

# INTERNATIONAL NDT

Phased array ultrasonics  
for enhanced evaluation and monitoring

Giles Waterhouse

[giles@int-ndt.com](mailto:giles@int-ndt.com) [www.int-ndt.com](http://www.int-ndt.com)  
Giles – 07776 256 339

# What do we do?

## Bespoke Inspections

- Yachts – Mast, Hull appendages
- Sailing/Motor vessels
- Superyachts/Grand Prix/Americas Cup

## Other industries:

- Private aerospace
- Wind energy
- Tidal Energy
  
- EN4179/NAS410/SNT TC 1A
- BINDT Composite Certification Committee

## What do we do?

### Preventative inspection

- Ultrasonic inspection - Composites
- Dye Penetrant Testing - Metallic parts
- Traditional survey inspection

### Quality assurance

- Baseline inspection
- Risk assessment
  - Lightning protection

### Damage assessment

- Detailed assessment of damage
- Improved repair planning

Standard inspection vs C-scan

Example 1 – Chainplate, Mixed materials

Example 2 – Monolithic, complex indications

Example 3 – Blind-bonded sleeve joint

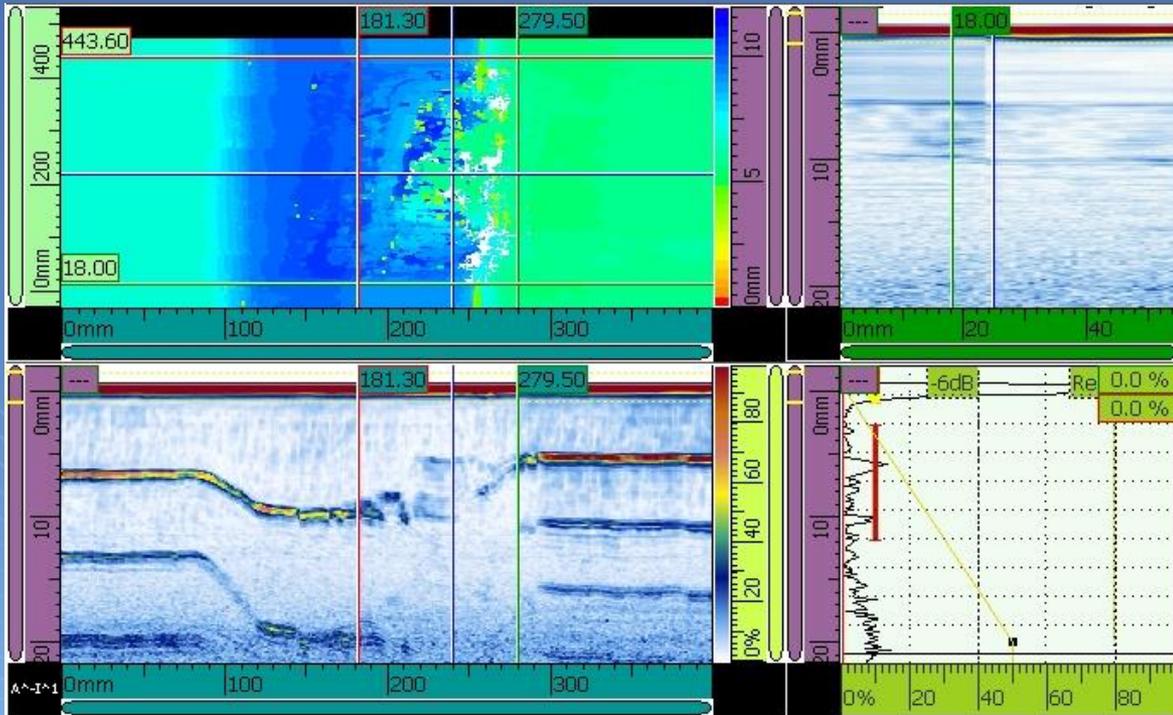
Decision making process

Questions



## Phased Array Ultrasonic - High quality monolithic CFRP

- C-scan recording



- Detailed analysis
- Advanced analysis
- Accurate sizing
- Repeatable
  
- Bespoke on-site inspection
- Curved surfaces

# Chainplate assessment

Ultrasonic scan from outside of hull

- Mixed materials
- Assessment of key chainplate area
- Assessment of surrounding laminate

Further analysis

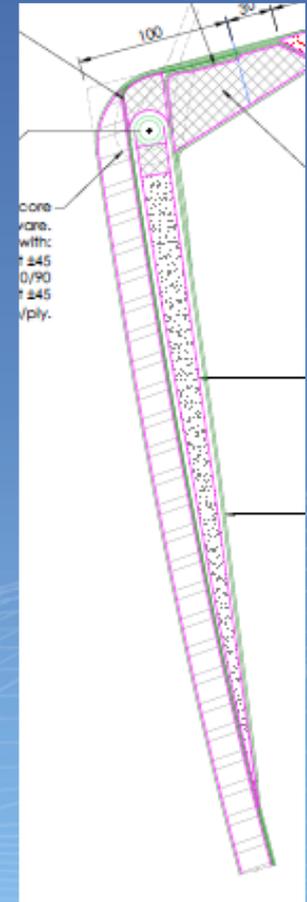
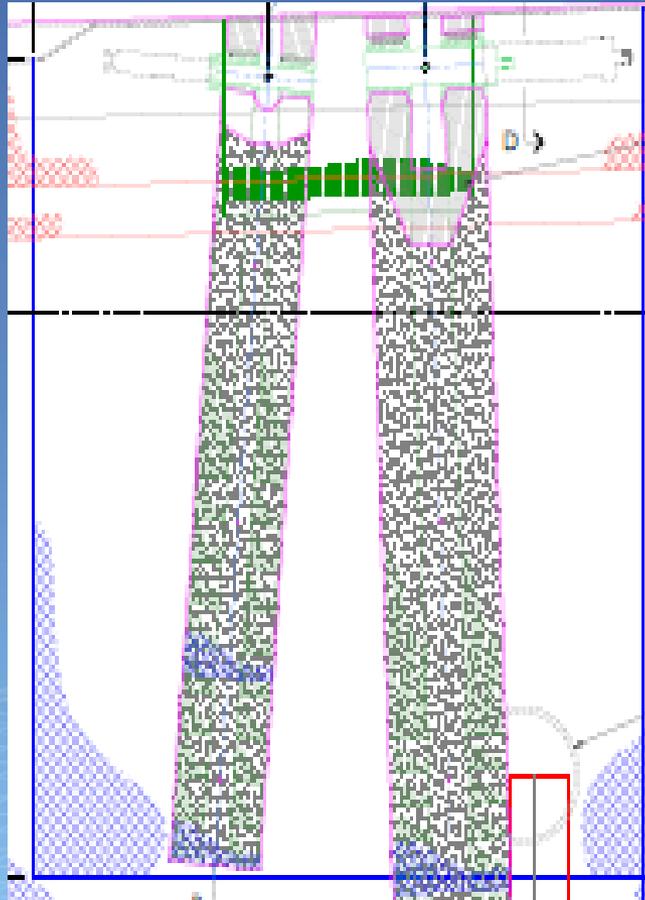
- Accurate sizing
- Classification of defect
  - Type/position

Set baseline

- Repeatable inspection
- Accurate monitoring

# Chainplate assessment

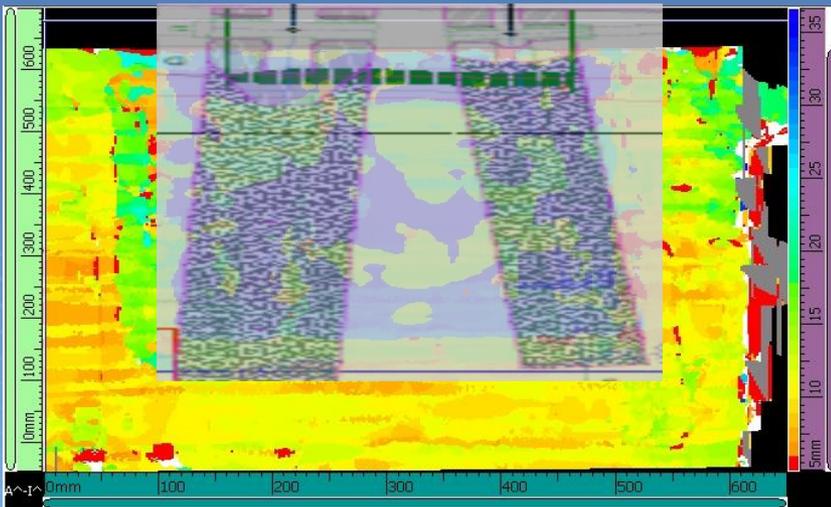
- Composite component – bonded and laminated into hull
- Mixed materials – GRP + CFRP + Foam + bonding



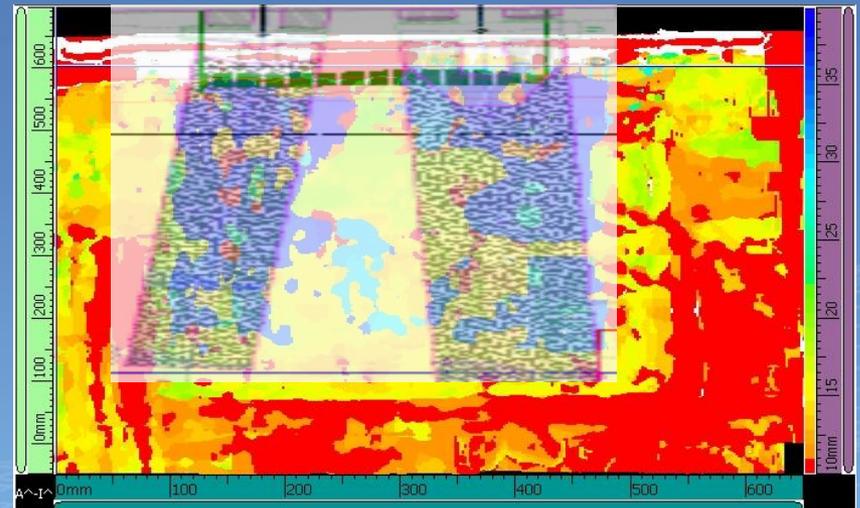
# Chainplate assessment

- Differences Port vs Starboard
- Monolithic skin thicknesses
  - Variability across main area

- Colours represent indications at varying depths
- Further analysis to determine position and classification



Starboard side

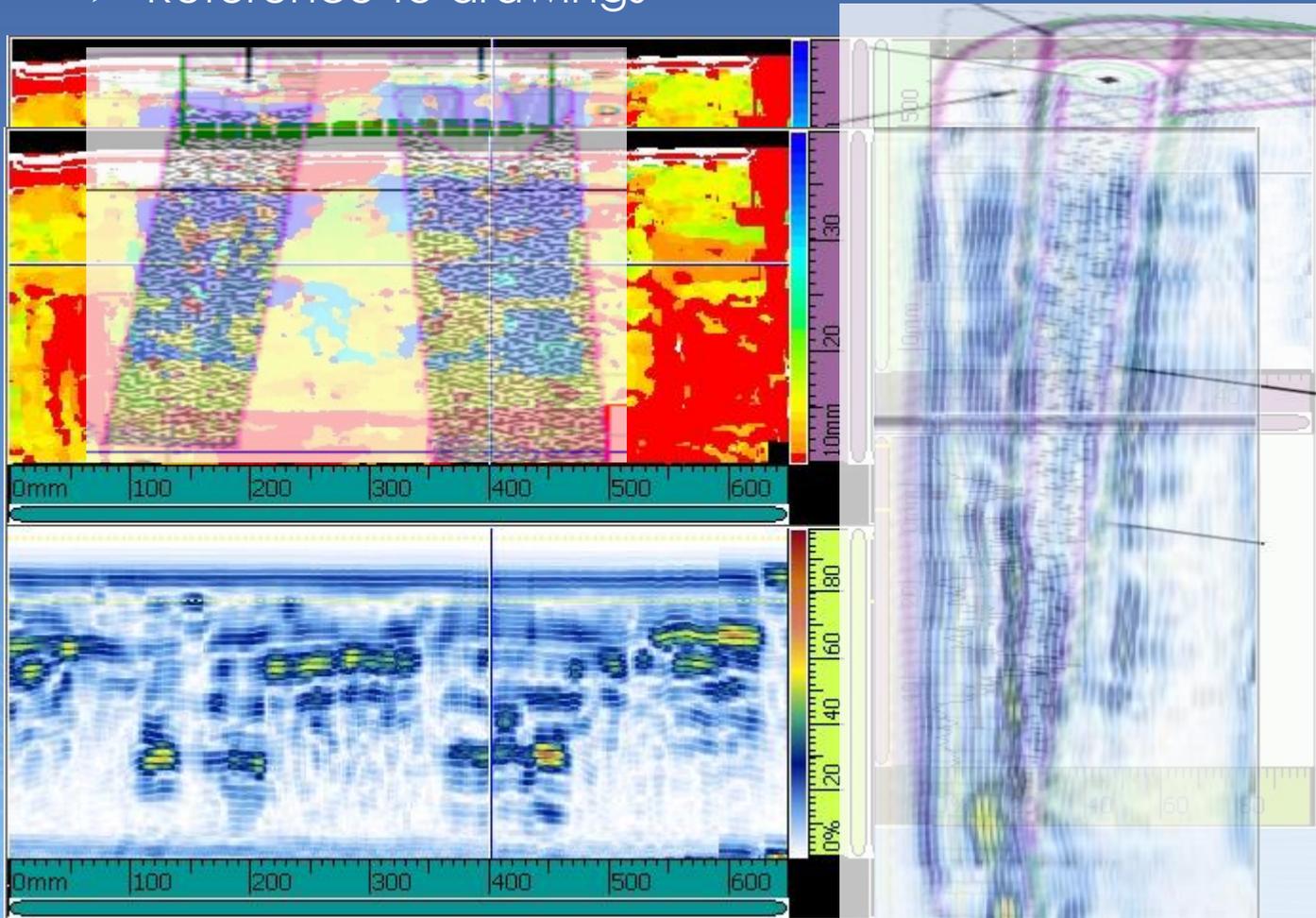


Port side

# Chainplate assessment

Further analysis

- Reference to drawings



# Chainplate assessment

## Further analysis

- Clear explanation of findings

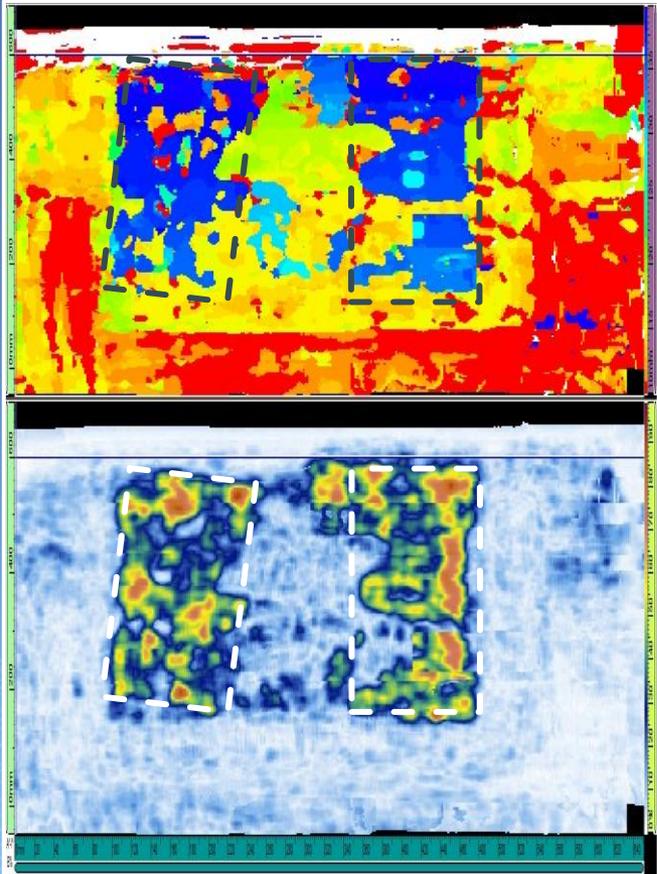
Blue – Full thickness through structure

Light blue – Far side former to QI infill interface

Green – Near side former to QI infill interface

Yellow – Skin tie to Chainplate structure interface

Red - Near surface (skin) indication



Orange – Strong amplitude response from full thickness

Blue – Moderate response from backwall

White – Very poor response from backwall indicating high impact of intermediate signals

# Chainplate assessment

Inspection of complex laminate construction

- Assessment of various aspects of manufacture

Further analysis

- Accurate sizing
- Classification of defect
  - Type/position

Set Baseline

- Communication of findings
- Repeatable inspection
- Accurate monitoring

# Monolithic – complex indication

## 1. Quality assurance inspection

- Complex pattern voids detected
  - C-scan analysis aids understanding and communication
- Baseline report – including C-scans
  - Enable future comparison
- FEA assessment
- OEM warranty

## 2. Monitoring inspection

- Comparison to baseline data
- Repeat C-scan
- Enable detailed analysis
- Decision how to proceed

# Monolithic – complex indication

High modulus, pre-preg, autoclaved, monolithic CFRP

## Scan Area – S33

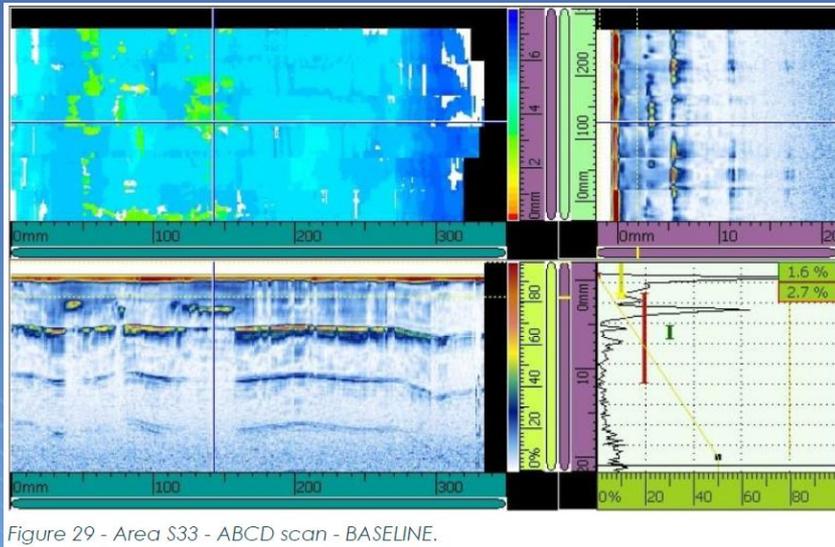


Figure 29 - Area S33 - ABCD scan - BASELINE.

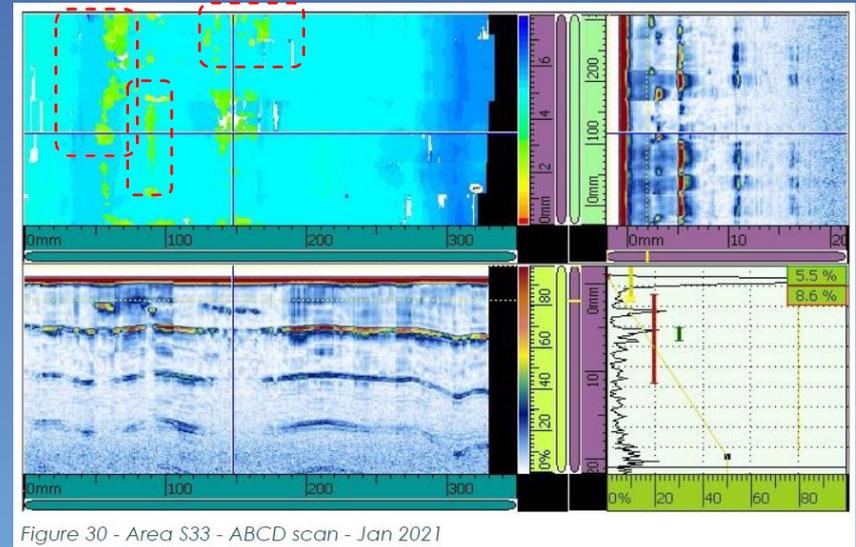


Figure 30 - Area S33 - ABCD scan - Jan 2021

1. Baseline Inspection
  - Complex indications
  - Assess scan images
  - Clustered voids on layer
  - Refer to OEM for analysis

2. Monitoring Inspection
  - Compare images
  - Growth/new indications
  - Refer to OEM for decision

## Scan Area – P35

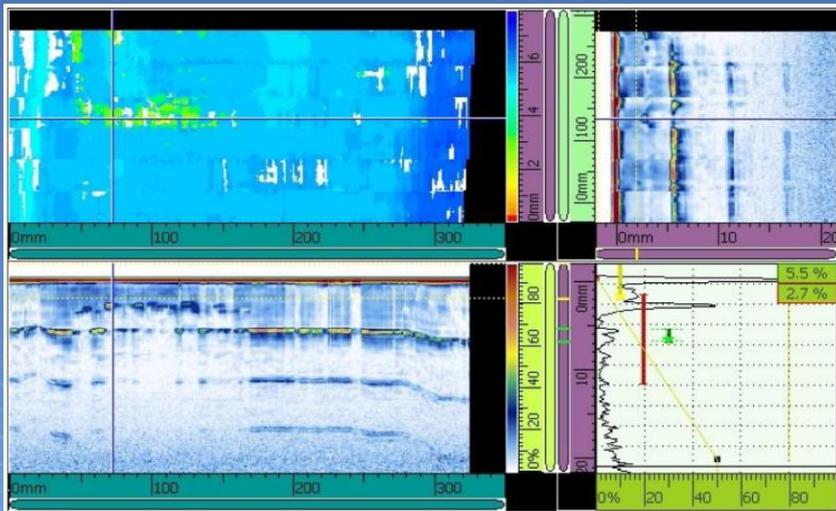


Figure 9 - Area P35 – ABCD scan - BASELINE.

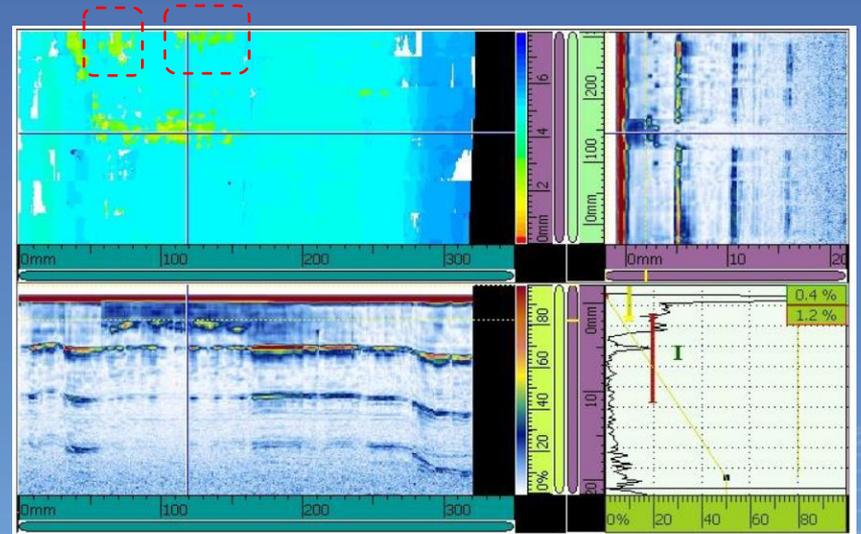


Figure 10 -- Area P35 – ABCD scan - Jan 2021

## Comparison of images

- Some indications propagating
- Some indications stable
- Detailed information to OEM

# Monolithic – complex indication

Non-destructive ultrasonic scan

- High quality monolithic CFRP
- Assessment of laminate

Further analysis

- Accurate sizing
- Classification of defect
  - Type/position

Set baseline

- Repeatable inspection
- Accurate monitoring

Improved:

- Analysis
- Communication
- Decision making

# Blind-bond assessment

## Investigation of reported issue

- Faulty bonded joint – poor performance
- Assessment of part
- Sizing of successful bond
- Communication of issue

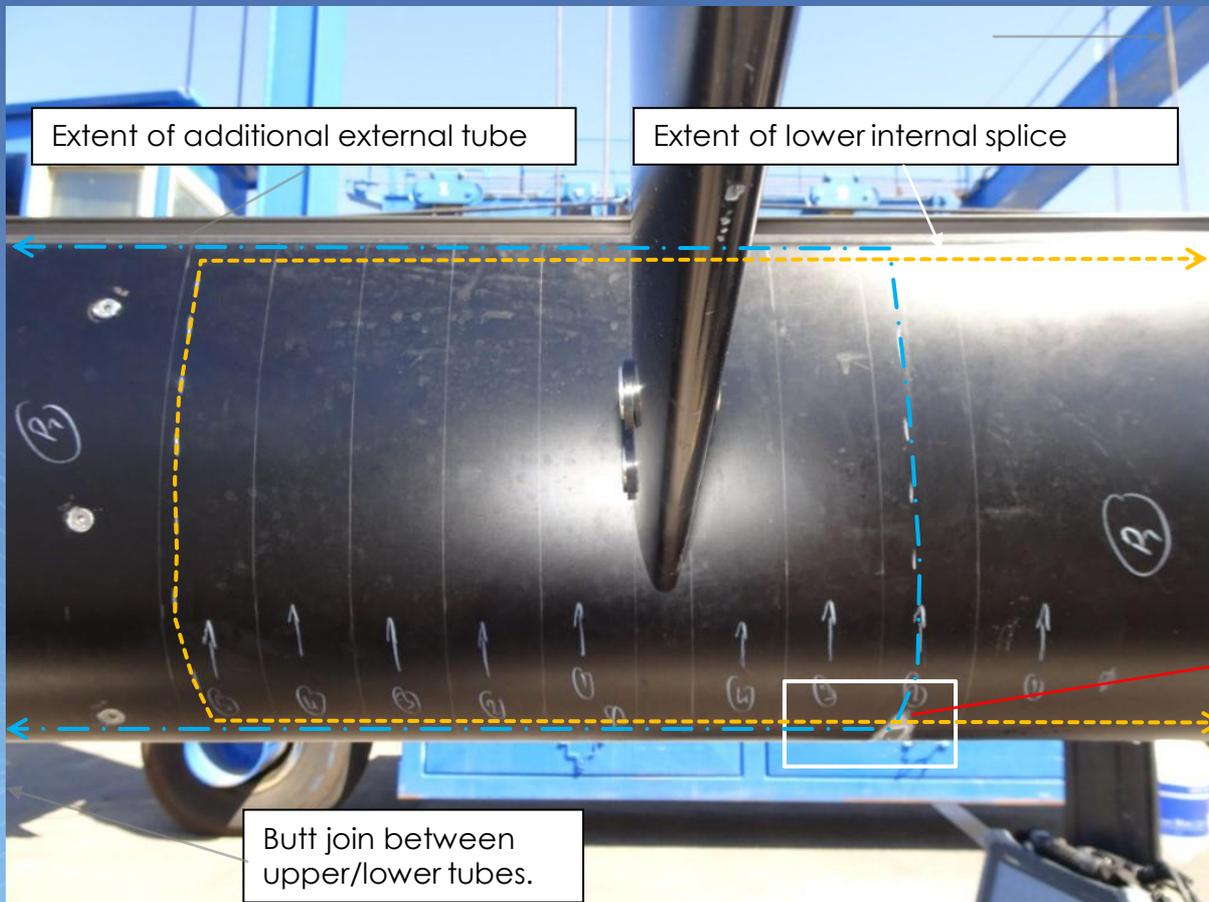
## Comparison to equivalent

- Assessment of findings
- Communication of findings
  
- Baseline report
  - Enable future comparison

# Blind-bond assessment

High quality monolithic CFRP tube

- Blind-bonded sleeve joint

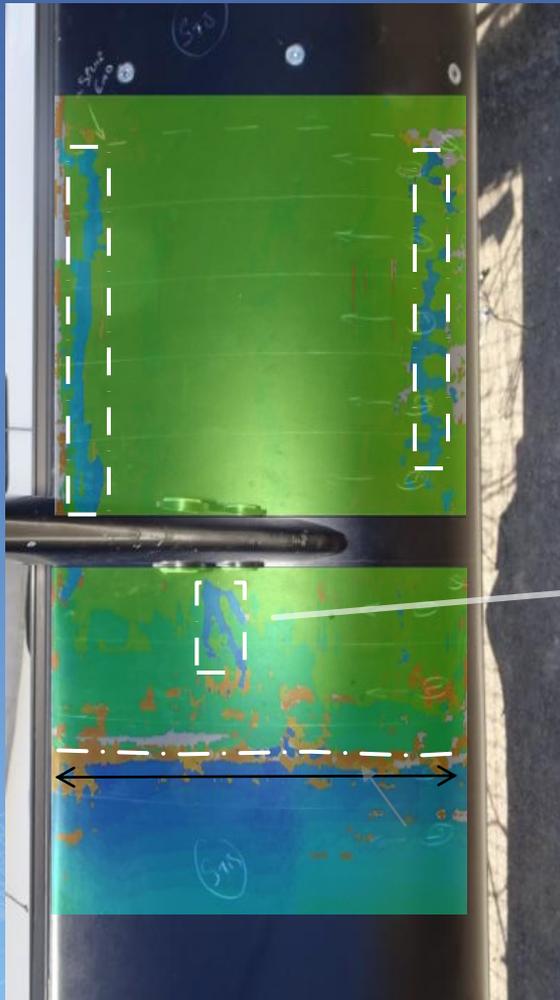


- Lacking stiffness
- Leaking water
- Tricky construction
- One of several similar parts
- No other reported issues

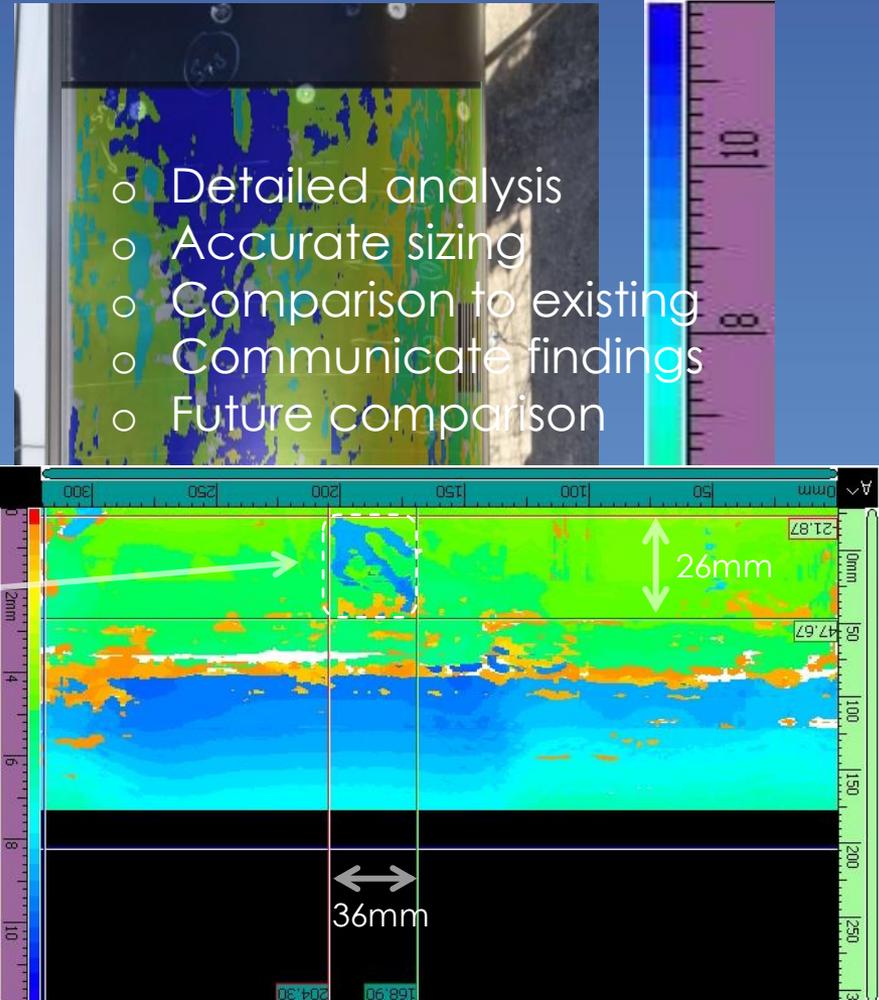


Figure 2 - Surface crack (ground back) where water leaks.

# Blind-bond assessment



Mast A – Starboard side



Mast B – starboard side

- Detailed analysis
- Accurate sizing
- Comparison to existing
- Communicate findings
- Future comparison

# Blind-bond assessment

1. Investigation of reported issue
  - C-scan to illustrate findings
    - Detailed analysis
    - Improved communication
  - Baseline report
    - Enable future comparison
  
2. Further assessment
  - Comparison to equivalent
  - Repeat inspection on similar part
  - Comparison to baseline data
  - Assessment of findings
  - Communication of findings

# Decision making process

- Inspect
- Detect
- Assess
- Review
  
- Action
  - Repair
  - Into service
  
- Inspect
- Detect
- Assess
- Review

Extra detail provided by C-scan recording

- Defect classification and sizing
- Accurate analysis
- Complex flaws
- Easier communication of findings

Baseline record

- Repeatable inspection
- Improved monitoring

Better decision making

Range of applications

# INTERNATIONAL NDT

Any questions?

[giles@int-ndt.com](mailto:giles@int-ndt.com) [www.int-ndt.com](http://www.int-ndt.com)  
Giles – 07776 256 339