

News

Reel end, single point inflation, coastal waters lightweight system



Images above shows recovery of Super HI Sprint boom

Building on our patented technology, Super HI Sprint has undergone further development and in response to a customer requirement is now available in a smaller lightweight robust version making it ideally suited to small boats and protected waters (ports, harbours, terminals and coastal waters), ASTM F1523.

With patented technology, Super HI Sprint offers a unique system for reel end single point inflation using just one boat. Deployment of 250m takes less than 10 minutes and can be done with two people. By using just one boat and less personnel than other systems, costs are minimised.

Super HI Sprint has previously been available from 1000 to 1500mm and is now available as 700mm making it ideally suited to coastal waters.

This compact lightweight system, encompassing an aluminium reel requires very little deck space which increases availability of vessels of opportunity. Super HI Sprint saves operators time and money, not only in a spill but in training exercises too. Time is money and with quicker deployment than other boom systems and less people involved, costs and health and safety risks are minimised.

What's not to like?! Take a look at our website or see the system in action on our YouTube channel, <https://youtu.be/wxX8ZzNZ5Mk>.



Reliability - Testing to evidence loading capability of booms

With over 50 years of experience, Vikoma has technical capability which allows us to go a step further than most to fulfil contractual requirements. With a Vikoma product, you can always have confidence that it will meet the technical specification we say it does, but on occasion, a customer needs evidence to support this.

We recently won an order to supply a significant quantity beach sealing (Shoreguardian) booms requiring us to carry out some extra testing to prove the boom can withstand a given load and meet other requirements stated in the specification.

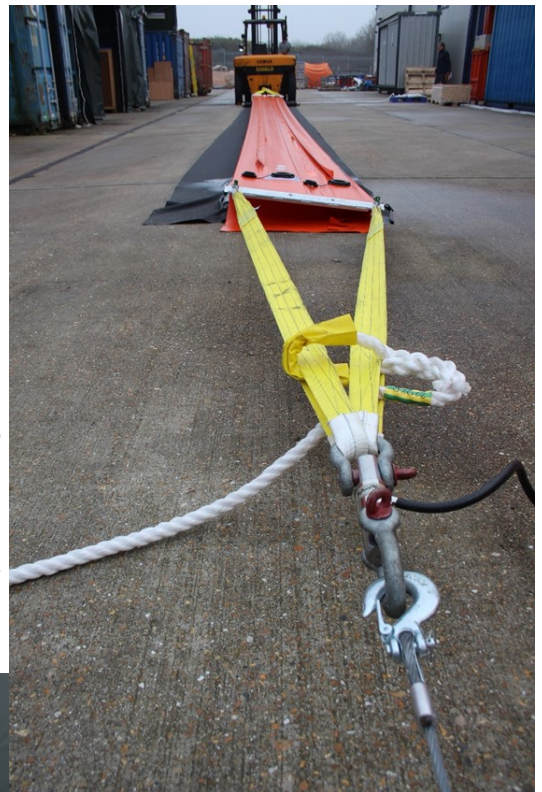
All our boom designs have been tested in the field during the development process and most have many years of use evidencing their reliability. Additionally with all our booms we always carry out in house testing which includes testing dimensions, quantities, aesthetics and inflation tests on air buoyancy booms. In fact with air buoyancy booms we test to 3x working pressure for added confidence.

For this new contract we had to carry out a series of additional tests to prove the design of our Shoreguardian boom met a number of contractual specifications.

The big part of the testing was to pull a full size boom to 4500KG (4 ½ tonnes) and show there was no damage to either the fabric or boom hardware (valves and connectors). This loading is a much greater loading than we would expect to see in the field when the boom is in operation.

Shoreguardian passed with flying colours.

With any purchase of oil spill equipment, it is really important to know that the equipment will perform as required in the event of a spill. Like a fire extinguisher, reliability is key - the equipment must work reliability every time. Time lost containing a spill can be expensive and have serious impact on the environment. Vikoma equipment is reliable and a favourite for responders.



Photos show booms connected to a load cell evidencing loading requirements in accordance with contractual requirements

Investing in our business new RF Welders for boom manufacture

To keep up with customer demand and expand our boom manufacture, a new RF Welder has recently been invested in for manufacture of our Polyurethane booms. With our ability to make high and low volumes and customised boom to meet our customer requirements, the new welder compliments the existing selection of welders. Another machine is on order too and will be with us soon.



Another Gold Award Our commitment to improving environmental impact

Vikoma are delighted to have been awarded another Gold Award in the National Union of Student run Green Impact Scheme for 2020/21. Despite the challenges of Covid, we have continued to demonstrate our commitment to improving the environmental impacts of what we do as a business. Covid helped prompt the journey into virtual sales and project meetings as well as factory acceptance tests and a whole range of remote training. There were other initiatives too including a solar panel driven water circulation system for our test tank.



NUS Green Impact

GOLD AWARD

Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK

The NUS scheme offers a good platform for a business to embrace change to really benefit the environment. It also provides students with valuable insights into and work experience with business, so a win for everyone.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!...Oil booms now protect skaters in roller rink.

An interesting and inventive use has been found for recycling end of life oil containment boom at a local laser tag and roller skating club where the neoprene is being used to cover some of the walls and surfaces to provide protection to users. We're always happy to support our local community where we can and find ways to reuse products to benefit them.....who said recycling can't be fun??!!



Health & Safety always a priority

Health & Safety is a priority for Vikoma and all team members have a responsibility to themselves and others. Our Managing Director, Operations Director and Health & Safety Manager regularly walk the factory to ensure all is safe and well and to seek improvements. We are very proud of our track history and incredibly low level of incidents.



Investing in our technical expertise

A key to the success of Vikoma is a continued focus on improvement and technical compliance. With the increasing complexity of some of our work, we have invested in our technical resource as follows:

Neil Plater... New role of Technical Director



Neil has been with Vikoma for over 20 years. With his extensive knowledge of our products and spill technology combined with technical expertise, Neil is now working closely with the sales team and customers on projects in a new role as Technical Director. As our technical expert Neil also leads product development and legislative technical compliance. This upfront investment gives customers confidence that Vikoma products always meet expectations and the specification in the contract.

Peter Badham ... our new Engineering Manager

We are pleased to welcome Peter Badham who has joined us a few months ago in a new role as Engineering Manager. Pete has years of experienced in management and engineering and is already settled in and having a positive impact on the business. In this new role, Pete is managing the engineering team and working very closely with production and project management for on time delivery of products and documentation.



Message from the Managing Director, Karen Lucas

Another busy period for us with the factory kept busy throughout while ensuring our team safe during the Covid situation with continual reviews of health and safety. Continued travel restrictions have given us opportunity to explore better and closer ways of working remotely including provision of remote training, meetings and factory acceptance tests. We have taken time to invest in our business and are now more resilient than ever. We've invested in technical resource, together with exciting new developments of Super HI Sprint and an extended industrial range plus some new machinery for the factory too. This has kept us all on our toes! I look forward to sharing more with you in the next edition.

