
Bellingham Announces Breakthrough in Dock Technology

Superior Long Life & Hi Strength Composite Tie Rods

Bellingham Marine has announced the launch of a revolutionary new tie rod system which supersedes current galvanised steel and stainless steel tie rods. The benefit is greater strength, longer life and cost benefits.



Tie rods or thru rods are used on floating marine systems with a waler system. The waler timbers are installed along the upper sides of a concrete floating pod and provide the mechanical means to link individual pods together while at the same time providing a protective strip for boats.

The timber walers are locked in position with a tie rod which extends from one side of the floating concrete pod to the other. Traditionally these tie rods have been manufactured from galvanised or stainless steel.



The new and innovative Bellingham Marine tie rods are manufactured from a specially formulated Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) through a process known as Pultrusion.

The Bellingham FRP rods can be manufactured to custom lengths with the ends machined with a thread to accept purpose designed FRP nuts. Two FRP nuts are available, specifically designed for timber or steel walers application.

Bellingham Marine has developed the FRP tie rods in conjunction with Pultron Composites in New Zealand. Marina systems utilising this technology have been installed and tested in New Zealand, Australia and Dubai over the past five years with stunning results.

“Galvanised and stainless thru rods and nuts are a thing of the past,” said John Spragg, Bellingham’s General Manager.

“Bellingham Marine has wholly committed to the FRP tie rod technology and is now specifying the extruded FRP rods and non-ferrous nuts as the standard thru rod material on Bellingham worldwide.”

The new FRP tie rods are being used on new installations as well as retro fitted to existing systems. Hope Harbour Marina on the Gold Coast was built over 27 years ago and has undergone refurbishment. Two complete arms were re-bracketed and re-timbered with the Bellingham Marine FRP tie rods and nuts used exclusively and successfully.

Marina Manager Mike Harvey was amazed at how easily the FRP rods were installed and how the refurbished arms look brand new.

With the Bellingham Marine FRP rods rust and corrosion are a thing of the past. The new Bellingham Marine FRP system delivers a product which is a quarter the weight of stainless steel, greater shear strength and less maintenance. The high strength FRP rods have twice the tensile strength of stainless steel and excellent flexural fatigue resistance.

The cost is comparable to galvanised steel and cheaper than stainless steel.

Buoyed by the success of the FRP thru rod technology, Bellingham Marine is currently testing a new composite material which will replace timber walers on new and existing marinas. When

combined with the new FRP thru rods, the life of Bellingham's marina systems will be extended considerably.

Bellingham Marine has built its reputation and success on innovation and leadership, not imitation. The company has a proven track record of over 55 years of designing, building and continually improving its marina system.

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The Pultrusion Process

Pultrusion is a continuous process for manufacturing composite structural profiles.

Reinforcing filaments are impregnated with resin immediately before being drawn through a heated die, The resin cures and bonds the filaments together while progressing through the heated die, which determines the shape of the profile. After cutting to length by a flying cut-off saw, the product is ready for use.

Bellingham Marine is well known worldwide for developing the concrete floating marina system and the first floating golf green. Bellingham Marine leads the world in wave attenuation and have built more buildings and structures on Bellingham Marine structures than any other marina manufacturer.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

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