



ASI Group awarded Canadian and United States Patent for Sealing Grout for use in Underwater Conduits

ST. CATHARINES, ON January 21, 2010 – ASI Group Ltd. (ASI), based in St. Catharines, ON, Canada announces the award of patents for a sealing grout that is specially designed for underwater applications. The patents have been issued for twenty years in Canada (Patent No. 2,553,124) and the United States (Patent No. 7,544,241).

ASI developed this sealing grout as part of a project to repair three (3) leaks in a deep ocean outfall located at Ponce, Puerto Rico. The leaks were located up to 1,000 feet from the nearest access and in 380 feet of water. The outside of the joints are covered with grout filled mattresses rendering them inaccessible for external repairs. The distance from the nearest manhole access into the pipe and depth of the repairs eliminated conventional manned intervention. ASI repaired two of the leaks using stainless steel internal spot repair liners using a specially equipped remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

The third leak was caused by an offset that could not be repaired using a conventional spot liner since that offset could not be accommodated by the sleeve. A product search and interviews with world leaders in repair methodologies concluded that no existing repair method could be used to guarantee an effective solution. Due to the depth and pressure, foaming grouts would not react with sufficient expansion to be effective. Grouts with typical admixtures would either flow through the leaks and not set up or they could not be pumped effectively through 1,000 feet of high pressure hose. Through bench scale testing and pilot studies, ASI's engineers and technicians developed a self-sealing gelatinous grout that could be pumped under low pressure, remain stable in the leak area and set up to 3000 psi within 24 hours. The significant advantages of this sealing grout is that it has an anti-washout property that minimizes environmental impacts and loss of cement paste, can be pumped in excess of 1,000 feet through a small diameter delivery hose and once injected into the leak, fills the voids and bridges the gaps that cause the leak. It provides more than a patch over the leak; it eliminates the cause of the leak.

The award of these patents represents a culmination of the successful development and application of the sealing grout and the purpose-built ROV delivery application by ASI engineers and technicians. "We strive to encourage the entrepreneurial ideas of our great employees and provide our clients with commercially viable solutions that are "firsts of a kind", says Mr. Carmelo Sferrazza, President ASI Group Ltd. "Many times we are called on to fix a problem that seems too difficult or costly to solve. Combining the wealth of knowledge our employees possess in their respective fields of specialization, we have repeatedly developed exceptional innovations and applications that have provided the material of many success stories."

ASI is was founded in 1987 as Aquatic Sciences Inc. by technical professionals committed to providing underwater inspections and water and wastewater engineering to industry and utilities worldwide. The Company is widely recognized for innovative solutions and effective management of water and wastewater. ASI draws on human resources with demonstrated experience in engineering, technology development and advanced marine operations.

ASI employs a full time staff of 100 engineers, technologists and commercial divers and is headquartered in St. Catharines, ON, Canada. Branch offices are located in Sarnia, ON and Orchard Park, NY, United States.

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