CLAIMS

1. A pipe connector comprising tubular pin member having an outer peripheral surface and a tubular box member having an inner peripheral surface corresponding to the outer peripheral surface of the pin member and which overlies the outer surface of the pin member when the members are fully engaged together, the members being provided with substantially annular inter engaging projections and grooves on said peripheral surfaces for axially locking the members together when they are fully engaged together, the pin member further comprising an annular collar shrink fitted onto the pin member such that the outer peripheral surface is between the collar and the free end of the pin member , the collar comprising a shoulder at one end of the collar adjacent the outer peripheral surface of the pin member, the arrangement being such that when the members are fully engaged together, the tubular box member abuts the shoulder of the annular collar.

2. A pipe connector according to claim 1, wherein the outer peripheral surface of the pin member and the inner peripheral surface of the box member are substantially frustoconical.

3. A pipe connector according to claim 2, wherein the frustoconical surfaces taper inwardly towards the free ends of the pin and box members.

4. A pipe connector according to any of claims 1-3, wherein the substantially annular projections and grooves are spaced apart along the surfaces.

5. A pipe connector according to claim 4, wherein the substantially annular projections and grooves are equally spaced apart along the surfaces.

6. A pipe connector according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the box member comprises a body with two opposed ends, each of the opposed ends being adapted to receive a respective pin member.

7. A pipe connector according to any of claims 1-6, wherein the inner surface of collar and/or the outer surface of pin are roughened prior to shrink fitting the collar in place on the pin member.

8. A pipe connector according to any of the preceding claims, wherein sealing means are provided between the pin and box.

9. A pipe connector according to claim 8, wherein the sealing means comprises a metal to metal seal.

10. A pipe connector according to claim 9, wherein the sealing means comprise a projection or nib provided on one of the pin and box members and a cooperating groove on the other of the pin and box members.

11. A pipeline comprising a plurality of pipe sections connected together via pipe connectors according to any of claims 1-10.