

Greaseless Pack-Off

A step-change in operational performance and efficiency. Reliable, robust, flexible solution when running polymer coated greaseless cables.

Field trials demonstrated the rubber and brass internals on the Type-3 PCH continued to perform up to 4 times longer than previous designs

Application

The Hunting Pressure Control Head (PCH) Stripper is designed to seal around coated electromechanical cable using applied hydraulic pressure. This prevents well fluids and/or gases within the lubricator from polluting the wellsite as the cable is run in and out of the wellbore.

Greaseless Pack-Off

To achieve a continuous seal in conventional braided line or electric line cable operations, viscous grease is pumped into the annular void between the flow tube and the cable, creating a pressure drop across each stage.

Greaseless cable, however, incorporates a smooth outer protective jacket that encases the traditional armor and insulated monoconductor. This enables the Hunting PCH to provide pack-off directly onto the cable, with the use of little or no grease while maintaining the integrity of the sealed entrance.

Since the smooth coating eliminates the need for grease at the wellsite, the operator no longer needs additional pumps to inject grease into the pressure control string, creating a cleaner and safer work site. In addition, flow tubes and extended lubricators can also be eliminated helping to reduce the operational footprint.

What is greaseless cable?

Galvenized improved plough steel (GIPS) cables were introduced to market in the 1930's, followed by alloy cables in the 60's, and high-strength versions in the 90's.

When the limits of stranded armor cable had been reached, companies started to develop slick greaseless wireline cables with increased mechanical properties and ability to operate in pressures up to 15,000 psi.

Polymer technology accelerated through the 2000's with the introduction of a new coated electromechanical, or 'greaseless' cable typically designed for high deviated and horizontal wire interventions.

These achieve improved productivity and cost-efficiency with less non-productive time (NPT).

The manufacturing process provides a single element cable that is torque balanced and proves a high strength to weight ratio.

Other benefits operators point towards is the reduced risk posed by armor stranding, birdcaging, corrosion, and maintenance trips when twisting occurs and cable seasoning requirements. This results in the ability to maintain well control with only a dual packoff configuration for most well conditions.

Performance

Hunting Energy Services is the original developer of greaseless pack-offs, having introduced the PCH Type-1 to market in 2010 and have been continually developing and improving the product in close collaboration with our customers.

The introduction of the PCH Type-3 is a significant step-change in operational performance and efficiency when running greaseless cable. The PCH Type-3 underwent extensive field trials for two major service companies in North America with extremely positive results.

Market shift

Designed and manufactured initially for the North American land market and the Gulf of Mexico, more and more customers are switching from conventional to greaseless, with its ability to support both wireline and slickline operations.

As this technology transitions into the North Sea, Middle East, and Asia Pacific regions. Hunting is already positioned to manufacture and supply via our regional Well Intervention hubs globally. See Further Information and Regional Facilities below.

Wellsite redress is fast and easy — less than 30 minutes for 2 crewmen once the head is on the ground

Specifications

- Designed for working pressures up to 15,000 psi
- Temperature rated to 212°F (100°C)
- Bore size from 0.125" to 0.500"
- Compatible with all brands of greaseless cable
- Design standard API 6A
- Interchangeable modular system

Benefits

- Simplified Pressure Control: no complex grease injection system/control units mean less equipment on site
- Cleaner operations: minimal grease required — small amounts used for lubrication only
- Reduced rig-up height: removes the need for conventional Grease Injection Heads with multiple flow tubes
- Less harm to the environment: reduced risk of grease contamination and clean up
- Improved efficiency: longer laterals and faster run speeds in high deviated wellbores. Up to 40% reduction in friction¹

3000+ Runs

Field Trial data:

- 12,000psi Max Pump Down Pressure
- 8,500psi Max Wellhead Pressure
- 180 Runs Before Rehead

figures reported from Camesa®, EcoSeal® and Schlumberger StreamLINE

Pressure Control Head Type-3 (Upper Module)

Further Information

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