# NATM SYTLE SHOTCRETE STRESS CELL

# **GEOKON**®

**MODEL 4850** 



### APPLICATIONS

The Model 4850 NATM Style Shotcrete Stress Cells are designed for the measurement of:

- Tangential (Model 4850-1) and radial (Model 4850-2) stresses in shotcrete tunnel linings
- Stress in mass concrete



NATM Shotcrete Stress Cell orientation in a typical tunnel lining installation.

### OPERATING PRINCIPLE

Each cell consists of two rectangular stainless steel plates welded together around the periphery, with a de-aired fluid occupying the space between the plates. Increasing concrete stresses cause a corresponding rise in the de-aired fluid pressure as the steel plates are squeezed together. The fluid in the cell is connected via a short tube to a vibrating wire pressure transducer that converts the pressure to an electrical signal that is transmitted, as a frequency, to the readout location. A thermistor inside the transducer housing allows the temperature to be measured at the cell.

Stress cells installed in concrete or shotcrete will expand if the temperature rises as the concrete cures. On cooling, the cell will contract and leave a gap between it and the surrounding concrete, preventing the concrete stresses from reaching the cell. To correct this situation, a repressurizing tube (pinch tube) is provided to fully expand the cell after the concrete has cured. This ensures an immediate and accurate response to the onset of increasing concrete stresses.

## ADVANTAGES & LIMITATIONS

The GEOKON NATM Stress Cells offer superior stiffness without the use of mercury. As a result, maximum cell response to changing concrete stresses is achieved and environmental protection is provided.

An advantage of the vibrating wire pressure transducer over more conventional electrical resistance (or semiconductor) types lies mainly in the use of a frequency, rather than a voltage, as the output signal from the strain gauge. Frequencies may be transmitted over long lengths of electrical cable without appreciable degradation caused by variations in cable resistance or leakage to ground. This allows for a readout location that may be over a thousand meters from the cell.

NATM Stress Cells, like all closed hydraulic systems, are sensitive to temperature changes. Temperature compensation factors can be calculated from close observation of in-situ stress cell performance.





Model 4850 NATM Shotcrete Stress Cell with remote re-pressurization option.



Model 4850 NATM Shotcrete Stress Cell with electro-hydraulic pressure switch (for confirmation of measured pressure).

Illustration shows typical installation in tunnel lining.

#### SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Stress cells are usually installed in pairs as shown above. Attachment of the cells to the tunnel walls prior to shotcreting is facilitated by the provision of lugs welded to the corners of the cell. Cells to measure radial pressures have mortar pads between the cells and the tunnel wall. Cells to measure tangential stresses are either attached to short pieces of rebar protruding from the wall, or to the rebar cage (if one is used).

Pinch tubes are bent so that they will protrude from the finished lining, and be accessible for pinching. Cables are routed to the readout location which may include a terminal box or switch box embedded in the lining. Pinching pliers are available to crush the repressurizing tube (pinch tube), which expands the cell. Repressurizing tubes have an extended length of 762 mm. Other lengths are available on request.

The shotcrete stress cells are often used in conjunction with the Model 1600 Tape Extensometer and the Model 1100 Rod Type Borehole Extensometer to measure the performance of a tunnel lining and to determine whether the lining is thick enough. This procedure is an integral part of what is sometimes called the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM).

#### ORDERING INFORMATION

**4850-1-7.5MPA:** Vibrating Wire Stress Cell, Tangential, NATM style (100 × 200 mm rectangular), 7.5 MPa range, with 762 mm repressurizing tube and thermistor in stainless steel housing.

**4850-1-20MPA**: Vibrating Wire Stress Cell, Tangential, NATM style (100 × 200 mm rectangular), 20 MPa range, with 762 mm repressurizing tube and thermistor in stainless steel housing.

**4850-1-35MPA:** Vibrating Wire Stress Cell, Tangential, NATM style (100 × 200 mm rectangular), 35 MPa range, with 762 mm repressurizing tube and thermistor in stainless steel housing.

**4850-2-2MPA**: Vibrating Wire Stress Cell, Radial, NATM style (150 × 250 mm rectangular), 2 MPa range, with 762 mm repressurizing tube and thermistor, in stainless steel housing.

COMPATIBLE READOUTS AND DATALOGGERS

4850-2-3MPA: Vibrating Wire Stress
Cell, Radial, NATM style (150 ×
250 mm rectangular), 3 MPa range,
with 762 mm repressurizing tube and
thermistor, in stainless steel housing.
4850-2-5MPA: Vibrating Wire Stress
Cell, Radial, NATM style (150 ×
250 mm rectangular), 5 MPa range,
with 762 mm repressurizing tube and
thermistor, in stainless steel housing.
02-250V6: Blue PVC Cable, 6.35 mm
(±0.25 mm) [0.250"] Ø, 2 twisted pairs,
for the above.

02-250P9LT: Purple polyurethane cable, Low Temperature (-40 to +80 °C), 6.35 mm (±0.25 mm) [0.250"] Ø, 2 twisted pairs, for the above. 4850-5: Remote repressurizing system. TUB-108: Nylon Pressure Tube, 4.76 mm (0.187") Ø, for the above, not attached. 4850-10: Heavy duty crimper for stainless steel, high pressure tube. 4850-18: Hydraulic pump and hose

with quick connect for remote

8800 and 8900 Series: GeoNet Wireless

8920 and 8930 Series: GeoNet Cellular

repressurizing systems.

Data Acquisition System

and Wi-Fi Network Loggers

8940 Series: GeoNet Dataloggers

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS** 4850-1 4850-2 Standard Ranges<sup>1</sup> 7.5, 20, 35 MPa 2, 3, 5 MPa 150% F.S. 150% F.S. Over Range<sup>2</sup> Resolution 0.025% F.S 0.025% F.S. Accuracy<sup>2</sup> +0.1% F.S. +0.1% F.S. Aspect Ratio > 20 to 1 > 20 to 1 Output 2000-3000 Hz 2000-3000 Hz Temperature Range 1 -20 °C to +80 °C -20 °C to +80 °C L × W × H (Cell)<sup>3</sup>  $200 \times 100 \times 6 \text{ mm}$  $250 \times 150 \times 6$  mm Weight 1 Kg 2 Kg

<sup>1</sup>Other ranges available on request.

<sup>2</sup>Accuracy established under laboratory conditions.

<sup>3</sup>Other sizes available on request.



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GK-404: Handheld Readout

8600 Series: Multi-Channel

Dataloggers

**GK-406:** Vibrating Wire Analyzer

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