



DockLaser Project Consortium
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press release

Hamburg, January 27th, 2006

Presentation of newly developed mobile tools for Laser processing in shipbuilding

Final event of EU research and development project "DockLaser"

The final event of the project **DockLaser** will take place from February 21st to 22nd at Schweißtechnische Lehr- und Versuchsanstalt Mecklenburg – Vorpommern (SLV M-V) in Rostock, Germany. The project is funded by the European Union and has got a total budget of ca. 4 Mio Euro. It is led by Jos. L. Meyer, Papenburg, Germany ("Meyer Werft") and was started in September 2002. Since then, mobile devices and methods for laser based material processing in areas difficult to access have been developed. These working conditions are typically for the late construction phases in shipbuilding (e.g. assembly of blocks and ship hull, outfitting). Solutions applicable to the production of ship sections and preassembly have also been developed.

Besides end users of the named technologies (shipyards Meyer and Navantia – Spain), research institutes (SLV M-V; SLV Halle; VUZ Bratislava – Slovakia), equipment manufacturers (Fronius – Austria, OMCB – Denmark), a company specialised on work safety (Force – Denmark) and a classification society (DNV – Norway) form the consortium. Center of Maritime Technologies and BALance Technology Consulting (both Germany) are supporting the project management.

Core of the equipment concept is a basic station, containing the beam source (high power solid-state or fibre Laser) and the related peripheral devices. Different mobile end devices for welding of long seams, tack welds or manual welding or cutting work can be connected to the base station via a 50 meter fibre optic cable.

In the lab, tests for achieving the process controllability and approval have been conducted. Test results and the applicability of the equipment for the end users have been performed at the shipyards afterwards.

According to the project partners' estimation, the solutions will significantly help to improve productivity and product quality and to enable producing new, modular product generations. Thus, a substantial contribution towards adoption of innovative joint techniques and strengthening competitiveness of the European shipbuilding industry has been made.

The DockLaser consortium regularly organises workshops for a so called "Industrial User group". For an annual fee, members of this group get access to project results and are given the opportunity to influence the project's activities according to their individual interests and to get consulting services from project partners. One part of the DockLaser final event is the final User group workshop.

It is intended by the DockLaser consortium to establish a Center of competence (CoC) for mobile Laser processing in order to bundle both the know-how and the equipment gained by the project, and to offer service on research, consulting and production for consortial partners and third partners. The CoC concept will be introduced on the final meeting.

In parallel to the DockLaser event, a public innovation forum called "Mobile und variable Lasersysteme" will take place at SLV M-V (February 22nd and 23rd). On this occasion, solutions suitable for shipbuilding and other branches (e.g. automotive industry and dismantling of nuclear power plants) will be presented and discussed. DockLaser results and the CoC approach will be shown on this occasion as well.

Hamburg, January 26th, 2006

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Innovationsforum Mobile und variable Lasersysteme:

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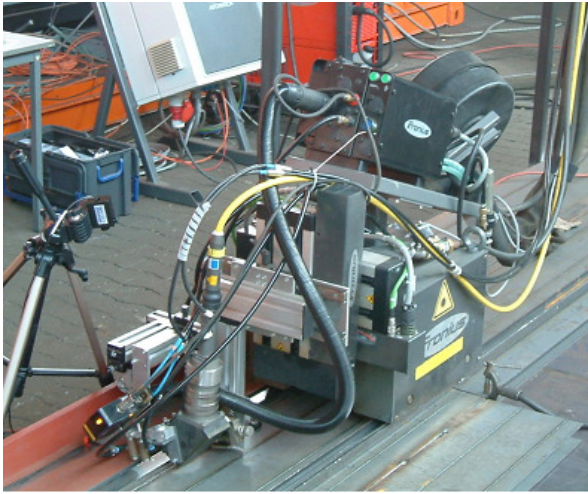
MailTo: huebscher@ltz.de

Further information on DockLaser can be found on the project website:

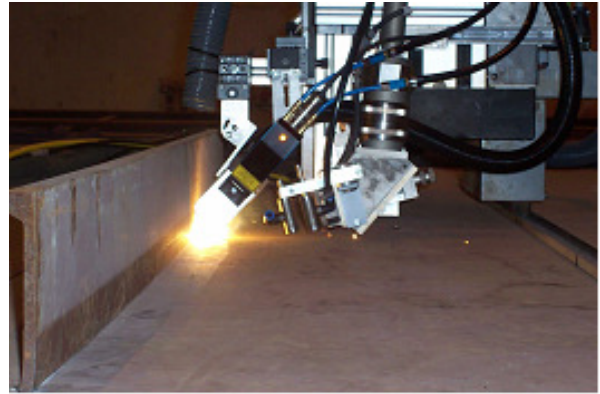
<http://www.docklaser.com/>.

Fotos documenting the developed equipment:

(Files can be requested via email: cmt.roland@t-online.de)



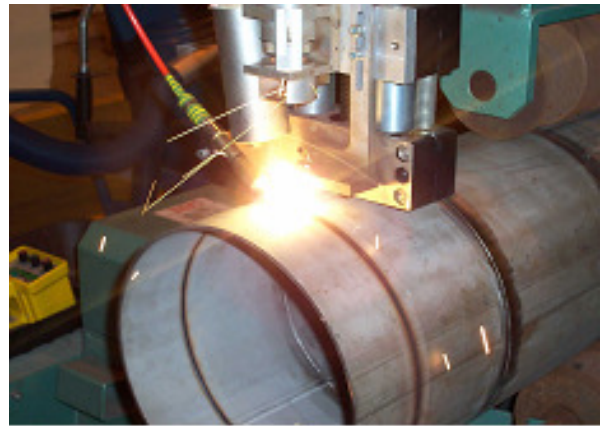
Tractor guided system applied for butt and fillet hybrid welding



Fillet welding 8mm bulb bar



hand guided device for cutting and welding – here: cutting



pipe welding