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(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU98/00756 (22) International Filing Date: 16 September 1998 (16.09.98) (30) Priority Data: PO 9227 16 September 1997 (16.09.97) AU (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): TUBE TECHNOLOGY PTY. LTD. [AU/AU]; 160 Ingram Road, Acacia Ridge, QLD 4110 (AU). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GOLEBY, Leslie, David [AU/AU]; 160 Ingram Road, Acacia Ridge, QLD 4110 (AU). WATKINS, Russell, Lambert [AU/AU]; 160 Ingram Road, Acacia Ridge, QLD 4110 (AU). (74) Agent: HORSBURGH, Mark, A.; Fisher Adams Kelly, Level 13, AMP Place, 10 Eagle Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000 (AU).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.

(54) Title: HOLLOW FLANGE SECTION

(57) Abstract

A hollow flange section (1) consisting of an open cavity (4) defined by a pair of opposed cavity walls (5) and a cavity base (6). Two enclosed volumes are formed adjacent the cavity by lateral support members (3) extending from a base member (2) to intersect each cavity wall (5). The cavity base (6) and the base member (2) form an integral structure that resists skew deformation of the cavity. The enclosed volumes provide structural support that gives the hollow flange section greater strength. Also described is a composite beam formed from a pair of hollow flange sections with an intermediate web. The composite beam has greater strength with less mass than comparable prior art beams.

