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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB96/00158 (22) International Filing Date: 25 January 1996 (25.01.96) (30) Priority Data: 9501475.9 25 January 1995 (25.01.95) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): DEEP WATER RECOVERY & EXPLORATION LIMITED [GB/GB]; Kilburns House, Newport-on-Tay, Fife DD6 8PL (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): CRAWFORD, Alexander, Charles [GB/GB]; Kilburns Farm, Newport-on-Tay, Fife DD6 8PL (GB). (74) Agent: McCALLUM, Graeme, David; Murgitroyd & Company, 373 Scotland Street, Glasgow G5 8QA (GB).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, AR, AO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND A METHOD FOR USE IN HANDLING A LOAD**(57) Abstract**

Apparatus and a method for use in handling a load is described. The apparatus includes a load-bearing rope (1, 19), and a mechanism for paying out and recovering the rope (1, 19). There is also a drum (3, 12, 15, 16) for holding a service cable (2, 17) with a length of the service cable (2, 17) extending from the drum (3, 12, 15, 16). A wrapping device rotates the length of service cable (2, 17) around the rope (1, 19) as the rope (1, 19) is payed out to wrap the service cable (2, 17) around the rope (1, 19); and to unwrap the service cable (2, 17) from the rope (1, 19) as the rope is recovered.

