SPONGE-JET®

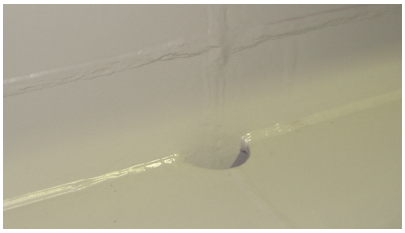
Case History

Sponge-Jet Reduces Construction Delays on Crude Oil Tanker

Sponge-Jet® abrasive systems exceed specification, replacing power-tooling. Shipyard accelerates ballast tank and erection joint painting operations and extends coating life.

The impact of proper weld seam preparation on coating life was evident to a Finnish crude oil tanker owner. As a result, it contracted a major Japanese shipyard, to build the *Tempera* crude oil tanker, with stringent surface preparation specifications. Specifications called for an SSPC-SP11 surface cleanliness with a uniform anchor pattern of no less than 25 microns (1-mil) on ballast tank weld seams and all erection joints. After field tests, Sponge Media was chosen to replace current hand-tooling based on the following criteria:

■ **Consistent 25+Micron(1-mil) profile -** Silver Sponge Media™ exceeded the specification to an SSPC-SP11 creating a uniform, 40-75 micron (1-3mil) anchor pattern. Disc sanding preparation "scratched" the surface, creating uneven preparation patterns, while conical surface grinders created a variable surface roughness of 10-35 microns (.5-1.5 mil), which fell short of the specification.



■ **Low Rebound Energy** - Polyurethane foam-based Sponge Media, reduced ricochet and eliminated subsequent harm to adjacent coated surfaces. It also made the media easy to contain and collect.

■ **Control** - The unique mechanics of Sponge Media combined with the enhanced operator vision allowed for easy feathering in the boundary areas of existing coatings.

The Ship's erection joints, ballast tanks and other vulnerable areas were blasted with Sponge Media. The shipyard reduced construction delays due to higher Sponge-Jet production speeds and the fact that other trades could work concurrently. The ship owner expects to enjoy the benefits of longer, continuous operation associated with extended coating life.

Visit Sponge-Jet, Inc. at
www.Spongejet.com
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to learn more about the
Sponge Blasting System