



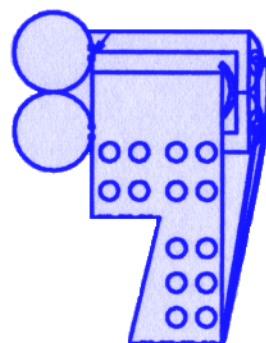
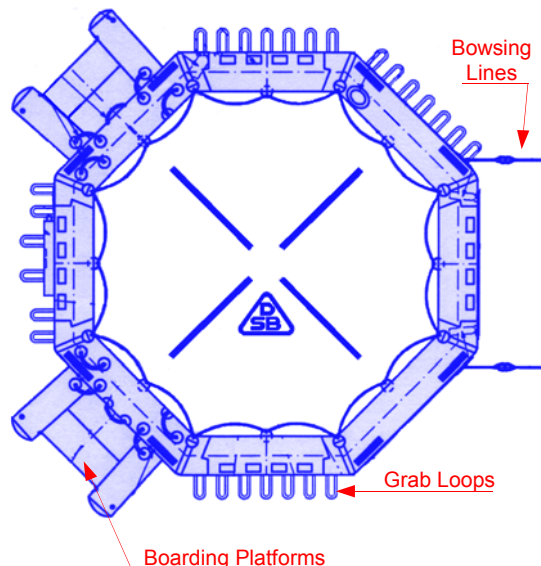
Rescue Liferrafts

An open-reversible liferaft, developed with the German rescue services for recovering persons from the water

The *Jan Heweliusz* and *Estonia* disasters highlighted the problems rescuers face when recovering casualties over a large area of water.

In response, DSB in close co-operation with the German Rescue Services, the Maritime Authorities and the Navy spent four years developing personnel recovery equipment suitable for use at incidents involving passenger vessels and ditched aircraft. The criteria specified that the equipment should be suitable for placing on board surface rescue craft and being dropped by SAR helicopters. Additionally, without loss of manoeuvrability, the surface craft were to be able to tow and position the equipment close to casualties .

Over the four year period there was extensive testing in the German Bight sea area which clearly indicated that although the concept of using a liferaft for mass casualty recovery was fundamentally sound, there was, when considering a large number of



Side view of the boarding arrangement

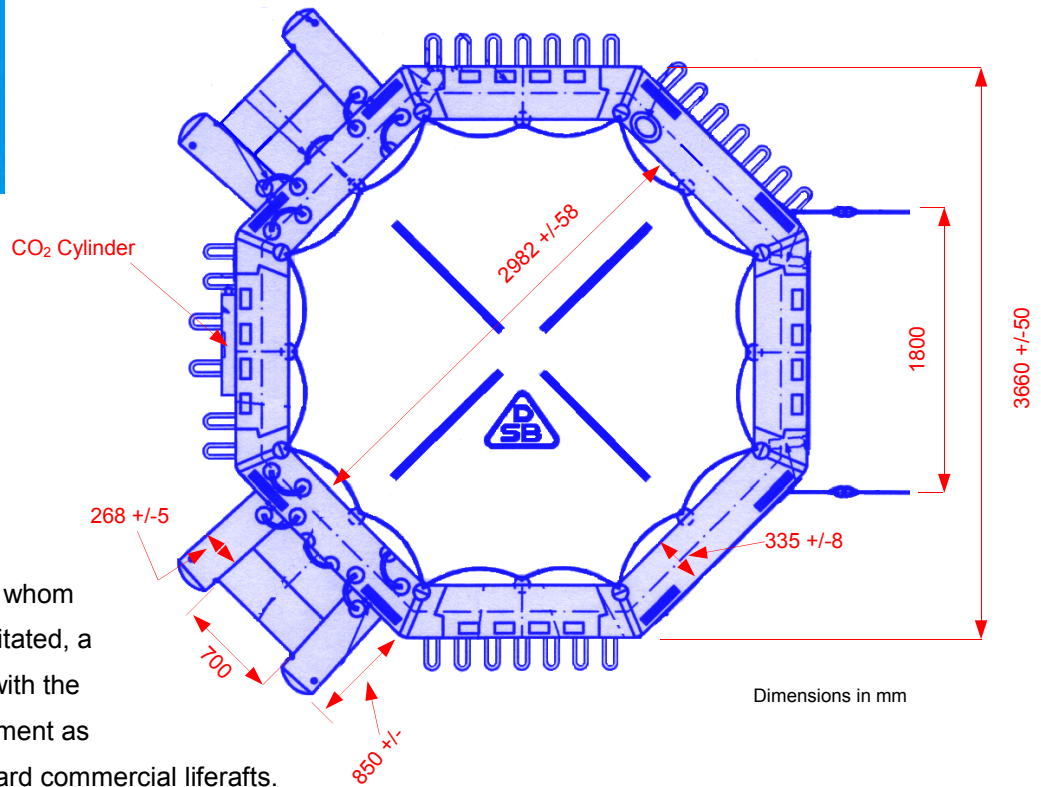
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persons, many of whom would be incapacitated, a serious problem with the boarding arrangement as provided in standard commercial liferafts. Therefore a boarding system had to be developed which allowed both able and assisted incapacitated casualties to board the raft from the water.

The result was the production of a flexible rescue platform: being a liferaft without a canopy that could be used whichever way up it inflated and was provided with an embarkation system that took account of the difficulties encountered when boarding from the water.

DSB Rescue Liferafts are currently in use with the German Maritime Rescue Services and available for distribution worldwide.

DSB Rescue Liferaft	
Capacity	20 persons
Usable free floor	7.45 m ² (approx)
Weight (without container)	90 kg
Shape	Octagonal
Inflation medium	CO ₂
Temperature range	-30 to +65 °C
Boarding platforms	2
Quoit & Line	1
Fittings	Water Pockets Retro Tape Grab Loops Bowsing Lines Painter Line

Weathertight Container options	Length	Width	Height	Weight
	mm	mm	mm	kg
GRP (White)	1244	650	600	112
Valise (Red)	1060	620	530	94



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