

New equipment improves safety

The risks associated with having crew members on deck during various operations has prompted Rolls-Royce to look at how new and improved equipment can be used to make different tasks safer to carry out.

For us, this has been a gradual process in which we have wanted primarily to improve our existing equipment," says Ottar Antonsen, Sales Manager. "We don't think it is possible to get the crew completely off the deck overnight, but we do feel that we can make improvements gradually, so that in the future the deck can be a safer workplace than it is today."

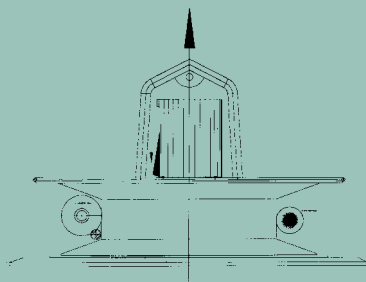
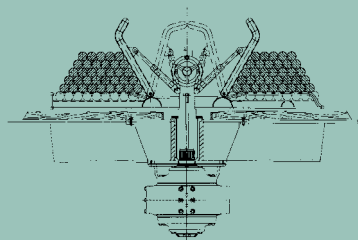
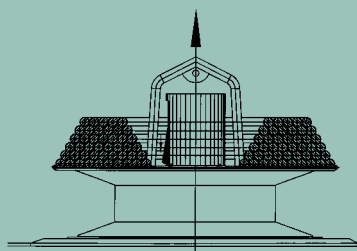
Among other things, Rolls-Royce has developed new types of tow pins and shark jaws for use in anchor-handling and towing operations. These lock the chains and wires. Today, the crew have to enter the hazard area to do the job manually. The aim of the improvement is to get people out of the danger zones.

Pennant-wire coiler

Another innovation currently being developed by Rolls-Royce is a pennant-wire coiler. Pennant-wires are brought on board in large coils. When the wires are uncoiled and put over the stern, loose ends can easily ricochet back at the crew.

"We are making a motorised coiling machine which will be permanently fitted on board the vessel, and a simpler version without a motor," explains Antonsen. The largest version will probably be best suited for installation while ships are still under construction.

Rolls-Royce is also investigating how to increase the use of remote controls for its various winch systems. Wireless control means that crew members can stand in a safe area instead of being exposed on the deck itself when the winches are in operation.



Pennant-wire coiler systems from Rolls-Royce. The large, motorised version at the top, and the somewhat simpler version below.