activated. The contol unit may be in the same location or controls for the pump and drawing mechanism may be in separate locations. For example, each of the pump and the drawing mechanism may be provided with its own control unit.

According to the present invention, there is also provided a method for extracting the core and surrounding insulator from an outer sheath of a length of data transmission cable, the method comprising the acts of (a) generating hydraulic pressure against one end of the core and insulator, and simultaneously exerting a pulling force on an opposite end of the core and insulator to displace the core and insulator relative to its outer sheath, (b) fixedly mounting a coupling sleeve to the outer sheath adjacent to one end of the cable and releasably attaching a coupling element of a pressurised fluid supply pipe to the coupling sleeve prior to pumping pressurised fluid along said pipe so that it acts directly against the core and insulator at said end, and (c) sealing the core and insulator at said end prior to releasably attaching said coupling element to the coupling sleeve prevent pressurised fluid from flowing around the core and/ or insulator along the outer sheath.

In some embodiments, the method includes the act of fixedly mounting the coupling sleeve to the outer sheath using adhesive.

If the coupling sleeve and coupling comprise complementary screw threads, the act of releasably attaching the coupling to the coupling sleeve can comprise engaging the screw threads by rotating the coupling relative to the coupling sleeve.

In some embodiments, the method includes the step of pumping pressurised fluid along the fluid pipe at a fluid pressure of up to 70 bar and preferably, at a pressure of around 45 bar.

Preferably, the method includes the act of stripping a section of outer sheath so that an end portion of the insulator is exposed at said opposite end of the cable, clamping said exposed end portion in a clamping member having a cooperating element and attaching the cooperating element to a drawing mechanism prior to activating the fluid pump and the drawing mechanism to simultaneously push the

Claims

1. A method for extracting the core and surrounding insulator from an outer sheath of a length of data transmission cable, the method comprising the acts of:

(a) generating hydraulic pressure against one end of the core and insulator, and simultaneously exerting a pulling force on an opposite end of the core and insulator to displace the core and insulator relative to its outer sheath,

(b) fixedly mounting a coupling sleeve to the outer sheath adjacent to one end of the cable and releasably attaching a coupling element of a pressurised fluid supply pipe to the coupling sleeve prior to pumping pressurised fluid along said pipe so that it acts directly against the core and insulator at said end, and

(c) sealing the core and insulator at said end prior to releasably attaching said coupling element to the coupling sleeve to prevent pressurised fluid from flowing around the core and/or insulator along the outer sheath.

2. A method according to claim 1, including the act of fixedly mounting the coupling sleeve to the outer sheath using adhesive.

3. A method according to claims 1or 2, wherein the coupling sleeve and coupling element comprise complementary screw threads and the act of releasably attaching the coupling element to the coupling sleeve comprises engaging the screw threads.

4. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3, comprising the act of pumping pressurised fluid along the fluid pipe at a fluid pressure of up to 40 bar.

5. A method according to any of claims 1 to 4, comprising the act of stripping a section of outer sheath so that an end portion of the insulator is exposed at said opposite end of the cable, clamping said exposed end portion in a clamping member having a cooperating element and attaching the cooperating element to a drawing mechanism prior to activating the fluid pump and the drawing mechanism to simultaneously push the insulator and core at one end of the cable under hydraulic fluid pressure and pull the insulator and core from the other end of the cable under a pulling force.

6. A method according to any of claims 1 to 5, comprising the act of controlling the drawing mechanism to apply a pulling force of up to 170kgf (approximately 1667N) to the insulator and core via the clamping member.

7. A method according to claim 6, comprising the act of controlling the drawing mechanism to reduce the pulling force applied to the insulator and core after displacement of the insulator and core has initiated.