

Setting the Global Standard in Valve Design, Development & Support for Submarine Escape

Hale Hamilton (Valves) Limited first developed the H.I.S Pressure Controller (H.I.S) and Stole Charging Valve (SCV) over 40 years ago and today the company remains the only supplier of this critical equipment.

Over the last five decades, the company has supplied both H.I.S (SA154 & SA656) and SCV (SA174) equipment to all Commonwealth, European and NATO Navies operating submarines where the requirement to escape from deep submergence exists. This track record is unsurpassed.

In the 1980's, working closely with the UK Ministry of Defence, a dedicated H.I.S Test Facility was established at Hale Hamilton; here every valve is fully tested in as close to submarine escape conditions as can be simulated ashore in a production environment. This unique facility is routinely used to recertify both H.I.S and SCV equipment for Navies world-wide; it has also been and continues to be used today in the development of the valves and the RFD Beaufort SEIE Mk8 & Mk10 Escape Suits.



H.I.S. Test Facility



H.I.S. Controller, Stole Charging Valve & Test Set

Improvements to the Hale Hamilton H.I.S and SCV made in the 1990's, to fulfil the requirements of the US Navy, provide the following benefits:

- 3 year in-service period between recalibration, if the recommended routine operational maintenance is performed; this compares to a one year period for the original valve designs.
- Pressurisation control & profile matched to the available air supply and to the new RFD Beaufort SEIE Mk10 Suit design.

In 2005, Hale Hamilton (Valves) Limited has supplied some 300 sets of H.I.S equipment to the US NAVSEA.

The new SMART H.I.S Pressure Controller is the latest development in submarine escape equipment from Hale Hamilton (Valves) Limited and in 2005 is being supplied to the UK MOD/ RN. Utilising the enhanced US SCV, the new SMART H.I.S Pressure Controller offers the user further benefits, which include:

- Optimised air usage
- Improved performance during the flood and pressurisation cycle, which means the submariner's hood is adequately inflated and that the water level within the hood is well regulated (the SMART H.I.S Controller has been developed and tested together with the latest RFD Beaufort SEIE Mk10)
- Potential to support escape from greater depths, subject to operational and medical constraints
- Increased in-service period, providing the recommended routine operational maintenance is performed; recalibration after three years, means cost of ownership (COO) through-life is reduced



SMART H.I.S. Pressure Controller (3D Solid Model)

Today, Hale Hamilton (Valves) Limited continue to work closely with the global submarine escape community and in working with leading submarine builders and together with RFD Beaufort Limited, the company is able to offer technical advice, consultancy, design, development, equipment supply and support into the future.

For more information contact Bill Dormer at:

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