

1.11.3. A NEW, IMPROVED PIPELINE AUT GIRTH WELD INSPECTION SYSTEM

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Automated ultrasonics is steadily becoming the standard method of inspection of pipeline girth welds throughout the world, particularly using phased arrays. Phased array AUT systems were first developed a decade ago, and proved to be much more flexible and capable than multiprobe systems, particularly for offshore special applications. A new version has been developed, which incorporates all the techniques developed previously, e.g. seamless pipe, thick section inspections, small diameter pipe inspections, clad pipe, and is significantly more powerful and flexible. A number of technical improvements have been made to software, instrumentation, computers, umbilical and probe pan. Overall, the new system has all the old system capabilities, plus significantly increased applications capability. Lastly, the new system requires no additional training and qualification.

Some results with the new system will be shown.