CLAIMS:

1. A collection apparatus for collecting waste liquids from cleaning operation performed on aircraft turbine engines, the apparatus comprising:

a frame structure;

a support arm having a first end pivotally attached to said frame structure and opposite second end;

a waste liquid storage tank;

a duct having an inlet end adapted to be positioned at the exhaust of an aircraft and an opposite outlet end adapted to be removably and sealingly connected to horizontal axis; and

an actuator device adapted to enable raising and lowering the support arm between an essentially horizontal transport position to an operative position adjacent the aircraft turbine engine exhaust.

2. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inlet end of said duct is attached to a duct support pivotally attached to the second end of the support arm of at least one pivot point (P1), pivotable around at least the horizontal axis.

3. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein then the support arm is in the operative position, the angle of the support arm is approximately 60-90°.

4. The collection apparatus according to claim 2, said duct support comprising a bar structure and a ring, wherein the bar structure extends at least a part of the circumference of the ring and the ring extends around the circumference of the inlet end of the duct, and wherein said bar structure is attached to said support arm at said pivot point (P1).

5. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a flexible duct connection, having an inlet end with a strap or an elastic rim around the opening to seal said inlet end of said flexible duct connection tightly around the aircraft exhaust, and an outlet end for removably and sealingly connecting to the inlet end of said duct, wherein said duct connection (70) is bendable both up/down and sideways.

6. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said waste liquid storage tank includes an air outlet, with said air outlet including a filter disposed therein for restricting the passage of liquid spray and contaminants from said waste liquid storage tank.

7. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said waste liquid storage tank (42) is provided on said frame structure beneath said drip pan.

8. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drip pan is arranged to be slidable from a position located essentially on the frame structure to an extended position protruding out from the frame.

9. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the frame is part of a transport vehicle.

10. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the actuator device is actuated by any of hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical or electrical means.

11. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a resilient collar (55) attached to the opening of the inlet end of the duct.

12. The collection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the collar is made of rubber.

13. A method for collecting waste liquid from cleaning operations performed on aircraft turbine engines, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a duct having an inlet end and an outlet end, said inlet end being pivotally attached to a support arm and thereby movable about at least a horizontal axis and said outlet end being removably and sealingly connected to a vented waste liquid storage tank, said support arm being attached to a frame structure and operably by an actuator device adapted to facilitate raising and lowering of the support arm between an essentially horizontal transport position and an operative position;

raising said support arm from said transport position to a level at which said engine exhaust is located;

moving the inlet end of said duct, so as to place the duct in front of the exhaust of the engine;

collecting the waste liquid from said cleaning operations in said vented waste liquid storage tank capable of receiving, storing and transporting said waste water.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

providing a flexible duct connection with an inlet end and an outlet end, said outlet end being connected to the inlet end of said duct; and

moving said inlet end of said duct connection in an horizontal and/or a vertical direction, so as to place the inlet end of the duct connection around the exhaust of the engine; and

collecting liquid during a wash operation.

CLAIMS

1. A collection apparatus for collecting waste liquids from cleaning operations performed on an aircraft turbine engine, the apparatus comprising:

a frame structure;

a support arm having a first end pivotally attached to said frame structure and an opposite second end;

a waste liquid storage tank;

a duct having an inlet end adapted to be positioned at an exhaust of an aircraft and an opposite outlet end adapted to be removably and sealingly connected to said waste liquid storage tank, wherein said inlet end is pivotally attached to said second end of said support arm so as to be movable around at least a horizontal axis;

an actuator device adapted to enable raising and lowering the support arm between an essentially horizontal transport position to an operative position adjacent the aircraft turbine engine exhaust; and

a flexible duct connection, having a connection inlet end with a strap or an elastic rim around an opening to seal said inlet end of said flexible duct connection tightly around the aircraft exhaust, and a connection outlet end for removably and sealingly connecting to the inlet end of said duct, wherein said flexible duct connection is bendable both up/down and sideways and is expandable in length between said connection inlet end and said connection outlet end.

2. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inlet end of said duct is attached to a duct support pivotally attached to the second end of the support arm of at least one pivot point (P1), pivotable around at least the horizontal axis.

3. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the support arm is in the operative position, the angle of the support arm is approximately 60-90 degrees.

4. The collection apparatus according to claim 2, said duct support comprising a bar structure and a ring, wherein the bar structure extends at least a part of the circumference of the ring and the ring extends around the circumference of the inlet end of the duct, and wherein said bar structure is attached to said support arm at said pivot point (P1).

5. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said waste liquid storage tank includes an air outlet, with said air outlet including a filter disposed therein for restricting the passage of liquid spray and contaminants from said waste liquid storage tank.

6. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a drip pan on the frame structure for collecting waste liquid emanating from the turbine engine during a cleaning operation.

7. The collection apparatus according claim 6, wherein said waste liquid storage tank (42) is provided on said frame structure beneath said drip pan.

8. The collection apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the drip pan is arranged to be slidable from a position located essentially on the frame structure to an extended position protruding out from the frame.

9. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the frame structure is part of a transport vehicle.

10. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the actuator device is actuated by any of hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical or electrical means.

11. The collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a resilient collar attached to the opening of the inlet end of the flexible duct connection.

12. The collection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the collar is made of rubber.