

Sketches of a new product for the offshore industry

Module-based cabinet the result of new collaboration between plastic suppliers and offshore sector

An unique collaboration in the offshore sector has brought about a new product to the sector. Initiated by the project Substitution of Materials Offshore a range of plastic suppliers, North Sea operators and suppliers have started developing a module-based multi-purpose cabinet made of robust plastic, that will meet a number of the offshore sector's needs.

The multi-purpose cabinet has so far been presented as sketches, but the plan is to find a company, who is interested in participating in the further development and manufacturing of a prototype, before the multi-purpose cabinet is put into production and marketed internationally. The idea of a multi-purpose cabinet in robust plastic is an attempt to introduce other materials than steel, which is otherwise the material most used in the offshore sector. Compared to steel, plastic has the advantage that it doesn't corrode in the offshore environment. The hope is, that the new product will meet specific protection needs in the offshore sector, and hopefully create jobs in the plastic industry in Denmark as well.

Bente Nedergaard Christensen from Plast Center Danmark, manager of the sub-project Substitution of Materials Offshore, says:
"Perhaps a cabinet doesn't seem like big news, and is yet to be fully developed, but this is actually the result of a unique collaboration between the offshore industry and

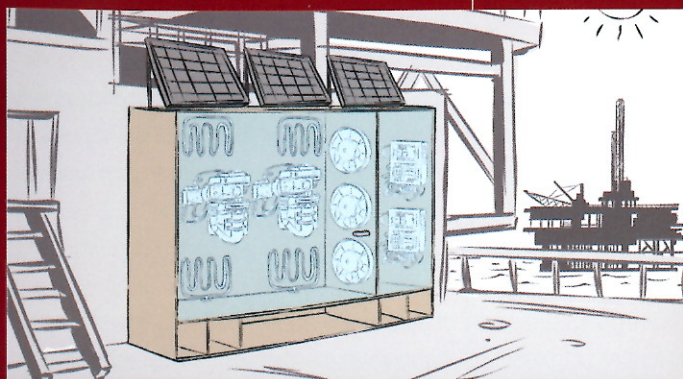
the plastic suppliers. Besides that, it is not just a cabinet. One of many suggestions is to supply the cabinet with a heating element and a fan, which are to be powered from solar cells. In this way a temperate atmosphere can be created inside the cabinet, and sensitive equipment can be protected against the harsh corrosive environment offshore".

She further adds:

"Plastic doesn't need to be painted or maintained. This is a huge advantage of cabinets made of plastic compared to cabinets made of steel or aluminum".

The first sketches of the new cabinet were presented by the sub-project Substitution of Materials Offshore under the development project Offshore Energy at a mid-way conference on October 5th 2011 in Ribe, Denmark.

The multi-purpose cabinet is one of the visible results of an 'idea generation day' last year initiated by Substitution of Materials Offshore, where the offshore sector's need for innovative products was presented, and the plastic industry's ability to meet this need was tested. The results were gathered in a catalogue of ideas for products that can advantageously be manufactured by the help of plastic and plastic composites as a supplement to steel and other metals. The module-based multi-purpose cabinet was chosen as one focus area, other constructions made of plastic and plastic composites are also being developed.



A cabinet that can be adapted to individual needs and purposes will now be marketed in the offshore sector. It is made of robust plastic materials.