

- (21) Application No **7915914**
- (22) Date of filing **8 May 1979**
- (23) Claims filed **8 May 1979**
- (30) Priority data
- (31) **903181**  
**35216**
- (32) **5 May 1978**  
**2 May 1979**
- (33) **United States of America**  
**(US)**
- (43) Application published  
**23 Jan 1980**
- (51) **INT CL<sup>3</sup>**  
**F16L 1/04**
- (52) Domestic classification  
**F2P 37**
- (56) Documents cited  
**GB 1507959**  
**GB 1339654**  
**GB 1312593**  
**GB 1312592**  
**GB 1077331**
- (58) Field of search  
**F2P**

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(54) **Pipe laying ship**

(57) A self propelled pipe laying ship 10 having forward, midship and stern sections, and having a reel 20 mounted at the midship section thereof about a substantially horizontal axis of rotation extending transversely of the ship, such that the load of the reel is distributed downwardly and outwardly substantial-

ly in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the ship, the ship further including pipe conditioning means located at the stern section for movement about a pivot axis 4115 extending substantially parallel to the rotational axis of the reel said pipe conditioning means comprising a) radius control means 490 for imparting a substantially uniform curve to the pipe after it is unspooled from the reel, b) straightening means 510 for imparting a reverse bending force to the pipe opposite the curvature imparted to the pipe by the reel, and c) means 540 for guiding the pipe into the water after it emerges from the straightening means; and means 550,552 for pivoting the pipe conditioning means about its pivot axis to adjust the pipe entry angle at which pipe enters the water after passing through the pipe guide means.

