Engineering
Excellence
Underwater

SMD BT

- Reduce downtime
- Optional wheel cutter for very hard ground
- Adaptable to suit ground conditions
- Simultaneous & post lay burial enable time, cost and safety benefits
- Minimised deck space requirements

Compact, high power, hard ground capable.

SMD's BT range represents a proven, high-performance portfolio of track-driven trenching systems designed to deliver reliable cable burial across soft to hard ground conditions. The BT1200 and BT2400 are two examples within this range, showcasing advanced cutting and jetting technologies in fully amphibious platforms engineered for varying cable sizes and bend radii, ground conditions and progress rates. These models illustrate the capability envelope of the BT series rather than fixed specifications; each system can be extensively tailored to suit specific project demands. Underpinned by decades of operational experience, SMD develops optimised, project-ready trenching solutions grounded in real-world subsea expertise.

BT1200 is a fully amphibious 900kW vehicle and comes equipped with a well-proven hard ground cutting system comprising chain cutter, dredge pump and jet legs, with the option of a powerful wheel cutter. The cutter deployment system allows post lay burial of cable up to 300mm and 3.0m MBR. The vehicle is supplied with a range of optional features including an intervention manipulator with jetting, two grab functions, semi automatic or work class ROV emergency cable eject systems, spoil backfill system and rapid recovery, shallow water umbilical guided lift bullet system.

The BT2400 draws on SMD experience of track vehicles, trenching and cable handling subsea to provide a soft to hard ground burial solution in one neat package. BT2400 comes equipped with two powerful chain cutters, two dredge pumps and jet lags. A well proven chain cutter deployment system allows post-lay burial of cable up to 500mm and 5.0 MBR.

- Simultaneous chain cutting and jetting functions reduce downtime
- Optional wheel cutter for very hard ground can be easily integrated
- Full power sharing between tools to suit ground conditions
- Simultaneous & post lay burial with cable handling & surveillance enabling time, cost and safety benefits
- Versatile compact solution minimises deck space requirements

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SMD BT
Product Specifications

GENERAL	BT1200	BT2400
Depth rating	1000 msw	
DIMENSIONS		
Length	14.5 m	21.7 m
Width	7.5 m	9.4 m
Height	5.5 m	7.1 m
Weight in air	50–70 Te	85–120 Te
PERFORMANCE		
Power	900 kW	1800 kW
Max Cable Diameter	Up to 400 mm	Up to 450 mm
THRUSTER CONFIGURATION		
Thrusters	Curvetech®	
Vertical	2× HTE500	
MECHANICAL		
Construction	High strength steel chassis	
Wear Parts	Replaceable wear-resistant steel tracks	Replaceable wear-resistant steel Plastic tracks on steel chain
Other	Stainless steel fittings and housings	
JETTING SYSTEM		
Configuration	Independent twin-legged device either side of cable/product	Chain cutter with rear jetting
Jetting Tool	Independent twin-legged device either side of cable/product	150 kW jetting system
Operating Pressure Typically	10–15 bar	
Trench depth (up to)	3.0 m	3.3 m
CHAIN CUTTER SYSTEM		
Configuration	Single vertical hyd. drive chain cutter with separate rear jet tool	Chain cutter on swing frame
Chain type	Available with a variety of picks	
Chain width	500 mm	720 mm
Trench Depth	2.3 m	3.3 m
WHEEL CUTTER SYSTEM		
Configuration	Centrally mounted wheel cutter	
Wheel type	Suitable for cutting heavy duty rock	
Trench depth	1.5 m	1.6 m
Installed power	500 kW	400 kW
MBR	3.0 m	
Soft ground capability	12–20 kPa	
TOOLING		
Cable cutter	Yes	
Cable clamp	Yes	
Cable grapnel	Yes	
INSTRUMENTS		
Instrumentation suite available	Yes	
Surveillance Suite available	Yes	
Electronics Pod	One Atmosphere steel pressure vessel	
Depth Rating	1000 m	

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CONTROL CABIN		
Standard	Vessel integrated or housed system in A60 containers	
Umbilical system	Umbilical cable on a rendering winch	
Standard incoming power supply	440 V 3 Ph, 60 Hz	

DECK EQUIPMENT OPTIONS		
Typical LARs System	80 Te SWL sea state 5 with docking frame Lift wire with bullet	Up to 125 Te SWL sea state 5 with docking frame Lift wire with bullet
HPU	Deck mounted	
Standard	N/A	110 kW (2× 55kW)

SMD ARTEMIS™ CABLE TRACKING	
Detection Range	
Passive	Up to 10 m
Active	Up to 5 m
Vertical measurement accuracy	+/-5% plus 5 cm
Depth rating	2000 m

OTHER	
Best for	Soft to hard ground
SMD Horizon® ready?	No

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SMD Customisation Service

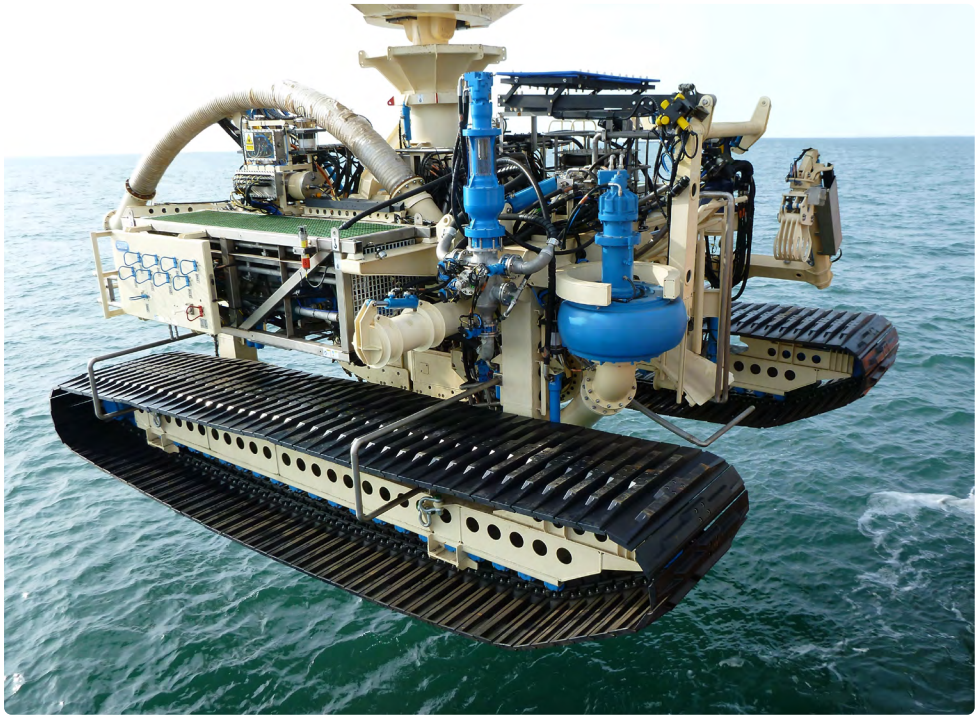
In order to meet your specific requirements SMD can customise our vehicles using our range of standard components to suit your preference and performance requirements.

24/7 Support

Our world-class product range is backed by 24/7 support from our best-in-class SMD Support Services team, because our commitment to you doesn't stop when our product is delivered.
Our end-to-end support system optimises the performance of our products giving you confidence your SMD kit will perform. For more information on our support services click here.

Turnkey Solutions

We offer turn key solution for all products, get in touch to find out more.



Cost effective telecoms cable maintenance and repair solution.

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