



CASE STUDY

Technip personnel "pre-rig" the hardware packages with the 88 mm AmSteel®Blue grommets.

CASCADE AND CHINOOK LIFTING SLINGS

Samson and SWOS work with Technip to develop a synthetic heavy lift sling solution to install subsea hardware for Petrobras



SWOS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Installing two pumping stations and two manifolds at Petrobras's Cascade and Chinook fields in the Gulf of Mexico at depths in excess of 2,500 meters was accomplished with a "wet handshake" and the assistance of Samson's AmSteel®Blue fabricated into lifting slings for the operation. Technip was the contractor, and Deep Blue was the installation vessel used during the deepwater installation, completed in August of 2009. The project is among the deepest subsea installations in the Gulf of Mexico, and marks the first use of an FPSO in U.S. waters.



AmSteel®Blue, manufactured by Samson, with factory-installed high-performance chafe gear.

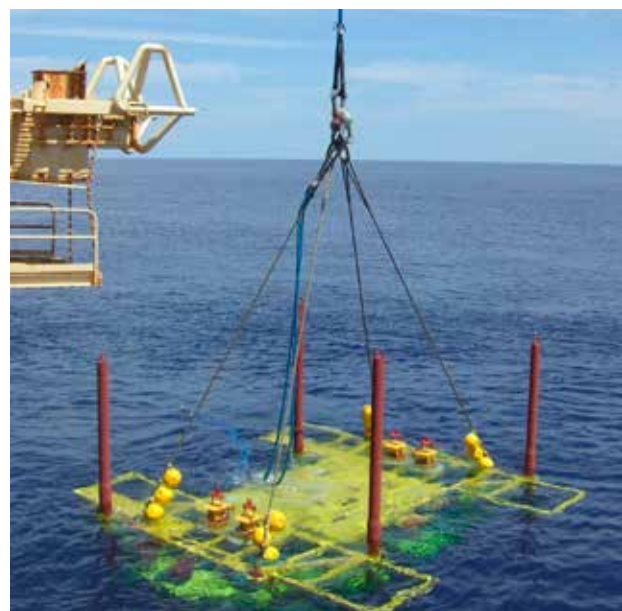


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The use of a high-strength, “buoyant” sling was a must for this stage in the process. The hand off from the 400-metric-ton overboard crane to the A&R winch was simplified with the help of the AmSteel®Blue grommets. The foundation piles, pump stations, and manifolds were all “pre-rigged” before the over boarding process.

ROV “handling grommets” used by the ROV to maneuver and position the AmSteel®Blue heavy lift grommets



THE SOLUTION

While formulating installation procedures, SWOS (Southwest Ocean Services) and Samson's offshore technical sales team were in contact with the operations and installation team at Technip, who intended to use the wet handshake technique to transfer loads from Deep Blue's overboard crane to the A&R winch in the moonpool to the seafloor. Since the handshake was to be accomplished with ROVs, the use of wire rope slings would have presented many rigging and handling issues due to the weight and stiffness of the wire. SWOS worked with Technip's design team to develop a synthetic solution, not only for the sling, but also for the custom chafing gear and the project specific ROV handling slings. Close contact with the design team early in the planning phase of the project was paramount to ensuring sling compatibility with the existing hardware on Deep Blue.

Samson's AmSteel®Blue, a high-strength, lightweight Dyneema® fiber rope was used to fabricate the slings. AmSteel®Blue is as strong as wire ropes the same size, yet is neutrally buoyant or slightly positive in seawater, making handling by ROV a simple matter requiring a minimum of power. SWOS, a Samson master distributor located in Houston, Texas, fabricated the slings to Technip's specifications from existing stock, and were able to maintain Technip's tight delivery schedule. The 3-5/8" (88 mm) diameter AmSteel®Blue was spliced into grommets 50 meters in length. Both eyes of each sling were fitted with Samson's DC Gard high-performance chafe gear, equipped with two small-diameter ROV handling grommets made from 1/2" (12 mm) Samson Quik-Splice, and a polypropylene rod inserted into the eye section of each small grommet. This resulted in a fabricated and tested rigid eye section with positive buoyancy perfect for capture by the manipulation arms of an ROV. A total of 16 slings rated at 190-metric-ton working loads were fabricated and tested for the installation of four hardware packages and four suction piles.

At the time of the installation, the subsea hardware arrived via barge, with each of the hardware packages and suction piles pre-fitted with two high-performance synthetic slings. Deep Blue's 400-metric-ton outboard crane was used to lift the hardware packages using one of the two attached slings. The hardware was lowered to 100 meters, where an ROV captured a special grommet attached to the second lifting sling and ferried the eye of the sling to the hook of Deep Blue's moonpool A&R winch. With the load transferred to the A&R winch, the sling was freed from the hook of the outboard crane and the hardware lowered to the seafloor for installation. The wet handshake was complete.

Technip has specified Samson ropes for many other installation projects, and has used AmSteel®Blue on prior occasions. The high strength, reliability, and easy handling of Samson synthetic ropes are appreciated in the kind of complex installations Technip encounters.

After this installation was completed, these slings were inspected, proof loaded, and recertified at SWOS' Houston facility, then returned to Technip for use in future critical installations.

SAMSON CASE STUDY **CASCADE AND CHINOOK LIFTING SLINGS**



Slings designed for underwater hand-offs made with Dyneema® fiber (specific gravity 0.98) are easily handled and manipulated by ROVs. Ropes can be engineered for specific buoyancy depending on the project requirements.

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AmSteel®-Blue {872}

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: ***SamsonRope.com***

We've put all our information here for easy downloading for anyone with access to the web. We think it is the best resource for information on high-performance synthetic ropes available anywhere.

- > Rope specifications
- > Product breakdowns by application and industry
- > Technical bulletins
- > Case studies
- > Splicing instructions



CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
5721 Harvey Wilson Drive, Houston, Texas 77020 USA
Tel +1.713.671.9101 | Fax +1.713.671.2515
SWOS.net



CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
2090 Thornton Street, Ferndale, Washington 98248 USA
Tel +1.360.384.4669 | Fax +1.360.384.0572
SamsonRope.com

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