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Evaluation of CruzPro ATU120BT Active Sonar Transducer for Manned Submersibles							
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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document covers the testing of the CruzPro ATU120BT active sonar transducer conducted on April 20th 2021 in Devine, Tx. The objective of the test was to determine if the off-the-shelf (OTS) transducer could continue to transmit NMEA 0183 sentences at a depth of 1,000 fsw. The test was conducted in a test chamber capable of achieving a pressure of 2,500 psig or 5,600 fsw. Chamber pressure and temperature were logged on a PLC. The simulated depth in the chamber was increase in 100 ft increments until the1,000 fsw target depth was achieved. At each of these depth increments, the transponder was held at this pressure for approximately 5 minutes. When the chamber pressure reached the targeted 1,000 fsw, it was held at this pressure for one hour. As the transponder successfully past this test by continuing to transmit NMEA 0183 sentences, a decision was made to increase the depth to 1,200 fsw (533.3 psig). This equivalent hydrostatic pressure was maintained for an additional The transponder continued to operate throughout the extended test. On hour. disassembly of the test chamber and removal of the transponder, no obvious damage had occurred to the transponder other than minor separation that occurred between the supply cable and the epoxy potting compound. This was due to the softness of the insulation around the cable. Even though this separation occurred, it did not affect the ability of the transponder to transmit data.

A FEA analysis of the transponder was conducted prior to the test to understand the stress on the transponder caused by hydrostatic pressure as the original design basis for the transponder is surface operations. A key finding of the FEA analysis is that the yield stress was reached in the epoxy filled hole in the 5 mm cork pad that is potted above the piezoelectric element when the device is subjected to a depth of 2,000 fsw. Therefore, the maximum submergence depth for the OTS unit is somewhere between 1,200 and 2,000 fsw. The analysis indicates this maximum depth could be extended if the 4 mm diameter hole in the 5 mm cork pad was increased to 7 mm.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, a pool test was conducted to determine if the sounder output of depth and temperature were still accurate after the pressure test. While admittedly, the test was shallow, the sounder results agreed with measured valves.

# 2. INTRODUCTION

The goal of this project was to document the performance of the CruzPro model ATU120BT active sonar transducer shown in Figure 1. Specifically, the ability of the unit to continue to transmit NMEA 0183 sentences at a target depth of 1,000 fsw was to be determined. If the unit passed this test, then a stretch goal of 1,200 fsw was planned. Prior to the test a FEA analysis was conducted to determine the stress imposed on the transducer due to the hydrostatic pressure.

To conduct the experiment, a test chamber was utilized shown in Figures 2 and 3. A positive displacement, triplex plunger pump was used to generate the pressure for the test with salt water as the media. The adjustable pressure relief valve for the pump was set at 500 psig which sets the maximum pressure the chamber achieved.



Figure 1 CruzPro ATU120BT Active Sonar Transducer



Figure 2 Test Chamber with transducer installed



Figure 3 - Transducer orientation during test

# 3.1 Max Pressure Test

- 1) The maximum recorded pressure was 539 psig. This pressure corrosponds to 1,213 fsw assuming a 64 lbm/ft<sup>3</sup> salt water density.
- 2) The ATU120BT continued to operate for 1 hour at 1,000 fsw and an additonal hour at 1,200 fsw.
- 3) Based on this test, the recommended maximum operating depth is 1,200 fsw without any changes to the OTS transducer. The unit may be able to operate at a deeper depth with modifications to how the cable is mated to the transducer and further testing.

# 3.2 FEA Results & Conclusions

- The inclusion of the 4 mm diameter cutout in the 5 mm cork pad reduces the maximum displacement of the sea side face by 42% dropping it from 0.0179 in (0.45m) to 0.0103 in (0.26mm). This epoxy filled cutout is acting as a column transferring the load from the seaside face of the transponder to the upper epoxy section.
- 2) With the addition of the 4 mm column, the maximum Von Mises stress goes above the yield stress of the epoxy. The location of the maximum stress is the 4 mm column with the stress being in compression. Exceeding the yield stress at this point indicates this column will plastically deform to some extent to relieve the stress on the first excursion to 2,000 fsw. In other words, it will not spring back to the original thickness as it would if the stress had been below the yield valve of the epoxy. The column is still reducing the deflection of the seaside face. As such, as long as the epoxy does not separate from the body of the housing, the transducer should be OK even with a slight deformation of the 4 mm cutout.
- 3) Due to the hydrostatic pressure and the lack of structural support of the housing wall at the location of the 5mm pad, the housing displaces radially outward at the location of the 5 mm pad but not as much as when the 4 mm column was not in place.
- 4) Structurally, the transponder could be made stronger by increasing the diameter of the 4 mm diameter cutout to the same inside diameter of the piezoelectric element, around 7 mm. This would enable an epoxy column to fill this space and prevent most of this compression. While this would help structurally, it might adversely affect the performance of the piezoelectric element. Note this change in not necessary for the normal topside deployment of these transponders because of the low ambient water pressure.
- 5) This preliminary FEA was done with the PCB removed. Inclusion of the potted PCB will weaken the epoxy pad above the 5 mm disk because of added void space. A future FEA could be done by detailing the PCB and potting in the model.

# 4. DISCUSSION

# 4.1 Description of Transducer

The CruzPro DSP (Digital Signal Processing) active transducers outputs NMEA 0183 serial data of depth and water temperature. The Active Transducer does not require a separate black box driver device, it has all the transducer driving electronics included in a single compact transducer case.

The ATU120BT transmits digital depth and temperature in NMEA 0183 \$SDDPT, \$SDDBT and \$SDMTW sentence format.

According to the manufacturer the DSP technology used by the CruzPro active transducers provide for reliable depth tracking to over 300M (990 fsw). The active transducers operate at 120khz to prevent interference with other nearby depth sounders and fish finders.

To wire the device, connect 12V to unit and connect the NMEA 0183 data wire to any NMEA compatible instrument, computer or NMEA data repeater. See Appendix D for a drawing that shows how the ATU120BT is wired. The ASCII NMEA 0183 information can be used to log depth and water temperature.

CruzPro ATU120BT Specifications:

- Operating Voltage: 9.5 16.0 VDC.
- Current Drain: 0.035 amps nominal.
- Output power: 320 watts RMS.
- Equivalent processed power: DSP power of 6400 watts.
- Sounding Depth: 300M (990 fsw).
- Water Temperature: 32 deg F (0 deg C) to 90 deg F (32 deg C)
- Data Output: NMEA 0183 v1.x serial Signal voltage 0 to +5v.

# 4.2 Test Chamber Setup

As seen in Figure 2, to setup the pressure test of the ABU120BT transducer, a 3,000 psig pressure transmitter was calibrated and wired into the Automation Direct 205 series PLC analog input card. A bourdon pressure gauge was also installed as a backup. The PLC hardware as well as the I/O for the test is shown in Appendix A. A positive displacement pump in the pressure washer was used to develop the pressure. An RTD was installed in the test chamber to measure the temperature. The ABU120BT was wired to a DB-9 connector that was plugged into the serial port of a laptop. Tera Term, an open-source, free, software implemented, terminal emulator (communications) program, was used to display the NMEA 0183 output sentences. Note that the RX wire normally included on RS-232 serial devices is not included on the ABU120BT. As such, there is no mechanism for uploading firmware changes to the ABU120BT transducer. The cold-water supply to the test-stand supplied pressure at approximately 76 psig. This corresponds to 171 fsw which is the minimum depth test conducted. For higher pressures, a bypass vernier valve

was used. By closing off more and more of the bypass flowrate, the pressure in the chamber is increased. For the 1,000 fsw test (444 psig), the external pressure relief valve was set to 500 psig.

A 64 lb<sub>m</sub>/ft<sup>3</sup> brine solution was made by adding 1.07 lb<sub>m</sub> of salt to 5 gals of fresh water. The chamber was manually filled with this brine. The intent of the brine was to make an electrolyte so that any brine that penetrated the ABU120BT to the electronics would short out the electronics.



Figure 4 - Setups for Pressure Test

# 4.3 Depth Test Results

The target test pressures are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Test Depths and Hydrostatic Pressures				
Depth (fsw)	Pressure*(psig)			
171	76.0			
300	133.3			
400	177.8			
500	222.2			
600	266.7			
700	311.1			
800	355.6			
900	400.0			
1,000	444.4			
1,200	533.3			

At each of these test points, the pressure was held steady for approximately 5 minutes until the target depth of 1,000 fsw was reached. The pressure was held steady at this depth approximately 1 hour. The intention of the test was to determine if the housing could withstand the pressure without cracking or flooding. As such the pass/fail criteria for the test was the ABU120BT's ability to transmit data.

The test was done on April 30th at starting at 10:37 am. Figure 5 shows the depth and temperature over the test period.



Figure 5 - Plot of depth (fsw) and chamber temperature



Figure 6 - Plot of depth (fsw) and chamber pressure (psig)

The pressures and temperatures shown in Figures 5 and 6 are from test chamber instrumentation not from the ABU120BT.

Figure 7 plots the ABU120BT transmitted data converted to imperial units. As shown from the data, the unit continued to output data though out the test. As the transponder was in a steel test chamber with only a small distance from the transducer head to the chamber wall, any sounder data is meaningless. If you compare the temperature from the ABU120BT to that of the RTD on the test chamber, you see some discrepancy.

Table 2 Test Chamber vs. ABU120BT Temperatures (F)						
	Test Chamber (F) ABU120BT (F)					
Start 68		73				
End 78 75						

A hypothesis for the discrepancy has to do with location of the sensors and the operation of the test chamber. Makeup water to the test chamber comes into

the bottom of the chamber near the mid point. The RTD is just above this in a thread-o-let pipe fitting in the wall of the chamber. There was a small amount of water being emitted from the PRV so over the three hours test makeup water was added to replace this lost volume (3 quarts) by the pump. The pump was connected to the supply hose bibb by a long water hose. As the day went on the ambient temperature increased significantly (+20 °F) which in turned heated up the water hose. This hot water was being added slowly to the chamber and possibly heating up the water near the RTD. The ABU120BT located near the blind flange at the back of the cell was in stagnant water well away from this warmer water.



Figure 7 - Plot of sounding (fsw) and temperature (F)

COM1 - Tera Term VT	
File Edit Setup Control Window Help	Annual sector of the sector of t
\$SDDBT,029.8,f,009.1,M,004.9,F*00 \$SDMTW,019.0,C*3C \$SDDPT,009.0,*70 \$SDDBT,029.5,f,009.0,M,004.9,F*0C \$SDMTW,019.0,C*3C \$SDDPT,009.2,*72 \$SDDBT,030.1,f,009.2,M,005.0,F*0A \$SDMTW,019.0,C*3C \$SDDBT,009.3,*73 \$SDDBT.030.5,f.009.3,M,005.0,F*0F	

Figure 8 - NMEA 0183 sentences being outputted from ATU120BT

Figure 9 shows the before and after images of the ATU120BT. After inspection a separation was observed between the epoxy potting and the transducer cable where it enters the unit. It is probable that the pressure caused the soft insulation around the cable to compress away from the epoxy potting material. No other cracks are separation was observed and this separation did not lead to the unit failing. Preventing this possible water egress location is an area that for future development particularly if deeper utilization of the device is expected.



Figure 9 - Before and after images of ATU120BT



Figure 10 - After image of ATU120BT face

#### 5.1 Overview

On April 15-16, 2021, an FEA analysis was conducted of the CruzPro ATU120BT to understand the stress associated with taking the transponder to a depth of 2,000 fsw. This corresponds to a hydrostatic pressure of approximately 889 psig.

See Figure 11 for picture of an ATU120BT that has been cut along the long axis of transponder with a table saw. Note the orange areas in the figure are cork.



Figure 11 - Cross sections of CruzPro ATU120BT



Figure 12 - ATU120BT depth sounder. Before potting electronics



Figure 13 - ATU120BT depth sounder. PCB Before potting

A <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> section view of the model is shown in Figure 14. The geometry used in the analysis is given inf Figure 14. As a worst-case scenario, the analysis was done with the assumption that the cork parts and the piezoelectric element and were removed. These would be parts 4, 5 and 6 in Figure 15. Cork is roughly 15% solid and the rest is air. Its density is typically about 15% that of water. Structurally it does not provide significant support.

The loading case was 889 psig distributed on the exterior of the transponder. The model was fixed at the inside face of the 3" mounting flange.



Figure 14 - <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> section view of the assembly (electronics omitted)



	PARTS LIST					
ITEM	QTY	TY PART NUMBER DESCRIPTION				
1	1	ABT120BT-01	Radarsonics 408 Plastic Housing			
3	1	ABT120BT-03	Piezoelectric element			
4	1	ABT120BT-04	CruzPRo120BT-Cork on top of element			
5	1	ABT120BT-05	CruzPro ABT120BT - Cork shell around element			
6	1	ABT120BT-06	CruzPro ATU120BT - Thick cork pad 5mm pad			
8	1	ABT120BT-02A	West systems 105 Epoxy Resin, below the 5mm cork			
9	1	ABT120BT-02B	WEst systems 105 Epoxy Resin, abovethe 5mm cork			

Figure 15 - Geometry of CruzPro ATU120BT use for FEA analysis

# 5.2 Discussion of Results

For the modeling study, this left two 1-atm void volumes, the first is the space occupied by the piezoelectric element and the second the 5 mm thick disk where the upper cork pad would occupy.



Figure 16 - Von Mises stress of the Radarsonic 408 housing

The primary effect on the housing was the bulging out (radial displacement) of the wall in an accordion fashion due to compression of space occupied by the 5 mm cork pad.



Figure 17 - FS for the Radarsonics 408 housing

For Nylon 6/6, the yield stress is 12,000 psi giving a minimum factor of safety (FS) of 2.26. Note that all the figures showing deflection are exaggerated to better show displacement.



Figure 18 – Displacement Radarsonics 408 housing

Removing the 408 housing and showing just the epoxy resin above and below the 5mm pad enables us to look at the effect of the 889 psig hydrostatic pressure on this part of the transponder. Figure 19 shows the Von Mises stresses in the epoxy.



Figure 19 - Von Mises stresses in the epoxy around the 5mm cork pad

With the addition of the 4 mm diameter column through the 5 mm thick cork section, the displacement of the seaside face has been reduced by 42% but the column is under considerable stress to point that it has exceeded the yield stress. The maximum Von Mises stress in this column is 16.07 ksi. The seaside face of the transponder von Mises stress decreased from 8.134 ksi to 4.75 ksi due to the column. Figure 21 shows a close up of the stress in the 4 mm diameter column. Factor of safety (FS) are shown in Figure 22. Note that the lowest FS for the assembly is the 4 mm diameter column in the 5 mm thick cork pad. Figure 23 shows the displacement in the Y-axis (log axis of transponder). The maximum displacement of the sea side face of the transponder is 0.0103 in (26mm).



Figure 20 - With and without epoxy column of Von Mises stresses



Figure 21 - Von Mises stresses in the epoxy in the 5mm cork pad hole



Figure 22 - FS in the epoxy above and below the 5mm cork pad



Figure 23 - Displacement in the epoxy above and below the 5mm cork pad

Comparing with and without the 4 mm diameter epoxy column, as seen in Figure 24, with the column, the maximum displacement of the seaside face is reduced from 0.0179 in (0.45mm) to 0.0103 in (26mm).



Figure 24 - Comparing displacement with and without the 4 mm epoxy column

# 5.3 Results Summary

Table 3 Without 4 mm dia. cutout in 5 mm pad						
Name	Minimum	Maximum				
Von Mises Stress	0.00347892 ksi	8.12828 ksi				
Displacement	0 in	0.0179124 in				
Safety Factor	1.02065 ul	15 ul				
X Displacement	-0.00329623 in	0.00330254 in				
Y Displacement	-0.00566645 in	0.0179124 in				
Z Displacement	-0.00329893 in	0.00329794 in				
Equivalent Strain	0.0000377831 ul	0.0157428 ul				

Table 4 With 4 mm dia. cutout in 5 mm pad					
Name Minimum Maximum					
Von Mises Stress	0.00394822 ksi	16.0574 ksi			
Displacement	0 in	0.0102964 in			
Safety Factor	0.516658 ul	15 ul			
X Displacement	-0.00229458 in	0.00229343 in			
Y Displacement	-0.00469419 in	0.0102945 in			
Z Displacement -0.0022974 in 0.00229831 ii					
Equivalent Strain 0.000185888 ul 0.0309078 ul					

# POOL TEST

6.

On 5/4/21, a pool test was conducted in which the sounder was suspended over the deep end of a swimming pool as shown in Figure 25.



Figure 25 - Setup for Pool Test



Figure 26 - Pool Test - Depth Comparison

Depth sounding from the ATU120BT are plotted against a tape measured depth in Figure 26 and also presented in Table 5. The first three minutes after the data logging began was getting in position in which the sounder was not in final position.

Table 5 Pool Test – Depth Results					
Name Measured ATU120BT					
Depth (ft) 5.2 5.34					

Likewise, the temperature comparison is shown in Figure 27. The measured values were from an inexpensive floating pool thermometer.



Figure 27- Pool Test - Temperature Comparison

The conclusion from the pool test was that based on this shallow test, the sounder seems to be behaving correctly.

# 7. FUTURE WORK

This work has confirmed the sounder will continue to output NMEA sentences when exposed to pressures associated with 1,200 fsw. What it has not been established is if the sounder readings are affected by pressure. Future work might include building a vertical test chamber, say 10 ft tall and with 6 inch schedule 40 pipe that has a blind flange on the bottom and has the sounder mounted at the top beneath a removable blind flange. The test chamber would be configured similar to that used in the current study but tall enough to enable the sounder to ping signals off the bottom. In this way the correct depth is known and the test would be to see if the results from the sounder were impacted by pressure. For this test the sounder NMEA output wires would be wired into the PLC serial port so that the test chamber data as well as the sounder data could be logged simultaneously. It is unknown if the steel pipe test chamber would cause any distortion of the sounding.

One possible solution for the separation issue around the cable would be to use RTV108 silicone sealant around the area the cable protrudes from the back of the sounder after roughing up the cable jacket as well as the top of the ATU120BT with a fine grit sand paper. IPA would be used to clean the cable and the top of the sounder prior to applying the sealant. This fix could be tested in the vertical test chamber described above.

# Appendix A – PLC I/O and Hardware

Programmable Logic Controller I/O						
						1/26/2021
I/O	Description	Туре	Slot	Address	Status	Alarm Associated
Alarms						
1	High pressure in test chamber, > 3000 psig					
2	2					
3	3					
4	1					
5	5					
6	5					
Inputs	Description	Туре	Slot	Address	Status	Alarm Associated
CH-B1	HP TEST CHAMBER PRESSURE (0-3000 PSIG)	Analog	0	V2000	Installed	Alarm-1, High pressure in test chamber, > 3000 psig
CH-B2	LP TEST CHAMBER PRESSURE (0-5PSIG)	Analog	0	V2001	Installed	
CH-B3	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	0	V2002		
CH-B4	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	0	V2003		
CH-B5	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	0	V2004		
CH-B6	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	0	V2005		
CH-B7	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	0	V2006		
CH-B8	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	0	V2007		
CH-B9	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	0	V2020-V2021		
CH-B10	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	0	V2022-V2023		
CH-B11	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	0	V2024-V2025		
CH-B12	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	0	V2026-V2027		
CH-C1	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Digital	1	X40		
CH-C2	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Digital	1	X41		
CH-C3	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Digital	1	X42		
CH-C4	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Digital	1	X43		
CH-C5	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Digital	1	Y40		
CH-C6	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Digital	1	Y41		
CH-C7	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Digital	1	Y42		
CH-C8	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Digital	1	Y43		
CH-D1	TEST CHAMBER TEMPERATURE (F)	Analog	2	V2040	Installed	
CH-D2	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	2	V2044		
CH-D3	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	2	V2042		
CH-D4	CURRENTLY NOT USED	Analog	2	V2046		

PLC Modules								
<u>Slot</u>	Name	Module	Points	Address	Description			
-1	Α	D2-260-1	NA	NA	CPU 30.4K WORDS W/1 RS232 & 1 RS232/422/485 PORT			
0	В	F2-08AD-2	16	X0-X17	8 Channel Analog Input Voltage 12-Bit Res.			
1	С	D2-08CDR	8	X20-X27	Combo 4 PT 24VDC Input and 4 PT Relay Output			
2	D	F2-04RTD	32	X30-X47	4 Channel RTD, 0.1 Deg C Resolution			
D2-04B-1	DL205 BA	SE 4-SLOT RE	Q 110/220V	AC PWR W	//300mA 24VDC AUX P/S			
HMI EA9-T8CL								

Item	Description			
Application	High Pressure Transmitter			
Manufacturer	TE Connectivity Measurement Specialties			
Mfg. Model No.	M5231-000005-03KPG			
Digi-Key Part Number	223-1726-ND			
Description	TRANSDUCER 0.5-4.5VDC 3000PSI			
Pressure Type	Vented Gauge			
Operating Pressure	3000 PSI (20684.27kPa)			
Туре	Analog Voltage			
Output	0.5 V ~ 4.5 V			
Accuracy	±0.25%			
Voltage - Supply	4.75V ~ 5.25V			
Port Size	Male - 1/4" (6.35mm) NPT			
Features	Temperature Compensated			
Termination Style	Cable			
Maximum Pressure	6000PSI (41368.54kPa)			
Operating Temperature	-40°C ~ 125°C			
Package / Case	Cylinder			
Datasheet	M5200 Industrial Pressure Transducer			
	<u>(te.com)</u>			



Item	Description				
Application	Test Chamber Temperature RTD				
Manufacturer	DC Direct				
Mfg. Model No.	314-140 Small Budget RTD Sensor				
Description	100 ohm RTD element, Alpha = $0.00385$ ,				
	Class B				
Temperature Range	-58°F to +390°F (-50°C to +200°C)				
Probe Diameter	1/4"				
Probe Length	1.18" long				
Termination Style	3 wire configurations				
Sheath	316 Stainless Steel				
Extension Leads:	72" long, 24 AWG stranded PFA insulated				
	cores with silicone rubber				
Wire Color Code	3 wire - 2 colored red and 1 colored white				
Datasheet	TC Direct for Temperature Sensing,				
	Measurement and Control				



#### Appendix C – PLC Ladder Logic

5/1/2021 ABU120BT PROJECT 2021

260 ABU120BT

Path: c:\users\public\documents\directsoft6\projects\abu120bt.prj Save Date: 05/01/21 17:38:48 Creation Date: 05/01/21 17:38:47 PLC Type: 260 Class ID: DirectLogic 205 Series

ABU120BT PROJECT TEST CHAMBER





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#### 5/1/2021 ABU120BT PROJECT 2021

260 ABU120BT

A



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# Appendix D – Drawings



