

ABSTRACT

APPARATUS FOR NEAR VERTICAL LAYING OF PIPELINE

5 A support frame (12) and movable deck (13) on a lay vessel (24) support a tower (14) at the desired angle for pipe laying. The tower (14) has a travel block (16) that is movable between open and closed positions for receiving a pipe section and supporting the weight of the pipe or
10 pipeline. The travel block (16) can move along the length of the tower (14) for raising or lowering the pipe or pipeline. A pedestal (18) that is movable between open and closed positions for receiving a pipe section and supporting the weight of the pipeline is positioned near
15 the bottom of the tower (14) and arranged to transfer the weight of the pipeline from the travel block (16) to the pedestal (18) without the need to open the travel block (16). A strongback (20) with adjustable clamps is used to grasp a pipe section from a ready rack (64) and transfer
20 the pipe section into the tower (14) for addition of the pipe section to the pipeline. The strongback (20) is guided into and up the tower (14) by rails. A stinger (22) extends down from the lower end of the tower (14) and is provided with clamps to grip the pipeline during
25 operations. The main portion of the stinger (22) may be pivoted up adjacent the lay vessel (24) when pipe laying operations are not in progress.

30 Fig. 1