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Inventor(s)	Cox; Thomas

ELECTRICAL CONNECTION PIN ASSEMBLY

Abstract

An electrical connection pin assembly for use in a subsea environment includes a pin tip having a main body and one of a sheath and a core that extends along a centerline. The pin tip is formed from a corrosive resistant material and a main conductor includes the other of the sheath and the core. The core is disposed within the sheath, and the main conductor is formed from an electrically conductive material that is different from the corrosive resistant material. A crimped joint is formed between the core and the sheath to electrically and mechanically attach the main conductor to the pin tip, and an insulating layer is formed to sealably cover a portion of the core and a portion of the sheath.

Inventors: **Cox; Thomas (Ulverston, GB)**

Applicant: **Siemens Energy Limited** (Newcastle Upon Tyne, GB)

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Background/Summary

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to an electrical connection pin assembly and a method of manufacturing the electrical connection pin assembly. The electrical connection pin assembly is suitable for use in subsea environments and other corrosive environments.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Conventional electrical connection pins are formed from a conductive core and an insulative sheathing. Due to the corrosive environment that connectors are deployed in such as subsea, corrosion resistant materials are required for both male and female connector parts. However, for effective electrical connection, a low resistivity material is desired for conductors. Conductor materials do not typically possess both corrosion resistance and low resistivity. Therefore, conventional solutions are to sheath, coat, plate or otherwise attach a corrosion resistant material to a conductive core. Where the insulation is provided by overmolding the conductor core with a polymer, the conductor core must be resilient to the molding temperatures and conditions.

[0003] One known solution is for copper conductors to be plated in various less reactive materials (e.g., gold or silver). Plating and coating processes do not last indefinitely, even thick coatings wear away or become porous. At that point, the copper core is exposed and will corrode.

[0004] Another known solution is for conductors to be made from solid corrosion resistant materials (e.g., Super Duplex Stainless Steel). Fully corrosion resistant conductors are typically poor conductors and thus decrease the current carrying capacity of the conductor.

[0005] Another known solution is for corrosion resistant tips to be threaded into the copper conductor core. Threaded tips require significant machining and are less viable as the size of the conductor decreases. The sharp edges of the thread can be detrimental to electrical profiles (i.e., electrical breakdown can occur due to the points of the thread).

[0006] Another known solution is for corrosion resistant tips to be welded onto the copper conductor core. However, welding operations are typically expensive, highly skilled and require significant certification and verification testing.

[0007] Another known solution is for corrosion resistant tips to be glued onto the copper conductor core. However, adhesives typically cannot withstand the molding environment and would be compromised by the high temperatures. This would require the tip to be glued in place after the molding operation which exposes the glue and potentially the joint between the tip and the core. Such exposure could lead to crevice corrosion occurring.

[0008] Thus, there is a desire to provide an improved electrical connection pin assembly that has low electrical resistivity and high corrosion resistance for use in subsea environments.

SUMMARY

[0009] Thus, one object of the present invention is to provide a more corrosion resistant electrical connection pin assembly. Another object of the present invention is to provide a less resistive electrical connection pin assembly. Another object of the present invention is to provide a more robust electrical connection pin assembly. Another object of the present invention is to provide a simpler method of manufacturing an electrical connection pin assembly.

[0010] In one aspect, an electrical connection pin assembly for use in a subsea environment includes a pin tip having a main body and one of a sheath and a core that extends along a centerline. The pin tip is formed from a corrosive resistant material and a main conductor includes the other of the sheath and the core. The core is disposed within the sheath, and the main conductor is formed from an electrically conductive material that is different from the corrosive resistant material. A crimped joint is formed between the core and the sheath to electrically and mechanically attach the main conductor to the pin tip, and an insulating layer is formed to sealably

cover a portion of the core and a portion of the sheath.
[0011] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes a corrosive resistant material that includes one of gold, silver, nickel, molybdenum, titanium, and chrome in elemental or alloy form.
[0012] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes an electrically conductive material formed from one of copper, aluminum, a copper alloy, and an aluminum alloy.
[0013] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes an insulating layer that covers the sheath.
[0014] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes a sheath that defines a hollow portion sized to receive the core.
[0015] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes a pin tip that includes the sheath, and a main conductor that includes the core.
[0016] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes a pin tip that includes the core, and a main conductor that includes the sheath.
[0017] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes an electrically conductive material that has an electrical resistivity that is lower than the electrical resistivity of the corrosion resistant material.
[0018] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes a corrosion resistant material that has a pitting resistance equivalent number greater than 32.
[0019] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes a corrosion resistant material that has a pitting resistance equivalent number greater than 40.
[0020] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes a pin tip that includes one of the group including Inconel®, Monel®, Super Duplex®, or a nickel-based alloy.
[0021] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes a pin tip formed from material that has an electrical resistance greater than the material that forms the main conductor.
[0022] In another aspect, the electrical connection pin assembly includes a main conductor that is formed from material that has an electrical resistance less than 5E-08 Ohm.Math.m.
[0023] Other technical features may be readily apparent to one skilled in the art from the following figures, descriptions, and claims.
[0024] In another aspect, a method of forming an electrical connection pin assembly for use in a subsea environment includes forming a pin tip from a corrosive resistant material, the pin tip including a main body and one of a sheath and a core that extends along a centerline. The method also includes forming a main conductor from an electrically conductive material, the main conductor including the other of the sheath and the core, positioning the sheath to surround a portion of the core, compressing the sheath against the core to form a crimped joint, and overmolding an insulating layer onto a portion of the core and a portion of the sheath to sealably enclose an interface between the sheath and the core and inhibit contact between water in the subsea environment and the interface.
[0025] The method of manufacturing the electrical connection pin assembly may include a pin tip that includes the sheath and a main conductor that includes the core.
[0026] The method of manufacturing the electrical connection pin assembly may include an electrically conductive material that includes one of copper, aluminum, a copper alloy, and aluminum alloy.
[0027] The method of manufacturing the electrical connection pin assembly may include a corrosive resistant material that includes one of gold, silver, nickel, titanium, and chrome in elemental or alloy form.
[0028] The method of manufacturing the electrical connection pin assembly may include machining the insulating layer to remove a portion of the insulating layer to achieve a desired dimension of the insulating layer.
[0029] The method of manufacturing the electrical connection pin assembly may include the step

of machining each of the pin tip and the insulating layer to a desired dimension.
[0030] The method of manufacturing the electrical connection pin assembly may further include selecting an electrically conductive material that has an electrical resistivity that is lower than the electrical resistivity of the corrosion resistant material.
[0031] Other technical features may be readily apparent to one skilled in the art from the following figures, descriptions, and claims.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS
[0032] The above-mentioned attributes and other features and advantages of the present invention and the manner of attaining them will become more apparent and the present technique itself will be better understood by reference to the following description of embodiments of the present technique taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:
[0033] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a portion of an electrical connection pin assembly.
[0034] FIG. **2** is a longitudinal section through the portion of the electrical connection pin assembly of FIG. **1**.
[0035] FIG. **3** is a longitudinal section through the portion of the electrical connection pin assembly of FIG. **1** with the addition of an insulating layer.
[0036] FIG. **4** is a perspective view of another arrangement of a portion of an electrical connection pin assembly.
[0037] FIG. **5** is a longitudinal section through the portion of the electrical connection pin assembly of FIG. **4**.
[0038] FIG. **6** is a longitudinal section through the portion of the electrical connection pin assembly of FIG. **4** with the addition of an insulating layer.
[0039] FIG. **7** is a perspective view on the electrical connection pin assembly in a finished state.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION
[0040] FIG. **1** illustrates a partial pin assembly and in particular a partial electrical connection pin assembly **100** that is well-suited for use in a subsea environment. “Subsea environment” refers to the region beneath the surface of the sea, ocean, or any body of water. This encompasses the seabed, the water column, and any structures, systems, or equipment that are installed or operated in this subsea area. The subsea environment is often characterized by high pressures (i.e., greater than 10 Bar), low temperatures (less than 10 degrees C.), and corrosive conditions that present unique challenges for the design and operation of underwater technologies and infrastructure.
[0041] The portion of the electrical connection pin assembly **100** illustrated in FIG. **1** includes a main conductor **102** and a pin tip **104**. The pin tip **104** includes a main body **108** and a core **110**. The core **110** extends from the main body **108** along a centerline **114** or longitudinal axis. The main conductor **102** operates as the main conductor for the cable, wire, or connection and generally includes a core conductor and a layer of insulation.
[0042] The main conductor **102** includes a sheath **112** that extends over the core **110**. A crimped joint **106** is formed between the sheath **112** and the core **110** to form a physical and electrical connection between the main conductor **102** and the pin tip **104**.
[0043] Because the main conductor **102** can be quite long when compared to the pin tip **104** it is desirable that a good electrical conductor such as copper, copper alloys, aluminum, or aluminum alloys be used. In preferred constructions, the material used has an electrical resistance that is less than 5E-08 Ohm.Math.m. However, as one of ordinary skill will understand, the subsea environment can be very aggressive, and these materials are susceptible to corrosion in many subsea environments.
[0044] The pin tip **104** is formed from an electrically conductive material that has improved

corrosion resistance. The main conductor **102** is formed from a highly electrically conductive material, but without needing to be corrosion resistant. The main conductor **102** may have a significantly lower electrical resistivity than the pin tip **104**. For example, a copper main conductor **102** might have a resistivity of 1.68e-8Ω.Math.m. Another suitable material for the main conductor **102** is aluminum or an alloy of aluminum and which may have a resistivity of about 2.65e-8Ω.Math.m depending on the particular alloy.

[0045] The pin tip **104** may be formed from a corrosion resistant material like Inconel® 625 which has an electrical resistivity of 1.29e-6Ω.Math.m or a Monel® 400 having a resistivity of 5.47e-7Ω.Math.m. Other materials suitable for the pin tip **104** include but are not limited to Molybdenum R03600 having a resistivity of 5.34E-08Ω.Math.m and Super Duplex® S32760 having a resistivity of 8E-07Ω.Math.m.

[0046] As mentioned, the pin tip **104** is formed from an electrically conductive material with good and preferably excellent corrosion resistance. The definition of "corrosion resistant" used herein corresponds to the definition provided in the International Standard Organization (ISO) **15156** which specifies materials as being seawater resistant if the pitting resistance equivalent number (PREN) of the material is greater than or equal to 32 (good corrosion resistance) and preferably greater than or equal to 40 (excellent corrosion resistance). Usually, materials having a PREN above 40 comprise a metallic alloy such as any Inconel® or any Monel®. Two examples are Inconel® 625 and Monel® 400 which have excellent corrosion resistance and essentially do not corrode in seawater. Materials having a PREN between 32 and 40, such as Molybdenum R03600 (essentially pure Molybdenum) and Super Duplex® S32760, have good corrosion protection and may be used for the pin tip **104**. Super Duplex® S32760 is a stainless steel and other stainless steels may be used that have a PREN greater than or equal to 32. Other examples of materials having good or excellent corrosion resistance are nickel-based alloys such as Incoloy®, Hastalloy® or NiBron®.

[0047] It should be appreciated that the materials listed above are a few of many examples of materials that are listed in ISO 15156 or would otherwise have a PREN greater than or equal to 32 and preferably greater than or equal to 40. Furthermore, the term "corrosion resistant" may also be defined as a material in accordance with ISO 10423 or ISO 13688. Nonetheless, materials, such as copper or copper alloys, that are not deemed corrosion resistant and have a PREN below 32 are not used for the pin tip **104**. PREN numbers are determined for alloys that contain certain specific materials (the PREN is calculated based on the percentage of those materials in the alloy). As such, materials such as gold, silver, molybdenum or titanium do not have a PREN number, despite being corrosion resistant. Thus, while these materials do not have a PREN number, they are well-suited for use as corrosion resistant materials.

[0048] It should be noted that the terms "greater than" and "less than" should be interpreted to include the endpoints. As such, "greater than" should be read as "greater than or equal to" and "less than" should be read as "less than or equal to".

[0049] FIG. **2** illustrates the portion of the electrical connection pin assembly **100** illustrated in FIG. **1** in a cross-sectional view to better illustrate the relative positions of the main conductor **102**, the pin tip **104**, and the crimped joint **106**.

[0050] As can be seen, the main conductor **102** and the pin tip **104** each extend along the centerline **114** (sometimes referred to as a longitudinal axis). The sheath **112** defines a hollow space **202** that is sized to receive a portion of the core **110**.

[0051] The crimped joint **106** is formed by compressing or swaging a portion of the sheath **112** such that it compresses against and squeezes the core **110** that is disposed within the hollow space **202**.

[0052] The crimped joint **106** can be formed using simple tools with little or no training and skill. In addition, the crimped joint **106** provides a stable mechanical connection and provides for good electrical connectivity between the core **110** and the sheath **112**. Additionally, no special materials

such as weld fillers, brazes, adhesives and the like are required to form the connection. Thus, the connection between the main conductor **102** and the pin tip **104** can be made inexpensively and quickly with a very low failure rate, thereby reducing the cost and the lead time of the electrical connection pin assembly **100**.
[0053] It should be noted that while FIG. **1** and FIG. **2** illustrate a cylindrical core **110** that has a solid circular cross section and a corresponding cylindrical hollow space **202**, other shapes and arrangements are possible. In addition, the sheath **112** is illustrates as being a continuous annular cylinder (or tubular) in cross section, other arrangements may include a discontinuous sheath **112**. For example, the sheath **112** could include two or more fingers, or an annular array of fingers that are separated from one another but that each define a portion of the annular cylinder defined by the illustrated sheath **112**.
[0054] FIG. **3** illustrates a completed electrical connection pin assembly **100** in cross-section to illustrate the relationship between the components. FIG. **3** includes the arrangement illustrated in FIG. **2** with the addition of an insulating layer **302**. The insulating layer **302** is placed, molded, or formed in position to cover the entire core **110** and a portion of the main conductor **102**. In preferred arrangements, the insulating layer **302** is molded into place to complete the assembly and to form a seal to inhibit water, or any other atmospheric element from contacting the crimped joint **106** or the exposed portion of the main conductor **102**. While the arrangement of FIG. **3** allows for the formation of the insulating layer **302** to size such that machining may not be required, some constructions may form the insulating layer **302** oversized and then machine it to the desired size.
[0055] The insulating layer **302** is formed from an electrically insulating material and one that is corrosion resistant in the subsea environment. Possible materials suitable for use as the insulating layer **302** include PEEK (Poly Ether Ether Ketone) or other known electrically insulating and protective materials. The insulating layer **302** covers a portion of the main conductor **102**, the crimped joint **106**, and any exposed portion of the core **110** and abuts the main body **108** of the pin tip **104**. The insulating layer **302** inhibits corrosive fluid, such as seawater, from contacting the main conductor **102**, the crimped joint **106**, and the exposed core **110**.
[0056] While not illustrated, to complete the assembly of the electrical connection pin assembly **100**, the insulating layer **302** and a portion of the pin tip **104** may be machined to a final desired shape or diameter. The machining assures that the insulating layer **302** sufficiently covers the desired features and components while also meeting its desired fit and function. Machining the pin tip **104** and in particular the main body **108** of the pin tip **104** assures a smooth, electrically conductive, but corrosion resistant surface is exposed for making the electrical connection.
[0057] In some constructions, irregular-shaped surfaces or lock profiles, or roughened surfaces are provided to one or more of the core **110**, the sheath **112**, or a portion of the main conductor **102** to enhance the engagement between these surfaces and the insulating layer **302**.
[0058] FIG. **4** illustrates a portion of an alternative arrangement of the electrical connection pin assembly **100** of FIG. **1** through FIG. **3**. The electrical connection pin assembly **400** includes a main conductor **402** and a pin tip **404**. However, in contrast to the electrical connection pin assembly **100**, the main conductor **402** of the electrical connection pin assembly **400** extends into the pin tip **404** rather than vice versa.
[0059] The pin tip **404** includes a main body **408** and a sheath **412** that, in the illustrated construction has a hexagonal cross-section that is the result of the crimping operation that forms a crimped joint **406**. Prior to the formation of the crimped joint **406**, the main body **408** is cylindrical. Of course, other cross-sections for the sheath **412** including cylindrical or other polygonal shapes are possible, both before and after crimping.
[0060] The crimped joint **406** is formed between the pin tip **404** and the main conductor **402**. Specifically, the sheath **412** is compressed into the main conductor **402** to complete the crimped joint **406**.
[0061] FIG. **5** is a cross-sectional view of the partial electrical connection pin assembly **400** as

illustrated in FIG. **4**. As illustrated, the main conductor **402** extends along the centerline **114** and includes a core **410**. The core **410** (exposed portion of the main conductor **402**) is generally a solid cylinder having a circular cross-section with other shapes or arrangements being possible.

[0062] The pin tip **404** extends along the centerline **114** with the sheath **412** defining a recess or hollow space **502** therein. The core **410** of the main conductor **402** is received within the hollow space **502** defined by the sheath **412** and the sheath **412** is compressed to form the crimped joint **406** to mechanically and electrically connect the main conductor **402** and the pin tip **404** at an interface **504**.

[0063] FIG. **6** illustrates the completed electrical connection pin assembly **400** prior to any machining. The electrical connection pin assembly **400** includes the components illustrated in FIG. **5** and further including an insulating layer **302** that is applied in a position to cover the exposed portion of the core **410**, a portion of the sheath **412**, and a portion of the main conductor **402**. The positioning of the insulating layer **302** seals an opening to the interface **504** and thereby inhibits entry of the outside environment into contact with the interface **504**.

[0064] The insulating layer **302** may be formed of an electrical insulating material such as PEEK (Poly Ether Ether Ketone) or other known electrically insulating and protective materials and may be applied via a molding process. The insulating layer **302** covers a portion of the main conductor **402** and abuts the sheath **412** near the crimped joint **406**. The insulating layer **302** inhibits corrosive fluid, such as sea water, from contacting the main conductor **402** or entering the crimped joint **406**.

[0065] In many constructions, the electrical connection pin assembly **400** is machined after the molding or application of the insulating layer **302** to assure that the insulating layer **302** meets a desired dimension. In addition, during this machining process, the pin tip **404** may also be machined to assure that it has the proper size for its intended use as well as a clean exposed surface to provide the suitable electrical conductivity while remaining resistant to corrosion.

[0066] The ability to machine the pin tip **104**, **404** as well as the insulating layer **302** is a significant improvement found in the constructions discussed herein. In prior designs, a plated copper core was used and the machinist had to be very skilled to avoid damaging the plating while machining the insulating layer **302**. With a corrosion resistant pin tip **104**, **404**, as described herein this additional care and skill is not needed thereby making the machining easier and less likely to cause damage that would require reworking or scrapping. The illustrated arrangements also allow for a single diameter on both the pin tip **104**, **404** and the insulating layer **302** which is beneficial for seals. In prior designs, the machinist had to be very skilled to avoid forming a small step in the diameter which is bad for seals.

[0067] FIG. **7** illustrates one possible arrangement of the electrical connection pin assembly **400** following machining and in a finished state. Depending on the desired diameter of the electrical connection pin assembly **400**, the main body **408** and/or the crimped joint **406** and/or the insulating layer **302** may be machined to a uniform diameter as shown. In addition, crimping or swaging can leave sharp edges that are undesirable. The machining step removes these sharp edges in the arrangement of the electrical connection pin assembly **400** of FIG. **4** through FIG. **6**. In the electrical connection pin assembly **100** of FIG. **1** through FIG. **3**, the sharp edges are still present but are buried within the insulating layer **302**.

[0068] The arrangement of the electrical connection pin assembly **400** of FIG. **4** through FIG. **6** is therefore preferable electrically to the arrangement of the electrical connection pin assembly **100** of FIG. **1** through FIG. **3**, at least where high voltages are present (the sharp edges can cause electrical breakdown or partial discharge-both are electrical failure modes). The formation of the crimped joint **106** would likely use a circular crimp die in an effort to avoid or minimize these sharp edges. However, the formation of the crimped joint **406** could use any desired crimping tool or die as any sharp edges are removed during machining.

[0069] As the crimping or swaging operation or the crimped joint **106**, **406** itself is not affected by the molding environment or temperatures, the crimped joints **106**, **406** can be made prior to molding the insulating layer **302**. The insulating layer **302** can then cover or seal access to the crimped joint **106**, **406** thereby forming a corrosion resistant barrier. The crimping/swaging operation does not require highly skilled operators as the tools used are simple, common, and inexpensive. The crimping or swaging operation results in a repeatable and effective electrical joint. It does not require significant verification and does not leave sharp irregular edges.

[0070] To assemble the electrical connection pin assembly **100** the user first forms or establishes the hollow space **202** in the end of the main conductor **102**, thereby defining the sheath **112**. The pin tip **104** is positioned along the same centerline **114** as the main conductor **102** and the core **110** of the pin tip **104** is inserted into the hollow space **202** defined by the sheath **112**.

[0071] Using common tools and techniques, the user compresses a portion of the sheath **112** to form the crimped joint **106** between the main conductor **102** and the pin tip **104**. The crimped joint **106** defines a mechanical connection between the main conductor **102** and the pin tip **104** and also provides a good electrical connection.

[0072] The insulating layer **302** is then formed or molded to cover at least a portion of the sheath **112** and the exposed portion of the core **110**. The insulating layer **302** and in some cases a portion of the pin tip **104** are then machined to a final size and shape to meet the particular requirements of the application.

[0073] The assembly of the electrical connection pin assembly **400** is similar to the assembly of the electrical connection pin assembly **100**. The main conductor **402** is positioned such that it extends along the centerline **114** to place the core **410** in a desired position. The pin tip **404** is formed to include a sheath **412** that defines a hollow space **502** within the pin tip **404** rather than in the main conductor **102** as shown in FIG. **1** and FIG. **2**.

[0074] The core **410** is inserted into the hollow space **502** and the sheath **412** is compressed to define the crimped joint **406**. The crimped joint **406**, once formed mechanically connects the main conductor **402** and the pin tip **404**. In addition, the crimped joint **406** provides a good electrical connection between the main conductor **402** and the pin tip **404**.

[0075] The insulating layer **302** is formed to cover the exposed portion of the core **410**, a portion of the sheath **412**, and a portion of the main conductor **402**. The insulating layer **302** and in some instances the pin tip **404** are machined until the electrical connection pin assembly **400** meets the desired dimensions and shape for the particular application.

[0076] As should be clear, the two constructions illustrated herein each include a core and a sheath that defines a hollow portion. However, the positions of these components are reversed in the two constructions. In the arrangement of FIG. **1** through FIG. **3** the main conductor **102** includes the sheath **112** that defines the hollow space **202**. In contrast, the construction of FIG. **4** through FIG. **6** includes a pin tip **404** that includes the sheath **412** that defines the hollow space **502**. In addition, in the first construction of the electrical connection pin assembly **100**, the core **110** is formed as part of the pin tip **104**. However, in the second construction of the electrical connection pin assembly **400**, the core **410** is part of the main conductor **402**.

[0077] All the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), and/or all the steps of any method or process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except combinations where at least some of such features and/or steps are mutually exclusive.

[0078] Each feature disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings) may be replaced by alternative features serving the same, equivalent or similar purpose, unless expressly stated otherwise. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each feature disclosed is one example only of a generic series of equivalent or similar features.

[0079] The invention is not restricted to the details of the foregoing embodiment(s). The invention extends to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), or to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the steps of any method or process so disclosed.

Claims

1. An electrical connection pin assembly for use in a subsea environment, the pin assembly comprising: a pin tip having a main body and one of a sheath and a core that extends along a centerline, the pin tip formed from a corrosive resistant material; a main conductor including the other of the sheath and the core, the core disposed within the sheath, the main conductor formed from an electrically conductive material that is different from the corrosive resistant material; a crimped joint formed between the core and the sheath to electrically and mechanically attach the main conductor to the pin tip; and an insulating layer formed to sealably cover a portion of the core and a portion of the sheath.
2. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corrosive resistant material includes one of gold, silver, nickel, molybdenum, titanium, and chrome in elemental or alloy form.
3. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the electrically conductive material is formed from one of copper, aluminum, a copper alloy, and an aluminum alloy.
4. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insulating layer covers the sheath.
5. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sheath defines a hollow portion sized to receive the core.
6. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pin tip includes the sheath, and the main conductor includes the core.
7. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pin tip includes the core, and the main conductor includes the sheath.
8. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive material has an electrical resistivity that is lower than the electrical resistivity of the corrosion resistant material.
9. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the corrosion resistant material has a pitting resistance equivalent number greater than 32.
10. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the corrosion resistant material has a pitting resistance equivalent number greater than 40.
11. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pin tip includes one of the group including Inconel®, Monel®, Super Duplex®, or a nickel-based alloy.
12. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pin tip is formed from material that has an electrical resistance greater than the material that forms the main conductor.
13. An electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the main conductor is formed from material that has an electrical resistance less than 5E-08 Ohm.Math.m.
14. A method of forming an electrical connection pin assembly for use in a subsea environment, the method comprising: forming a pin tip from a corrosive resistant material, the pin tip including a main body and one of a sheath and a core that extends along a centerline; forming a main conductor from an electrically conductive material, the main conductor including the other of the sheath and the core; positioning the sheath to surround a portion of the core; compressing the sheath against the core to form a crimped joint; and overmolding an insulating layer onto a portion of the core and a portion of the sheath to sealably enclose an interface between the sheath and the core and inhibit contact between water in the subsea environment and the interface.
15. A method of manufacturing an electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 14, wherein the pin tip includes the sheath and the main conductor includes the core.
16. A method of manufacturing an electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 14, wherein the electrically conductive material includes one of copper, aluminum, a copper alloy, and aluminum alloy.

17. A method of manufacturing an electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 14, wherein the corrosive resistant material includes one of gold, silver, nickel, titanium, and chrome in elemental or alloy form.

18. A method of manufacturing an electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 14, further comprising machining the insulating layer to remove a portion of the insulating layer to achieve a desired dimension of the insulating layer.

19. A method of manufacturing an electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 14 wherein the method further comprises the step of machining each of the pin tip and the insulating layer to a desired dimension.

20. A method of manufacturing an electrical connection pin assembly as claimed in claim 14, further comprising selecting an electrically conductive material that has an electrical resistivity that is lower than the electrical resistivity of the corrosion resistant material.
