



ABSTRACT

Shrouded towers (32) for supporting adjustably cantilevered work platforms (40) for performing external surface work on ship hulls (such as abrading and painting) are modularized (to modules 222-228) for sake of economy and efficient utilization, including shifting of modules using techniques and equipment currently used for shifting shipping containers. Supply and recovery line connections between support barge-mounted equipment (176), floating drydock and work platform-mounted work applicators is facilitated by fixed installation of some portions and the provision of flexible connectors between these portions. Alternative adjustable cantilevering structures are disclosed for mounting the work platforms to the vertically movable trolleys. Preferably, rotating wheels (316) rather than compressed air, are used to propel the abrasive grit against the hull surface, and abrasive supply systems having degrees of automated recovery of spent grit are disclosed.