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Navy Metalworking Center Project Work Featured in Journal of Ship Production

Concurrent Technologies Corporation Project Manager Authors Article on Application of Newly Developed Welding Technique

Work done through the Navy Metalworking Center (NMC), which is operated by Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC), has been published in the May 2009 issue of the Journal of Ship Production (JSP). The article highlights efforts to prove the cost-saving benefits of using a newly developed welding method to manufacture certain structural shapes for Navy shipbuilding. Erik Oller, CTC project manager, co-authored the article with Paul Blomquist, Applied Thermal Sciences, Inc.; and Michael Ludwig, Cianbro Constructors.

“Being published in a highly regarded journal like the Journal of Ship Production allows CTC to share relevant technical data with others in the industry and also helps our current and potential clients meet their goals,” said Edward J. Sheehan, Jr., CTC President & Chief Executive Officer. “Congratulations to Erik and everyone involved in this NMC project.”

The NMC project was developed to determine optimum parameters for hybrid laser arc welding (HLAW) HSLA-80 T-beams that will reduce production and assembly costs as well as improve T-Beam quality for DDG 1000. This is significant because T-beam stiffeners are used extensively in ship construction for decks, bulkheads, shells and other structural applications. As the need for weight and cost reduction grows, alternate production methods such as HLAW are being considered to improve beam quality, to weld thinner plate materials to minimize distortion, and to improve the cost and availability of beams for ship construction.

The JSP article titled “Economics of Hybrid Laser Arc Welding for Manufacturing Weight-Optimized T-beams” describes the research that reveals that HLAW is a cost-effective solution to reduce the weld-related distortion in built-up T-beam manufacturing to acceptable levels. Savings are realized in reduced distortion and higher weld speed.

“While this project is being developed for and applied to DDG 1000, sharing the results in this widely read technical journal increases the likelihood that other ship classes will benefit from the technology as well,” added Mr. Sheehan.

JSP is a quarterly publication of the Society of Naval Architect and Marine Engineers that contains peer-reviewed technical papers addressing problems of shipyard techniques and production of merchant and naval ships. The Navy Metalworking Center, one of the Centers of Excellence sponsored by the Office of Naval Research’s Manufacturing Technology Program, is a national resource for the development and transition of advanced metalworking and manufacturing technologies, materials and related processes. For more information, visit www.nmc.ctc.com.

Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) is an independent, nonprofit, applied scientific research and development professional services organization providing innovative management and technology-based solutions to government and industry. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, CTC’s primary purpose and programs are to undertake applied scientific research and development activities that serve the public interest. For more information, visit www.ctc.com.