

4.4.6. NOVEL APPLICATIONS OF WHEEL-COUPLED ARRAY TRANSDUCERS

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Some years ago NDT Solutions, now part of the Sonatest group, developed an array based solution for aircraft inspection. This project became the RapidScan system, which has been widely used for inspection of aerospace composite materials.

More recently the technology has been extended into general corrosion inspection, for example in the petrochemical industry.

This paper will look at how the technology and applications have been developed from a single purpose inspection solution to a more general set of 'tools' which can be widely applied. This has required modification of both the hardware, the evaluation software, and the basic philosophy of the product. In particular what was a closed system has been 'split' allowing the transducer assemblies to be used with a wider variety of instrumentation.