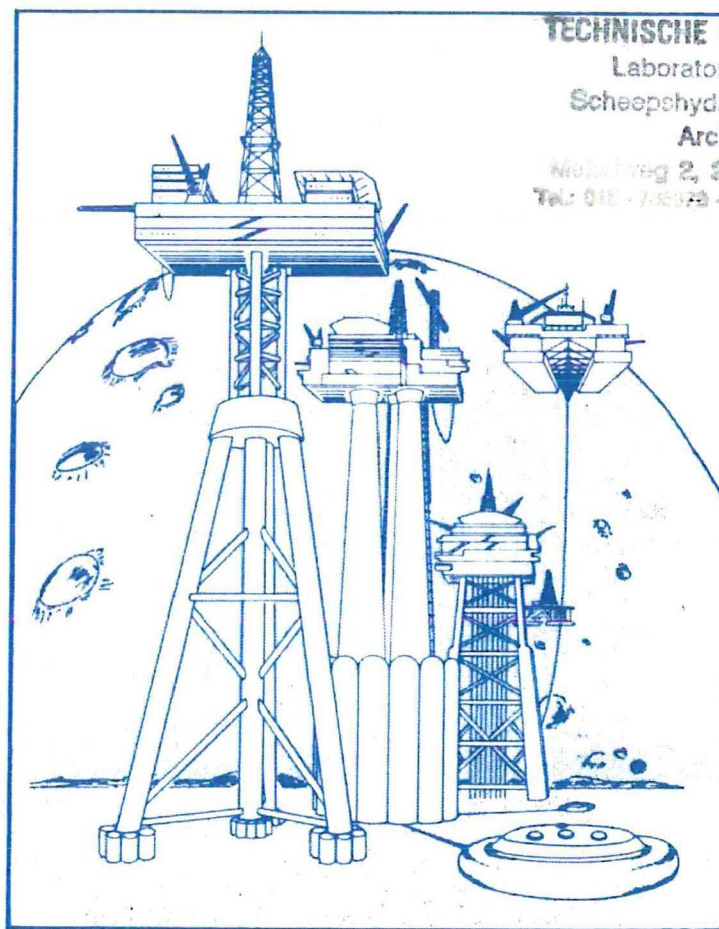


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# INTEGRITY *of* OFFSHORE STRUCTURES-4



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# INTEGRITY OF OFFSHORE STRUCTURES—4

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## Preface

It is once more our privilege to write this short introduction to the Proceedings of the Fourth Symposium on Integrity of Offshore Structures. These symposia are held every three years in the University of Glasgow and this year it coincides with Glasgow being the European City of Culture. There will thus be plenty of other attractions, including our own Maritime Exhibition based on the theme of 107 years of service to the marine industries.

It is this same strong urge to see good project, consulting and research work applied that created the IOS symposia and has been our constant driving force. For this reason the organisers set out to do several things. We structure the programme into four relevant sessions and then deliberately seek a strictly limited number of quality papers from a wide cross-section of practitioners and researchers to meet these objectives. You will see that our fourth session this year is devoted to 'In-Service Assessment Strategies', which reflects the strong trend to increased life now required of many platforms in the North Sea especially. A major feature is then to devote the maximum time for discussion from the delegates. We achieve this by sending out the preprints in advance and by inviting a distinguished Rapporteur for each session to review the highlights and main findings of each paper. Each session then has at least an hour for open discussion followed by a brief response from each author. All the discussion is then edited and published in the final book.

This of course represents a lot of work for the Organising Committee, but we have been helped this time by a small external Technical Committee and our personal thanks are extended to them. In turn both Committees are deeply grateful to the eight eminent Rapporteurs and Session Chairmen and not least of course to the authors.

We have been gratified to note the continued support for this approach. There are 28 papers from 12 different countries, including a welcome increase from Japan this year. 54% of the authors are from industry or government departments and 46% from research laboratories and universities. We believe this all illustrates a healthy balance.

D. FAULKNER  
M. J. COWLING  
A. INCECIK

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