

U.S. Navy Stealth Ships Will Require Precision Fabrication



Future ships for the U.S. Navy will employ designs that promote stealth characteristics. The designs will require changes in the appearance of ships in much the same way that stealth technology changed the appearance of military aircraft such as the F117 fighter and B2 bomber. While stealth technology has several aspects, one in particular is careful control of exterior surfaces. That surface control, in turn, will require precision fabrication technology.

Work underway at MAGLEV, Inc. is focused on advanced fabrication technology for future navy ships. A current program entails the fabrication of a beam composed of a superaustenitic stainless steel substructure with a glass re-enforced composite panel structure. This program is a natural evolution of other on-going work by MAGLEV, Inc. on precision fabrication of large curved plate steel structures.

Precision fabrication technology is not only important in achieving stealth characteristics, it is also important in enhanced quality and productivity of many different structures. Use of precision fabrication technology will result in lower costs and time-to-market improvements for bridge structures, offshore structures, on and off ramps for highways and buildings themselves.