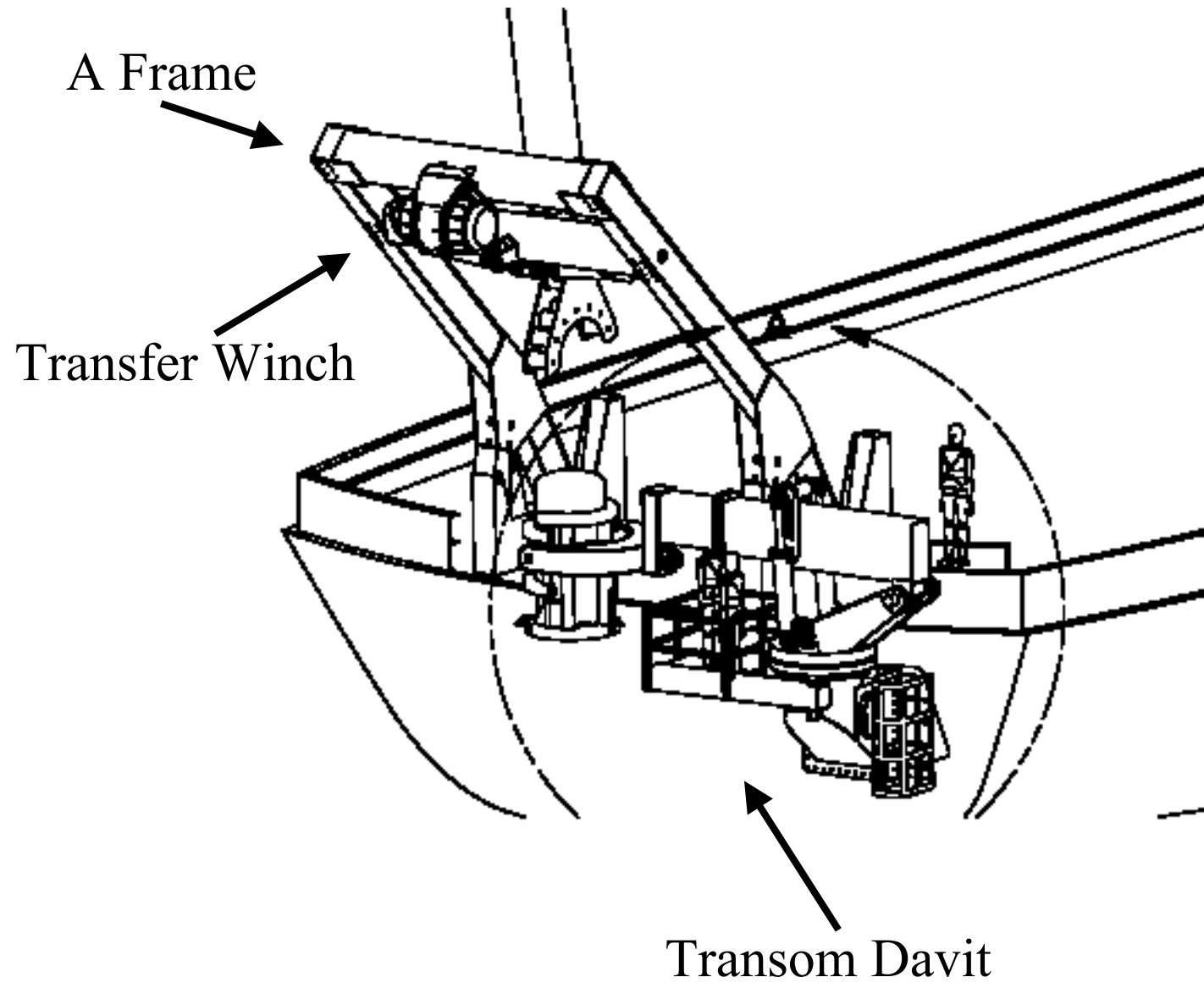
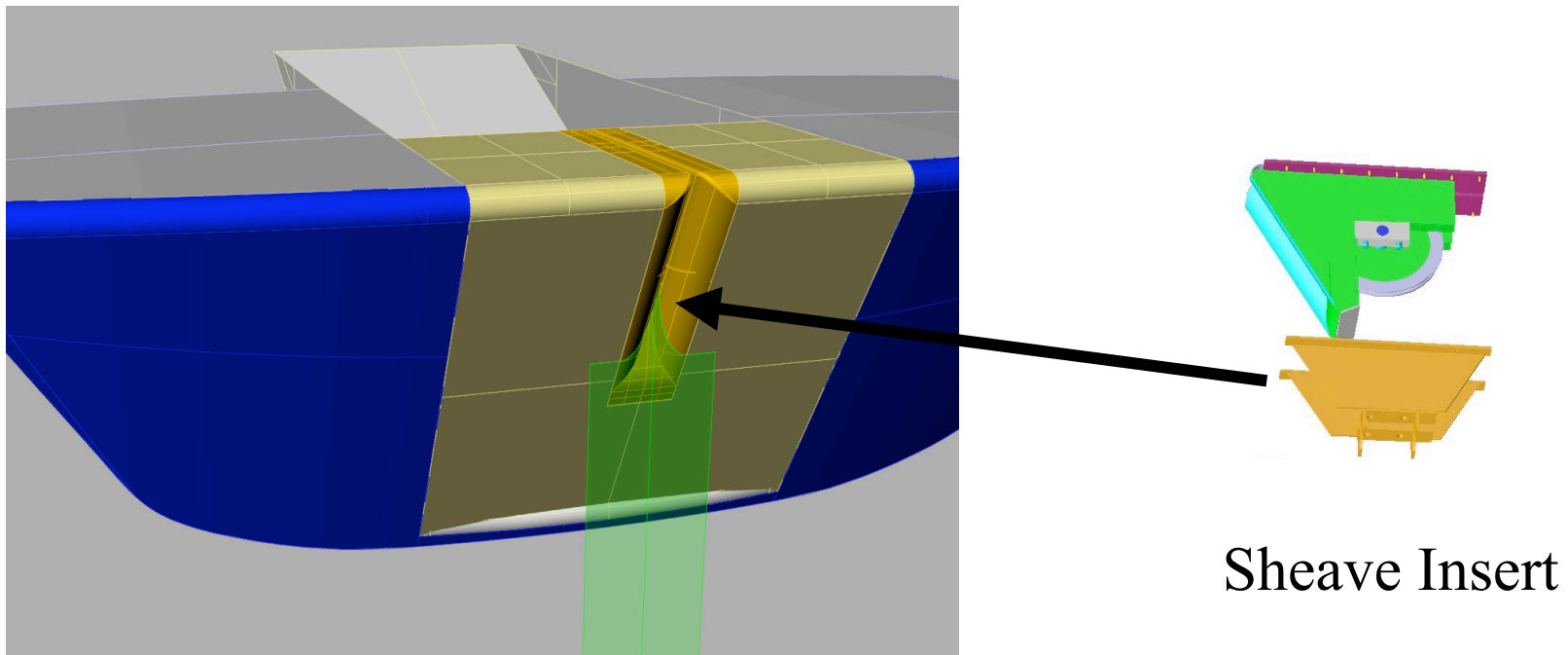


Long Core Update – December 2004

- Rope construction: As of 1 December, 60% of the primary strands of the 2” rope have been manufactured. Target for completing rope construction is October 2005.
- A contract for the fabrication of the A-frame and transom davit for core system handling has been awarded to Allied Systems Inc. in Sherwood Oregon. Detailed hydraulic and mechanical design is in the final phase and delivery of the equipment is expected in June 2005.



Smith Berger [Seattle] has a contract to construct the stern sheave insert and associated foundations and fairings. Delivery will be June '05 with the Allied gear.



Stern Modifications

Knorr will enter the shipyard [Atlantic Marine, Jacksonville] in early January of 2005. The following Glosten designed modifications and reinforcements will be undertaken:

- New ‘superdeck’ section of the fantail to support the traction winch foundation
- Aft-deck reinforcement for A-frame installation
- Creation and installation of the transom davit foundation
- Stern ramp closure and structural reinforcement for the stern sheave insert.
- Starboard hanger modification.
- Installation of high output Hydraulic Power Supply for A-frame and core handling davit.

WHOI and Glosten are drafting an RFP for the system traction winch. RFP includes deck interface design, interpretations of Coast Guard 46 CFR [Code of Federal Regulations] and its impact on ultimate winch component strength, and results from the synthetic rope testing.

We hope to have the RFP out to vendors by mid-Feb. 2005. Winch delivery is programmed for early Summer 2006.

Core system hardware:

- Variable weight core head and release system designs complete.
- Component acquisition in process.
- Spring 2005 completion targeted.
- Remaining hardware and deck equipment (to assist core assembly and sediment extrusion) will be developed starting Fall 2005.

Proposal Planning

- Sea trials in late 2006 (most optimistic timing)
- If successful, coring operations would be possible during 2007. February 2006 proposal deadline would allow for UNOLS scheduling in 2007 (?)
- NSF still developing plans for funding – coring costs are not expected to be part of research proposals