



The welding of the 57 bridge sections in the suspension bridge began towards the end of June and is expected to be completed around Christmas. Approx. 100 men from two firms are involved in the welding work.

The western part of the suspension bridge is welded together by BMC (Bandholm Maskinfabrik Contractors) from Lolland while the UK firm of ESL (Engineering Services Ltd.) is responsible for the eastern part.

The work takes place within the bridge sections where the welding is undertaken by powder-filled wires. As this type of welding produces a great deal of smoke with many small particles, there is a risk of nitrous gases which are dangerous to inhale. Two systems, therefore, have been installed for extracting the smoke and taking in fresh air.

Extraction takes place within a sealed pipe system which functions much like a vacuum cleaner when the nozzle is placed as near to the welding point as possible. Fresh air supply takes place through two large ventilators blowing air from the centre of the bridge towards the sides. The air supply must not be so powerful as to cause a draught on the welders.

New material for sand-blasting

The British firm, Global Protect, has introduced a new sandblasting method which aims at improving the health and safety of employees.

Global Protect is responsible for painting the welding joints at the suspension bridge's sections. Before painting can take place, the steel must be sand-blasted. For this process, Global Protect uses a new American method called "sponge-jet".

While conventional steel sand-blasting uses grit, causing dust and particles in the air, Global Protect uses small pieces of aluminium wrapped in foam rubber, hence the name "spon-

ge-jet". The "foam rubber cushions" cause very little dust and have the added advantage that, after cleaning, they can be used five or six times.

Great Belt's safety experts have given high praise to the new material which is available in a number of varieties each with their own special qualities. One type, for instance, may be used for the removal of oil, another for paint stripping and yet another in cases where only one layer of paint has to be removed, etc.

