

Oldham Engineering Manufacturing  
the World's Largest Ball & Taper  
Mooring Connector.

## 'Integrated Management Systems' Traceability & Transparency

Subsea industry supply standards have been considerably tightened over the last decade. Premier manufacturing organisations such as Oldham Engineering have embraced these changes by enhancing their operational systems, procedures and organisational culture.

Today, the importance of 'Integrated Management Systems' cannot be underemphasised, particularly in the oil and gas sector. Considerable management attention must be placed on the product quality throughout the entire manufacturing process from materials procurement and handling to fabrication, machining, assembly and inspection.

To achieve such high levels of product quality, companies must select supply partners who have integrated management systems in place. These systems facilitate the co-ordination of every element of the process so ensuring full traceability, complete transparency and total compliance to product specifications.

This attention to detail is very relevant for items which are subjected to tremendous forces such as mooring lines, connectors and many subsea complex structures. By their very nature such components require vigorous inspection and testing coupled with detailed manufacturing process control.

Mooring lines and connectors perform a vital anchoring role for floating platforms. Unfortunately these items are subjected to a whole range of variable environmental conditions to unpredictable collisions from shipping traffic, reinforcing the need for correct design, manufacture and supply.

Oldham Engineering Ltd. is an established manufacturing service provider to the offshore and subsea industry. In 2012, they manufactured what is understood to be the world's largest ball and taper mooring connector, 26,000 tonnes as shown (right).

Oldham Engineering was selected as a key supplier for such a critical item because of their long-standing reputation at supplying high-end industry sector clients in the defence, nuclear and oil and gas sectors, coupled with their ability to demonstrate excellent manufacturing process control.

Such process control excellence is partly due to the development of their Manufacturing Business Intelligence System called Acumen-Synergy™. The system covers all areas of the business and delivers the information, and crucially, the insight to enable the team at Oldham Engineering to make the right decisions at the right time.

Acumen-Synergy™ translates detailed plans and real-time process information from shop floor data capture into clear visual insights.

Progress against plans and potential issues such as bottlenecks and trends are brought into sharp focus.

At Oldham's manufacturing facility, large projector screens displaying department-specific Acumen-Synergy™ views which ensure transparency and timely information flow at all times. These focused insights bring a whole new level of transparency to the operation, helping the team manage capacity, process flow, production schedules and customer deliveries effectively and efficiently - areas of particular importance when supplying complex, technical products to high-end industry sectors. Acumen-Synergy™ is central to the Oldham's imperatives of efficiency.

Oldham Engineering has supplied many offshore and subsea clients with premier manufactured products from bend stiffeners, reaction collars and XT plates to ROV structures and tether clamps.

In addition to their comprehensive in-house CNC machining and fabrication facilities, the company also has a skilled fitting team with a dedicated 30,000sqft assembly and testing area. This permits precision items such as subsea torque tools (below) to be supplied.



ictured: Oldham Engineering manufactured Subsea Torque Tool (API 17D Class 1-4) for a ROV application

Below: Oldham Engineering: Shop Floor Data Capture & Acumen-Synergy™ Business Intelligence System

