films

with an average thickness of 400 microns, and secured at a site 25.5 metres under water. These samples included panels on

which a porous plastic foam (Spumafill) had first been bonded to the steel to allow comparison between the marine fouling of smooth and rough surfaces protected by Alocit Systems. Inspection of all the panels on May 22 1990 showed that the coatings were still in good, Grade 2 condition.

A second and third batch of panels were coated with Alocit Systems under water at 13°C in August 1986. Inspection on May 24 1990 showed that the coatings were still in Grade 1 condition.

A special feature of these trials was that, unlike on previous occasions, the panels were fouled with barnacles (approx. 90%) and sea anemones (approx.10%) in layers 30 to 70mm thick. Although a spade had to be used to remove this growth, the coatings withstood the harsh treatment without showing signs of mechanical damage. All the sample panels were returned to their sites in the North Sea following inspection in May 1990.



The top picture shows the heavy marine growth after submersion in the North Sea for six years. The second picture shows how the coated surface remained intact despite the hard mechanical action of the growth removal.

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