Claims

1. Abandonment and recovery system for a subsea pipeline,
comprising:

- a pipeline attachment assembly configured to be attached to a pipeline end; and

- a cable attachment assembly configured to be attached to at least one abandonment and recovery cable;

wherein the pipeline attachment assembly and the cable attachment assembly each comprise a respective one of two mating connector parts, wherein the pipe attachment assembly comprises:

- one of the two connector parts; and

- a pipeline attachment that is configured to be attached to a pipe section of a subsea pipeline;

- a bendable connection that connects the pipeline attachment to the one of the two connector parts of the pipe attachment assembly over a distance,

CHARACTERIZED IN THAT

the bendable connection has, over the distance thereof, an essentially constant circumferential shape and an essentially constant size.

2. Abandonment and recovery system according to claim 1,
wherein the constant circumferential shape comprises a form from a group of rotationally symmetrical shapes, comprising cylindrical and polygonal.

3. Abandonment and recovery system according to claim 1 or 2,
wherein the bendable connection comprises a plurality of adjoining bodies having a cylindrical, rotationally symmetrical or polygonal geometry.

4. Abandonment and recovery system according to claim 3,
wherein

- adjoining ends of the adjoining bodies have complementary shapes that cooperate, or a joint there between, to allow an articulation between each pair of adjoining bodies.

5. Abandonment and recovery system according to claim 4,
wherein

- the complementary shapes allow an articulation between each pair of adjoining bodies comprised in the range of 5° to 15°, preferably 8° to 12°, and most preferably an articulation of 10°.

6. Abandonment and recovery system according to claim 3, 4 or 5,
wherein

- adjoining bodies are articulately connected the one to the other such that a series of U-joints is provided.

7. Abandonment and recovery system according to any of claims 3-6,
wherein

- the bodies have at least one of a spherical protrusion on one end and a spherical seat on the other end, such that the spherical protrusion of one of two adjoining bodies fits in the spherical seat of the other one of the two adjoining bodies thereby providing a spherical joint between the two adjoining bodies.

8. Abandonment and recovery system according to any of claims 3 to 7,
wherein

- at least one of the bodies is weighted relative to other ones of the bodies.

9. Abandonment and recovery system according to claim 8, wherein between the at least one weighted body and the connector part of the pipeline attachment assembly there are a plurality of unweighted bodies, wherein preferably the plurality of unweighted bodies allow for a bend of at least 90°.

10. Abandonment and recovery system according to any of claims 3 to 9,
wherein

- the bendable connection comprises at least one sling extending through the adjoining bodies from one end of the bendable connection to the other end, wherein the sling provides a loop on both ends of the bendable connection.

11. Abandonment and recovery system according to claim 10,
wherein

- the sling is an endless loop sling.

12. Abandonment and recovery system according to any of claims 10 or 11,

wherein

- for connecting the sling to the pipeline attachment and the connector part, the pipeline attachment and the connector part are provided with a hook.

13. Abandonment and recovery system according to claim 12,
wherein

- the bendable connection comprises three slings; and

- for connecting the slings to the pipeline attachment and the connector part, the pipeline attachment and the connector part are provided with three hooks, wherein each hook has a hook body that protrudes from a respective surface of a base body, wherein the surfaces from which the hook bodies protrude correspond to surfaces of a tetrahedron.

14. Abandonment and recovery system according to claim 13,
wherein

- the circumferential side surface of the protruding hook body is concave along at least a part of the circumferential length of the side surface, thereby providing a channel for the loop of one of the slings.

15. Abandonment and recovery system according to claim 13 or 14,
wherein

- the cross-section of each hook body in a plane parallel to the respective surface from which the hook body protrudes is drop shaped, wherein the drop point points away from the respective one of the pipeline attachment and the connector part.