



US006085683A

10670

United States Patent [19]

[11] Patent Number: **6,085,683**

French et al.

[45] Date of Patent: **Jul. 11, 2000**

[54] UNDERWATER DEPOLYABLE TESTING PLATFORM

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

61-24690 2/1986 Japan 114/259

[75] Inventors: **Daniel W. French**, Portsmouth; **John J. Vaillancourt**, Tiverton; **Robert N. Carpenter**, Portsmouth; **Richard R. Shell**, Riverside, all of R.I.

Primary Examiner—Sherman Basinger
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Michael J. McGowan; James M. Kasischke; Prithvi C. Lall

[73] Assignee: **The United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Navy**, Washington, D.C.

[57] ABSTRACT

An underwater testing platform assembly includes first and second rails for disposition in part in a body of water, each of the rails having facility for connection to a surface vessel. The rails are disposed vertically, and parallel to each other. A cage comprising a network of struts is mounted on the rails. A skid is mounted on, and is movable in, the cage, and can receive and retain an apparatus to be tested. First and second travelers are fixed to the cage and are movably mounted, respectively, on the rails, such that the cage is vertically movable on the rails. Instrumentation is mounted on the cage. A transmission line is connected at a first end to the instrumentation and extends to the surface vessel. A receiver on the surface vessel has a second end of the transmission line connected thereto and receives data signals from the instrumentation.

[21] Appl. No.: **09/144,892**

[22] Filed: **Sep. 1, 1998**

[51] Int. Cl.⁷ **B63B 35/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. **114/258; 114/259; 114/382**

[58] Field of Search **114/343, 382, 114/258, 259; 367/173**

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

- 2,837,727 6/1958 Mayes 367/173
- 3,565,217 2/1971 St. Louis 114/258
- 3,740,706 6/1973 Joseph 367/173

18 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

