

Australian pipe manufacturers include Steelmains, Tubemakers and Humes. Their capabilities are limited, however, to welded pipes less than 30 inches in diameter. No Australian firm is able at present to produce seamless pipe in any size. For the past five years virtually all pipe requirements that could not be met within Australia have been supplied from Japan.

Valves may be purchased from distributors of pipeline supplies, or directly on contract from the manufacturer, depending on sizes required. Reduced-bore, metal-to-metal seated valves are the most readily available valves from Australian sources. As well, there is one Australian firm that manufactures full-bore mainline, soft-seated valves. It is estimated nonetheless that 60 to 70 per cent of Australia's total valve market is currently supplied from imports.

Currently, Australian firms can supply only small (12-18") pipeline fittings. Those that must be imported include large-inch tee's, forged bends, cups and dome ends, reducers, reducing tees, pig trap closures, and pigs. Most are now coming from the U.S. Except in the unusually large projects, firms requiring those fittings seldom procure directly from overseas. Domestically produced hot-pooled bends or formed pipe provide a substitute for some imported fittings.

b) The Canadian Industry

The Canadian oil and gas equipment sector produces a wide range of machinery and equipment for oil and gas exploration and development and also performs related service activities such as geophysical evaluation, seismic studies and contract drilling. Specific areas where Canada is acknowledged as a strong equipment supplier include exploration, drilling, leasehold facilities, dehydration, secondary recovery, gas turbines, compressors, sour-gas gathering and treatment, tarsands technology, and pipelines and related compression and pumping equipment. In the specialized offshore oil and gas equipment market, Canada has developed a recognized capability in keeping with its own maritime exploration and development activity. Equipment used in offshore applications such as drillships, subsea production systems, subsea surveying systems, and manned and remotely controlled submersibles, are currently marketed internationally.