

Northrop Grumman Earns Award for See-Through-Paint Technology

Northrop Grumman's new "see-through-paint" inspection system was recently named Project of the Year for pollution prevention by the Department of Defense's Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP).

The nondestructive inspection system uses infrared imaging technology to detect corrosion underneath the painted surfaces of aircraft structures. Developed by the company's Integrated Systems sector, the system eliminates the costly and environmentally hazardous step of removing the paint from aircraft structures before inspecting them for corrosion or cracking.

It is estimated the new approach will save the Department of Defense and commercial aircraft operators \$200 million annually in aircraft maintenance and related pollution control costs.

Northrop Grumman's new patent-pending infrared system produces images of a part's surface underneath its paint sharp enough to reveal tiny cracks. Integrated Systems and the U.S. Air Force are beginning a three-year demonstration/validation study funded by SERDP. The Air Force will use the system to inspect aircraft coming in for scheduled repainting to verify the system's accuracy in real-world conditions.

Ultrasonic Tube Inspection System Granted EPRI Certificate of Qualification

NDT Automation's TubeScan™ ultrasonic tube inspection system recently passed EPRI performance demonstration tests that were performed by sister company PSL-Plus. The tests were performed at EPRI's Charlotte, N.C., facility using carbon steel tubing, 0.750-in. OD × 0.095-in. wall. The system was granted EPRI's Certificate of Qualification. NDT Automation is a member of the MISTRAS Holdings Group.

TubeScan is a fully automated, rotating mirror, internal tube inspection system with encoded DC servo drives. The encoded design permits C-scan data, as well as traditional B-scan and A-scan, to be acquired, analyzed, and saved for future reference and review. It permits longitudinal or circumferential shear inspections and is capable of identifying either inner or outer wall corrosion. It is supplied as a turnkey system.

Lenox Instrument Co. Awarded GSA Contract for Visual Inspection Products

The General Services Administration (GSA) recently awarded Lenox Instrument Co., Treviso, Pa., a federal supply multiple award scheduled contract for its line of borescopes, videoscopes, and other visual inspection equipment.

Through the contract, federal employees and other eligible users can view and purchase the company's borescopes online using GSA Advantage at www.gsadvantage.gov. Further information on Lenox's GSA contract is available by calling (800) 356-1104 or online at www.lenoxinst.com.

TUV America Appoints Two Product Managers

TUV America Inc., Danvers, Mass., recently named William Wenthold as product manager for the western U.S. region of its Machinery, Information Technology, and Consumer Products (MIC) service unit, and Jose Galvan Barrientos as product manager for the MIC Division in Mexico.

Wenthold has been acting MIC product manager since September 2003. He works out of the company's San Diego, Calif., facility. Galvan will be responsible for the direction and business development of the MIC Division throughout Mexico. He is based at the TUV America de Mexico headquarters in Monterrey. ♦