

We Wish All Our Readers A Safe And Happy Summer.

## In This Issue

Dual Test Heads  
In Memory, Bob Fowlds  
Important Dates

## A Time When Two Heads Really Are Better Than One.

In 2008 we completed an off-line weld test system for API tubular goods and commissioned it in the customer's facility.

As is the case with all InspecTech off-line U/T systems, it covers 100% of the weld zone, meaning that there are no untested ends on the tubes that must be later re-tested by other means.

In this case, the test head approaches the pipe end and the first pair of probes mount the pipe. The test head stops with the probes just on the end of the pipe until coupling is gained, then the head advances very slowly until the second pair have mounted the pipe end, and the coupling process is repeated.

Only when both probe pairs are engaged at the pipe end and fully coupled, does the test head move at full speed over the rest of the pipe, thus testing right up to the far end.



In late 2009, we were asked to quote for a second such system, as the mill production was expected to increase and the NDT was a potential bottleneck.

It occurred to us that a second system would involve our customer in some very expensive (and time-consuming) modifications to his finishing floor; so we looked at alternative ways to boost productivity.

# The InspectTech Inquirer

InspectTech Newsletter of Events and Technologies

Vol.5 No.1 Summer 2010

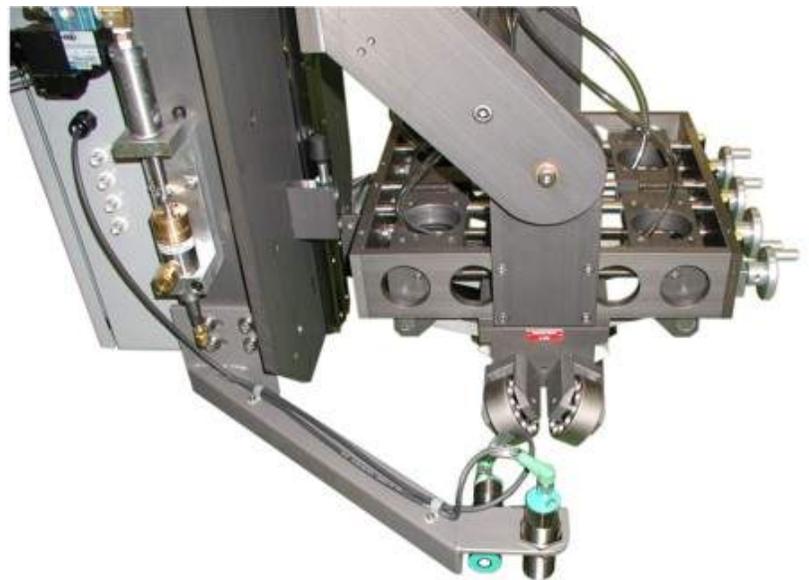


The overall time needed to test a welded pipe is in part the time required to get proper coupling over the end, and in part the time to run the high speed test. These times were nearly equal in our existing system, meaning that a second complete test system could nearly double the productivity, but a second test head on the same system could only reduce the running time, not the end testing time, which would be a very minor improvement in productivity.

However, we reasoned that a test head that is dedicated to testing just the end zone plus a few feet of pipe, when operated with a second test head that tests the majority of the pipe length, could be a significant improvement.

The difficulty with this plan was due to the fact that the system tested one pipe from left to right and the next pipe from right to left. This meant that the two test heads would be required to reverse roles between tests. This posed a number of challenges in the software and PLC programming areas, but in the end; along with some adjustments to the pipe handling routine, we succeeded in very nearly doubling the throughput of the original system by adding a second test head to the existing track..

We are very pleased with this result; it means our customer enjoys nearly twice the productivity at maybe 10% the cost of a second complete system.



## IN MEMORIAM Robert (Bob) Fowlds



At the end of May 2010, InspectTech lost an old friend and a 14 year veteran of the Company. Bob Fowlds passed away in Oshawa Ontario.

Bob had been part of InspectTech at the very beginning in 1977, and he had returned to us in 1996 to run our mechanical shop. Bob's knowledge of machine shop practice was encyclopaedic, and our product quality flourished under his guidance.

Over the years, Bob had built solid relationships with our suppliers and sub contractors.

Bob leaves his wife Betty, his son Alan and daughter Jennifer, plus 4 grandchildren. Bob will be missed by us all in the months and years to come.



### Office Closings

For our international customers, here is a list of Canadian holidays and observances for our offices for the next 6 months. Our automated answering machine can take messages on evenings, over weekends and holidays. Our offices will be closed for:

August Civic Holiday	Monday August 2
Labour Day	Monday September 6
Thanksgiving	Monday October 11
Christmas Break	