In direct response to industry safety concerns regarding uncontrolled pressure releases due to severe stud bolt corrosion and failures, Stork embarked on a rigorous programme to develop the industry-first hot bolt clamp (HBC) technology.

We identified a significant cost, time and safety issue for all offshore clients whereby restrictions on the live hot bolting of 4 bolt flanges forced clients to tackle such systems only during specific shutdowns, a costly and time consuming activity.

Starting from a blank sheet, a bespoke clamping system was conceived and developed over a number of years. Extensive in house testing was followed by discussion with prospective clients for an opportunity to field trial the system.

Since its launch in 2012, our patented and award winning Hot Bolt Clamp technology has revolutionised integrity management of bolted connections, this innovative technology enables the safe removal and replacement of corroded bolts on live flanged connections that have eight bolts or less, with no disruption to production.

The system maintains the integrity of a connection by allowing corroded or damaged studs to be replaced almost immediately.

This can be undertaken with the pipeline remaining in service which removes the requirement for shutdowns and the associated downtime, manpower and bed space requirements.

Most importantly, the clamp system improves the safety for offshore operatives and the asset as a whole by reducing the likelihood of hydrocarbon releases.

The Hot Bolt Clamp has been utilised successfully on the following systems:
- Aviation Fire Fighting Foam
- Air Receiver & Dryer Package
- Aviation Fuel
- Chemical Injection (biocide and inhibitor)
- Completion Fluids
- Coolant (glycol)
- Diesel
- Drains
- Drill Water
- Fire Water System
- Hydraulic Oil
- Instrument Air
- Nitrogen
- Potable Water
- Produced Water
- Seawater Filtration
- Service Water
- Utility Air Distribution