

LONG TERM SUBSEA TRIALS

In Europe, German government testing agency, GKSS (Forschungszentrum Geesthacht GmbH) tested subsea-coated samples of Alocit coatings in long-term application and durability trials over several years, deep underwater at the base of an offshore platform in the North Sea.



A batch of steel panels was pre-treated by subsea compressed air blasting, followed a manual 2-coat application of Alocit 28.15 system, also underwater, with an average thickness of 16 mils. The plates were then secured at a depth of 85 feet. 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 six years later showed that the coatings were still in good condition.

Two years after the initial trial started, a second and third batch of panels were coated with Alocit underwater at 55°F. After a further four years, inspection showed that the coatings were still in first-grade 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 1" to 3" thick. Although a shovel had to be used to remove this growth, the coatings withstood the



harsh treatment without showing any sign of mechanical damage. Following inspection, all the sample panels were returned to their sites in the North Sea for further testing.

