



## Automated Pipe Cleaning Robot for Ultra High Pressure Coating Removal



DERC Salotech partnered with LASSARAT in the design and manufacture of an XXL R-Tube, an automated, remote-controlled pipe-cleaning robot for ultra-high-pressure coating removal. See article on page 26. *Photo courtesy of DERC Salotech and LASSARAT.*

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# DERC Salotech Delivers The XXL R-Tube: A Game-Changer In Coating Removal From Penstock Pipes

**D**ERC Salotech is proud to announce the successful delivery of the XXL R-Tube to LASSARAT, marking a milestone in innovative, sustainable solutions for the waterjetting industry. This advanced pipe-cleaning robot has been designed to tackle some of the most challenging industrial cleaning applications, combining ultra-high-pressure (UHP) waterjetting capabilities with cutting-edge automation and safety features. As DERC's largest R-Tube models to date, it is set to revolutionize the way hazardous coatings are removed, starting with a 2 km penstock pipe coated with lead-based paint without emission.

## A Tailored Solution for a Unique Challenge

The development of the XXL R-Tube was a collaborative effort between DERC Salotech and LASSARAT. Designed for UHP coating removal at pressures up to 3000 bar, this automated, remote-controlled robot delivers efficiency, safety, and environmental compliance. Its integrated vacuum recovery system ensures that hazardous debris, such as lead-based paint particles, is captured and contained, preventing contamination and safeguarding operators.

The XXL R-Tube's debut project is no ordinary task. Cleaning a 2 km penstock pipe requires precision, reliability, and advanced capabilities to meet the high demands of this large-scale operation. While the R-Tube has proven its value in other applications, this larger model demonstrates the scalability and adaptability of the technology.

## Hands-On Training and Deployment

In preparation for the XXL R-Tube's first cleaning job, a final hands-on training session was conducted at LASSARAT's Technical and Innovation Centre in Le Havre, France. During the session, operators gained valuable experience with the equipment, ensuring they are fully prepared for safe and efficient operation. This spring, the unit, along with all auxiliary equipment, was moved from the training facility to the job site, ready for action.

## Expanding the Boundaries of Pipe Cleaning

The XXL R-Tube is the latest addition to DERC Salotech's R-Tube product range, which offers solutions for cleaning the exterior of pipes across a wide variety of applications. The R-Tube product range can accommodate pipe diameters from 6 inches to 60 inches, with customizable sizes available upon request. Its modular design and adjustable components make it a versatile tool for various industries. The semi-open design allows the R-Tube to navigate around obstacles such as pipe supports,

crane lugs, and branching pipes, enabling seamless operation even in complex environments. From corrosion removal to surface preparation for coating or inspection, the R-Tube series delivers outstanding performance and reliability.

## Looking Ahead

The launch of the XXL R-Tube is a testament to

DERC Salotech's dedication to advancing the waterjetting industry. As DERC's largest R-Tube in operation embarks on its first mission, it paves the way for a future where automated, high-performance cleaning tools redefine the possibilities for industrial maintenance and surface preparation.

For more information about the DERC R-Tube or to explore how our solutions can meet your specific needs, contact DERC Salotech today. Together, we can tackle your most demanding cleaning challenges with innovation and precision. Visit [www.dercsalotech.nl](http://www.dercsalotech.nl) or email [info@salotech.nl](mailto:info@salotech.nl) for more information. ■



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DERC XXL R-Tube innovative pipe-cleaning robot