

Boldman develops mobile test cell unit for hard-to-reach oil and gas developments

Modular aluminium profile manufacturer Boldman has developed a mobile ballistic test cell to increase efficiency and reduce costs in oil and gas industry testing. The cell uses a lot of the innovations that are used in Boldman's existing large fixed cells, but has the added benefit of being movable, which many clients demanded as their testing locations were not always permanent.

The maximum size of the high pressure test cell is 6m by 6m by 4m high and it will be used to test small assemblies up to 30,000psi.

The ballistic glass test cells are manufactured from Boldman's aluminium profile system and specially manufactured safety glass, giving 360° visibility when testing oil and gas equipment. This visibility means companies testing their equipment can invite their customers to view their equipment live whilst it is under test.

The new design means that the test cell can be moved by castors attached to the individual panels or transported via crane across the workshops.

The test cells are used by some of the largest oil and gas developers in offshore engineering, the high-pressure test cells are used around the world for testing offshore components under simulated extreme conditions.

The new cell technology is seen as a replacement for its heavy steel predecessor both because of vastly improved visibility and its modularity making it is easy to ship and install on-site.

The test cells were first developed in 2014 and Boldman's test cells are being used worldwide in Angola, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, USA & UK.

Nigel Clarke, CEO of Boldman commented, "The test cells, first released in 2014, have transformed the way in which pressure testing is carried out. Our team of engineers are continuing to push the boundaries in the latest development of these cells allowing operators in the oil and gas industry to test equipment in safer conditions."

The structure of the cell is designed to withstand a strike from a ¾-inch two-part BuTech MP fitting under test up to 30,000psi. In-house testing has seen the cell withstand a 6. oz. Butec fitting travelling at speeds of up to 180 metres per second (400 m.p.h.)