

ASPEN AEROGELS INSULATES PLASTIC LINED PIPE JOINTS for SUBSEA J-Lay and S-Lay Projects

Northborough, Mass. (March 31, 2006) — Aspen Aerogels announced today that its nanotechnology-enabled aerogels insulation has been selected by Boreas Consultants for its PBJ™ Pressure Balanced Joint. The aerogel blankets from Aspen Aerogels provide an ultra-thin heat shield to protect the plastic during welding. Boreas Managing Director Stephen Booth said, “We were astonished with the results obtained by using Aspen Aerogels insulation and as a result have selected this insulation for our PBJ™ product. We tested a number of high performance materials and, for our application, the Aspen Aerogels product is clearly the best.”

The PBJ™ is a plastic joint that enables joint-by-joint fabrication of plastic lined steel pipe. Plastic lining of subsea water injection pipelines provides a cost effective and environmentally friendly solution to the challenge of internal corrosion. The plastic lining provides the corrosion barrier where the steel pipe provides the strength. To date, plastic linings have only been cost effectively installed in offshore applications by the reeling or tow methods. However, there is an increasing demand to install plastic lined pipelines by alternative J-lay and S-lay

(joint by joint) methods. The intent of the PBJ™ is to enable S-lay and J-lay barges to install plastic lined pipe by offering a qualified, cost effective solution. The PBJ™ is currently completing a qualification program for water injection pipelines, supported by BP, Statoil, Stolt Offshore, and Bredero Shaw, with a Scottish Executive contribution, in the form of a SPUR grant.

About Boreas

Boreas is an independent technical consultancy to the oil, gas, and renewable energy industries based in Aberdeen, Scotland. Boreas supplies high-quality technical solutions with complete independence from any engineering, construction, or installation contractor. Today's oil and gas developments-whether they are deep-water, high-temperature, long-distance, or marginally economic- throw up a huge range of technical challenges. Boreas was set up to develop and apply appropriate technology to solve these challenges.

About Aspen Aerogels

Headquartered in Northborough, MA, USA, Aspen Aerogels supplies nanotechnology-enabled aerogel products with insulating properties that outperform traditional materials by two to eight times. Unlike other aerogel

material providers, Aspen delivers the thermal and acoustic performance of aerogels in a ready-to-use blanket infused with silica nanostructures. This blanket format makes it easy for Aspen customers to conserve energy and save money in oil and gas recovery, LNG shipping and storage, apparel, military, aerospace and energy-related applications. In addition, Aspen is actively developing applications in the building/construction, automotive and fuel cell markets.

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