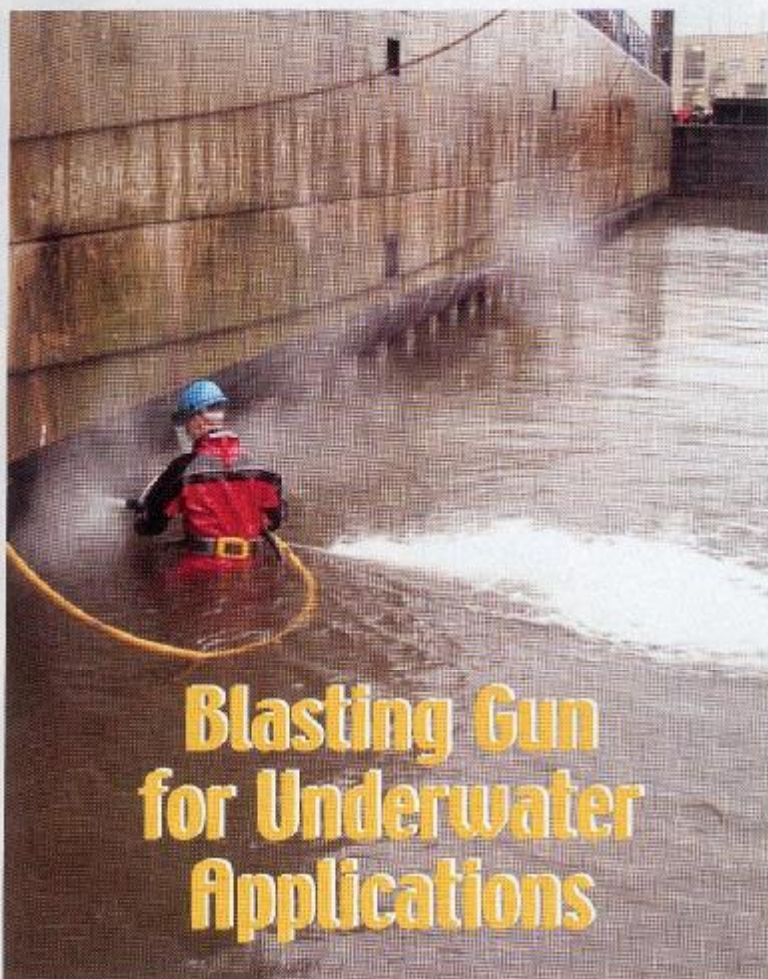


Innovative Product



Blasting Gun for Underwater Applications

Pile sheet cleaning by a diver in the splash zone

The maintenance and repair of maritime structures can be extremely time consuming and expensive if submerged surfaces are affected. If coatings have failed in such areas, deteriorated coatings and rust must be removed, and the exposed surface must be carefully prepared for recoating. This would also include the removal of marine growth.

Continued

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Innovative Product



UHPAB underwater gun with balancing water jet

Mühlhan Equipment Services GmbH has announced the development of an underwater gun based on its ultra-high pressure water jetting and abrasive (UHPAB) technology. The gun features a special valve which directs part of the water flow in the opposite direction of the cleaning jet.

Whereas the cleaning jet consists of water, air, and abrasive particles, the reverse jet consists of water only. Water volume rate and, thus, balancing force can be controlled precisely by the diver on-line according to the operation pressure set for the pump. The water pump pressure can be as high as 250 MPa (36,000 psi), but the gun can also perform efficiently at lower pressures of 100 MPa (14,500 psi).

The design of the gun is simple and very robust. Applications performed on harbor sites in the splash zone as well as at a water depth of about 8 meters (26 ft) delivered excellent results, the company says. Very thick and resistant rust layers could be removed from 50 year old, heavily corroded sheet pile walls with high efficiency. The cleaning degree Sa2^{1/2} (according to ISO 8501-1) could be achieved, the company also reports.

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