

Press release

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Deep Water Sampler: Measurements of soft clay layers of the seabed greatly improved

Since long the need has existed for a sampler that was able to take undisturbed samples from soft soil layers. Particularly those layers are easily disturbed and hard to be brought to the surface. After a development period of 3 years a new sampler for obtaining accurate and reliable soil data from soft clay layers of the seabed, especially at deep water depths, has become reality.

Tests were taken on the North Sea, yielding a sample of 12.5 metre length from a water depth of 300 metres. Laboratory tests by NGI showed that the quality of the sample could be qualified as very good to excellent. Especially the quality of the sample of the soft upper layer was considerably improved with respect to those made with existing samplers.

The innovative qualities of the sampler are specifically based on the following elements:

- a new type of cutting shoe
- the core retainer
- a piston that seals off the upper side of the sampler from the surrounding pressure so that the force exerted on the sample is limited to a minimum
- positioning system that keeps the piston positioned within a couple of millimeters
- a sample tube connection system with which the sample is cut on the spot without disturbing it

With their long-time experience in offshore soil investigation and equipment, research institute NGI of Oslo, Norway, and A.P. van den Berg of Heerenveen, the Netherlands jointly developed the sampler. Offshore operators Gardline and Lankelma, both from England, assisted in testing it.

More information:

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