

# Weld Seam Repair on a North Sea Offshore Oil Platform

*Platform manufacturer uses the Sponge-Jet® Sponge Blasting™ System to repair heat-affected weld seams with little impact on nearby activity or sensitive equipment*



Coating engineers with a Netherlands manufacturer of offshore platforms searched for a method to repair weld seams. Welding, during assembly of the rig causes staining and damage to prepainted parts. Engineers wanted a repair process that would cause less damage to sensitive surrounding parts of the rig and equipment already in place. They chose Silver Sponge Media™ abrasives because of the following process characteristics:

- **Low Airborne Dust** - Dusty abrasives, hand tools or wire brushes used to repair the weld seams were forbidden due to surrounding, preinstalled turbines, pumps, and electronic process equipment. Porous Sponge Media abrasives trap

most of what would normally release into the air, limiting damage and impact to sensitive equipment - while improving the safety of workers.

- **Controlability** - Engineers wanted operators to blast new weld seams, disturbing as little of the original coatings as possible. Pliant and porous Sponge Media abrasives carry conventional abrasives, but preserve operator visibility and minimize media rebound by trapping dust, and absorbing collision energy on impact. Blasters have improved control of their work. Narrow blasting strips and gradual feathering are easier to accomplish.



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 or call **603-610-7950**  
 to learn more about the  
 Sponge Blasting System

Operators blasted six linear feet [2m] of weld seam per minute and removed the thick, charred, epoxy coating and inorganic zinc primer without damage to surrounding equipment, or interruption of nearby trades. In areas not exposed to rain, the contractor was pleasantly surprised to observe no flash rusting on three week old weld seams.