Large Interior Pipe Joint Tester

The Lansas firm custom designed and fabricated a pipe joint tester to test joints between sections of 21' interior diameter cast-in-place concrete pipe. The tester looks like a 21' bicycle wheel. In place of the tire is an 18" inflatable circumferential tube with two parallel air chambers separated by a diaphragm. The pipe tester is aligned with a pipe joint such that one of the chambers is on either side of the joint, and the diaphragm spans the joint. The parallel chambers are expanded with air to form a seal against the pipe wall, such that the diaphragm between them spans the pipe joint to form a third chamber. The third chamber is then filled with water under pressure, which leaks to the outside of the pipe joint if the joint is not well sealed. This pipe tester replaces the full pipe closure normally used to test smaller diameter pipe. This type of pipe tester was created by Gerald Vanderlans for 4' pipe in the San Francisco area 20 years ago, and he patented it in 1978. It is available from the Lansas firm in a normal range of sizes up to 10' in diameter. The largest application before this was 17' in Los Angeles, 10-11 years ago, using lower pressures.

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