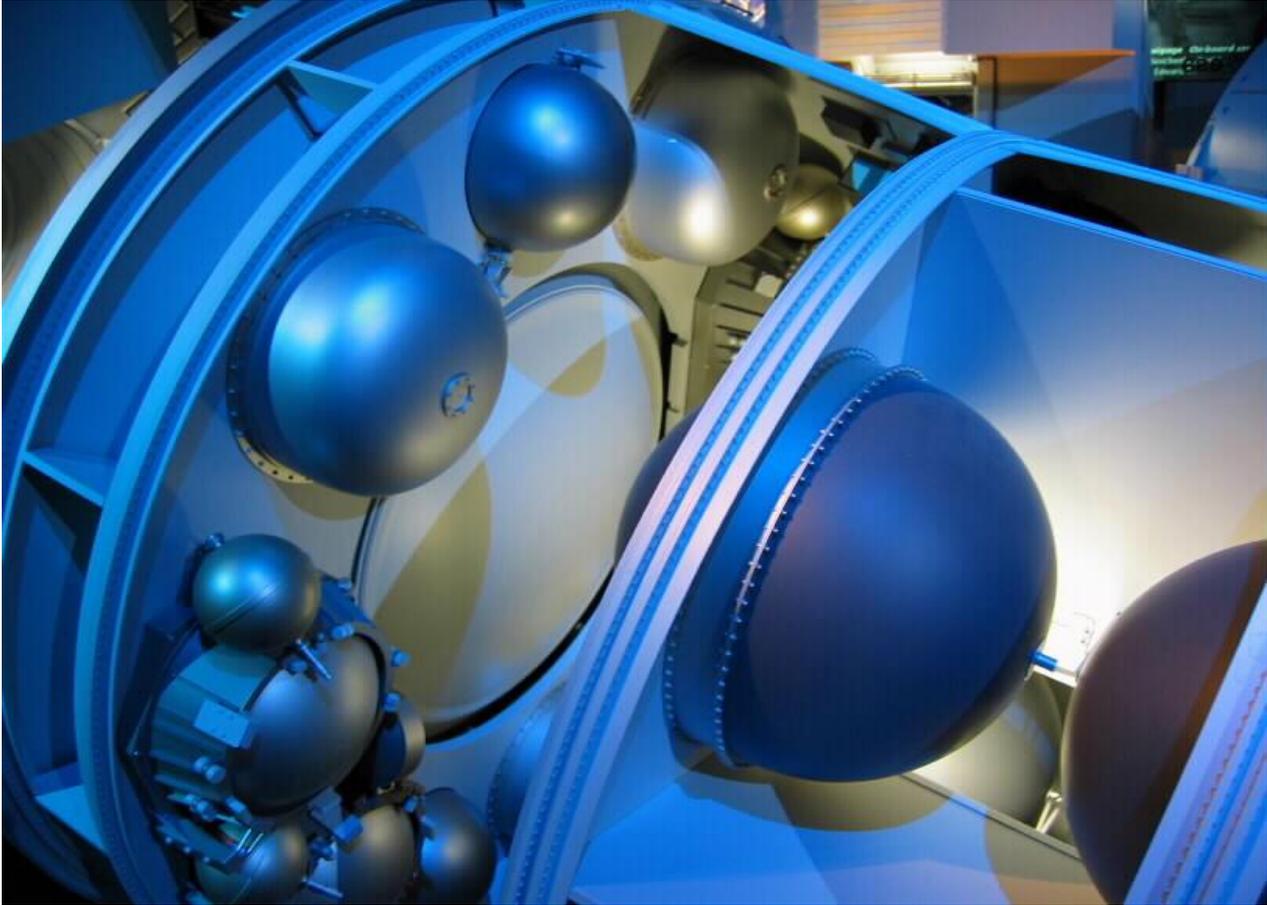




PRESS RELEASE



HOLSCOT IN SPACE

Over the last 12 years Holscot has completed a number of flexible bladders in FEP (Fluorinated Ethylene Propylene) which form the inner liner for the tanks used to supply vital potable water to the Astronauts at the orbiting International Space Station.

In 2000 Man Technologie Germany (now MT Aerospace) approached Holscot, who are well known as the leading European company for specialist FEP constructions, for help developing a unique FEP lined tank.



FEP, which is completely inert, was to be used instead of the rubber tank liner, which had been used previously. The FEP was specified to avoid contamination of the potable water.

The design of the new tanks was refined by using half sized, test model tanks, cycled over a range of fill and empty simulations.

The fabricated liners were thermoformed from Holscot's own extruded FEP film. The film was vacuum formed in two parts and welded to form a circular tank construction. The top half of the tank was designed to pull down and expel the water under zero-g conditions. The lower half of the tank is bonded onto the tank's inner shell. For this the FEP had to be externally treated using Holscot's own proprietary etching process. Almost complete expulsion of the liquid was required. The stainless steel tank was then over wrapped with filament wound carbon fibre.

The first set of these very special tanks was integrated into the European space ferry ATV (Automated Transfer Vehicle) and successfully launched in 2008 by an Ariane 5 Heavy Lift Rocket, as part of the European Union contribution to the continuation of the International Space Station.

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In time the tanks are back loaded with waste and released to fall back into the earth's atmosphere and burn up. It is thought by Holscot that this is the first time such an FEP product has been made in this way and for this use. Holscot is proud to be chosen for this demanding application and it has shown once again that Holscot's technology, film and extrusions literally are "out of this world"!

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