

Post Lay Burial on Offshore Support Vessel



Rotech Subsea were contracted to assist with the post-lay burial of multiple cable joints ranging from 50m – 300m in length. The equipment was mobilised onto an offshore support vessel.

Project Information:

Water Depth	-	Max 40m
Scope	-	Post-lay Trenching – Cable to be buried to 1.5m Depth of Lowering
Total burial depth required	-	2.5m
Soils	-	Soft Sand to Stiff Clays
Current	-	1 knot
Sea State	-	0.25 – 1.50 Hs

Operational water depths ranged from 10m- 40m and the soil conditions varied from soft sand to very stiff clays. Soil samples indicated the undrained shear strength of the hard clays were in excess of 100kPa. The RS1-3 CFE tool has a maximum outlet pressure of 300Kpa. The RS3 head assists with the cutting of the hard soils and the RS1 head of the tool provides a much larger flow to disperse the soil. The two combine to create a very effective trenching tool and the perfect tool for these conditions.

Progress rates:

2 passes of 4m/min were used when trenching the areas with soft soils.
Up to 4 passes at 1m/min were required on the areas with the hardest soils.

The RS1-3 tool was deployed by the vessel crane off starboard side of the vessel, 2x tugger winches positioned forward and aft on the vessel were used to provide tool stability subsea.

The tool was positioned over the cable route in parallel with the vessel & cable with a 0.50m offset to protect sensitive areas of the cable.

The burial was completed and depth of lowering was confirmed at regular intervals along the cable by the RS1-3's tool mounted NBI sonar imager. This was then confirmed by separate survey equipment provided by the client.

Rotech Subsea successfully completed this project ahead of schedule in less than 2 weeks. The RS1-3 performed excellently and achieved the burial specifications required by the client.