

# CASE STUDY: SEA TALK SYSTEMS LTD



**D&S Ultra-Clean Ltd**

**Cleaning Equipment Specialists**

The Heath Business & Technical Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QX

Tel: 01928 580469; Fax: 01928 581058; www.ds-ultra.com

When Sea Talk Systems Ltd needed to replace their old solvent cleaning machine, they turned to equipment supplier D&S Ultra-Clean Ltd.

Sea Talk Systems, based in Fareham, Hampshire, is a world leader in the supply of components and kits to the submarine cable industry. In addition, the company offers a UKAS accredited calibration laboratory providing specialist services to a wide range of customers in the aerospace and automotive sectors.

“D&S Ultra-Clean had provided support for our old ICI machine for a number of years, and so we turned to them for advice and assistance in supplying a replacement” says Jim Hotchkiss, Sea Talk’s Quality Manager. “Our initial aim was to eliminate the use of chlorinated solvents and switch to aqueous cleaning but, after various trials, it became clear that, for a number of reasons, aqueous cleaning was not the way forward.”



Jim goes on “We were obviously aware that any solvent-based system we purchased would need to be fully compliant with the Solvent Emissions Regulations, and it was also equally important that the equipment was safe for operators to use”. “Based on an evaluation of our requirements, D&S proposed the SOLVAC\* machine, which looked to be exactly right for our needs.” “D&S were able to arrange cleaning trials to confirm that ultrasonic trichloroethylene gave us the required standard of cleanliness on our components, after which a final machine specification was established.”

The SOLVAC\* sealed cleaning machine combines the traditional benefits of solvent cleaning with outstanding solvent efficiency. Its unique design features also mean that cleaning process times are much shorter than those normally associated with most sealed machines, so component throughput is not compromised. The SOLVAC\* is available in a range of sizes to suit most applications, can accommodate any of the traditional solvent cleaning processes from vapour to ultrasonic liquid immersion, and is flexible enough to run with any of the currently available, non-flammable solvents.

The final phase of the project for Sea Talk was to address solvent management issues, and Jim Hotchkiss takes up the story. “Once again, D&S Ultra-Clean had the answer from their knowledge of our operation. They recommended the SAFE-TAINER™ system, using Dow NEU-TRIE™ E, and put us into contact with the SAFE-CHEM Europe GmbH representative who explained the system to us in detail”.

The SAFE-TAINER™ system is a closed-loop delivery system for handling chlorinated solvents. The double walled containers, one for fresh solvent and a different one for used solvent, comprise a solvent drum within an outer steel box. The rugged design of the outer box provides damage protection and contains solvent spills. Solvent delivery is achieved using solvent-resistant hoses with dry-break couplings to prevent leaks and vapour emissions.

**“The Solvac\*...combines the traditional benefits of solvent cleaning with outstanding solvent efficiency”**

**“We now  
have a safe,  
efficient  
solvent  
cleaning  
process . . .”**

“We have found that SAFE-TAINER™ has many advantages for us” says Jim. “First and foremost, it provides a simple, safe method of pumping solvent into and out of the ‘Solvac’ machine”. “Secondly, it gives us secure solvent storage and ease of transport and handling on site”. “Finally, and particularly important from my perspective as Quality Manager, we have the capability to routinely monitor and restore solvent quality as necessary using the MAXICHECK™ test kit, and MAXISTAB™ stabiliser concentrate”.

“In summary, we now have a safe, efficient solvent cleaning process coupled with best available technology in terms of solvent handling. Solvent consumption data collected since we installed the machine in 2005 indicates that we will be exempt from the Solvent Emissions Regulations, and emissions tests carried out by D&S in the workplace around the machine indicate that operator exposure to trichloroethylene is negligible” concludes Jim Hotchkiss.

D&S Ultra-Clean Ltd is an authorised agent of CC Hydrosonics Ltd, a Crest Group Company, for the supply of the SOLVAC\* range of sealed solvent cleaning machines. For further information visit [www.ds-ultra.com](http://www.ds-ultra.com)

## **SOLVAC\* - Cleaning Without Compromise.**



Choose Solvac\* for SER compliant, solvent cleaning without compromising component throughput or cleanliness:

- Competitively priced.
- Capable of processing a basket of work every 3-5 minutes.
- Capable of accommodating any non-flammable solvent.
- Capable of accommodating ultrasonic agitation at 40 or 132kHz.
- High distillation rate and particulate filtration for consistent component cleanliness.
- Easy to maintain.
- Full after-sales support and technical advice.

Compare these important features with other, competitive, sealed, solvent-cleaning systems. Many companies are now enjoying the benefits of choosing Solvac\*, why don't you?

\* Trademark of CC Hydrosonics Ltd.

™ Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company (“Dow”) or an affiliated company of Dow.

**For more information, visit [www.ds-ultra.com](http://www.ds-ultra.com)**