Claims

1. An anode for cathodic protection of underwater-located equipment, comprising:
a support body;
sacrificial material retained by the support body; and
attachment means for releasably attaching the anode to the equipment.

2. An anode according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means comprises a member for frictional engagement with the equipment, said frictional engagement causing the anode to be retained in use at the equipment.

3. An anode according to claim 2, wherein member comprises a tapered projection from the support body, for insertion and retention within a receptacle located at the equipment.

4. An anode according to any preceding claim, wherein the attachment means comprises a releasable positive locking mechanism.

5. An anode according to any preceding claim, comprising a handle specifically designed for manipulation by a remotely operated vehicle.

6. An anode according to claim 5, wherein the handle is mounted on the support body.

7. An anode comprising buoyancy means for enabling the density of the anode to be selected.

8. An anode according to claim 7, wherein the buoyancy means comprises a cavity located within the support body.

9. An anode according to claim 8, wherein the cavity is air-filled.

10. An anode according to any preceding claim, wherein the sacrificial material comprises one of the group consisting of aluminium, zinc and magnesium.

11. An anode according to any preceding claim, wherein the underwater-located equipment comprises a subsea well tree.

12. A method for providing corrosion protection of underwater-located equipment, comprising the steps of:
providing an anode for cathodic protection of the equipment, the anode comprising:
a support body, sacrificial material retained by the support body, and attachment means for releasably attaching the anode to the equipment; and
attaching the anode to the equipment.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the anode is attached to the equipment by manipulation by a remotely operated vehicle.

14. A method according to either of claims 12 and 13, wherein the anode is provided with buoyancy means for enabling the density of the anode to be selected.

15. A method according to any of claims 12 to 14, wherein the underwater-located equipment comprises a subsea well tree.

CLAIMS

1. An anode (3) for cathodic protection of underwater-located equipment, the equipment comprising a subsea well tree (4), comprising:

   a support body (10);

   sacrificial material (5) retained by the support body (10); and

   attachment means for releasably attaching the anode (3) to the equipment,

   characterised in that:

   the attachment means comprises a member for frictional engagement with the well tree (4), said frictional engagement causing the anode (3) to be retained in use at the well tree (4),

   wherein said member comprises a tapered projection (6) from the support body (10), for insertion and retention within a receptacle (7) located at the well tree (4).

2. An anode according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means comprises a releasable positive locking mechanism.

3. An anode according to any preceding claim, comprising a handle (8) specifically designed for manipulation by a remotely operated vehicle.

4. An anode according to claim 3, wherein the handle (8) is mounted on the support body (10).

5. An anode according to claim 1, wherein the anode comprises buoyancy means for enabling the density of the anode to be selected.

6. An anode according to claim 5, wherein the buoyancy means comprises a cavity (9) located within the support body (10).

7. An anode according to claim 6, wherein the cavity (9) is air-filled.

8. An anode according to any preceding claim, wherein the sacrificial material (5) comprises one of the group consisting of aluminium, zinc and magnesium.
9. A method for providing corrosion protection of underwater-located equipment, the equipment comprising a subsea well tree (4), comprising the steps of:

   providing an anode (3) for cathodic protection of the equipment, the anode (3) comprising:

   a support body (10), sacrificial material (5) retained by the support body (10), and attachment means for releasably attaching the anode (3) to the equipment; and attaching the anode (3) to the equipment,

   characterised in that:

   the attachment means comprises a member for frictional engagement with the well tree, said frictional engagement causing the anode (3) to be retained in use at the well tree (4),

wherein said member comprises a tapered projection (6) from the support body (10), for insertion and retention within a receptacle (7) located at the well tree.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the anode (3) is attached to the equipment by manipulation by a remotely operated vehicle.

11. A method according to either of claims 9 and 10, wherein the anode (3) is provided with buoyancy means for enabling the density of the anode (3) to be selected.