



Hydro-Lek Ltd

Press Information

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For immediate release

Hydro-Lek's lightweight contamination-resistant manipulator to pick up nuclear waste

As part of the government's ongoing process of nuclear decommissioning, Berkshire-based remote tooling company, Hydro-Lek Ltd, has been chosen by James Fisher Nuclear to provide a manipulator system to dispose of and confirm the inventory of miscellaneous nuclear waste.

The skid, which was designed and manufactured by Hydro-Lek, interfaces with an industry standard ROV and houses a HLK 46000 Mini Gauntlet Arm with corresponding power and valve packs. It is constructed from materials – predominantly plastic – which are extremely lightweight and highly resistant to hostile environments. A unique sacrificial jaw feature enables contaminated jaws to be jettisoned and replaced.

“Hydro-Lek has put a lot of time and effort in researching the materials to be used in this prototype in order to meet the key constraints of such a hostile environment.” said Business Area Manager for James Fisher Nuclear, Simon Pyne. “The simplicity and value for money offered by the Hydro-Lek system, together with their history and

proven technology in the offshore industry, meant that Hydro-Lek is the manufacturer of choice for this solution.”

Hydro-Lek is a leading supplier of remote handling systems for the subsea, nuclear and defence industries. Products range from simple hydraulic components to fully integrated telemetry-controlled remote manipulator systems for integration onto ROV's and remote access platforms. The company employs a dedicated team of design engineers to provide a specialist turnkey project engineering and build service from its facilities in Berkshire, England

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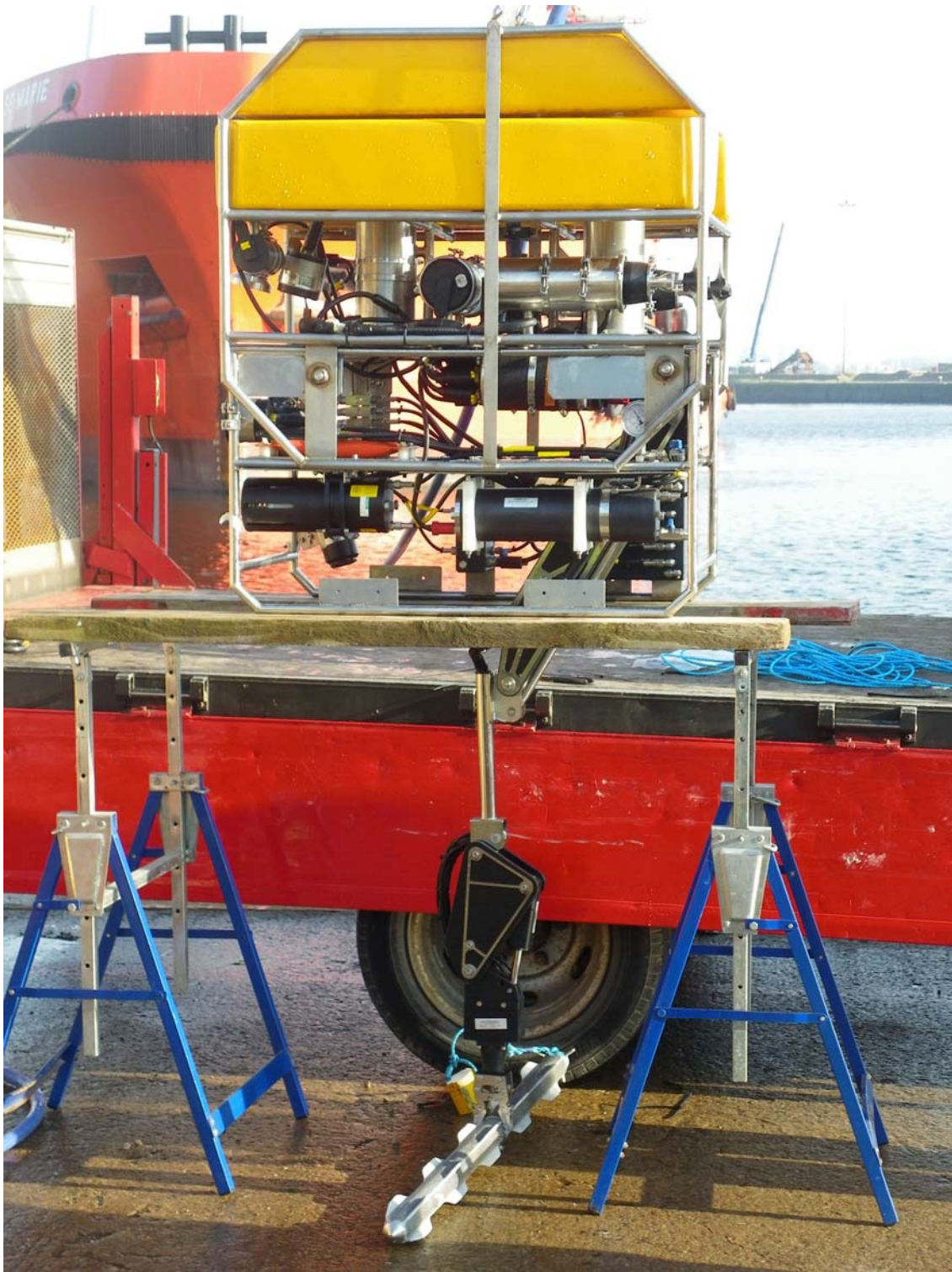
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The above picture shows the full reach of the Hydro-Lek 5 function manipulator holding a simulated fuel rod – the manipulator can be retracted fully within the ROV frame.