Using the patented GMC Mechanical Connector, the Pipeline-End Termination (PLET) installation operation can be optimised for ultra deepwater installation.

**GMC Mechanical Connector Key Features:**
- Binary, concentrically grooved connector
- Multiple metal-to-metal nib seals
- ID & OD preloaded contact shoulder
- Highly fatigue resistant (=DNV–B1)
- Excellent torsional slip resistance
- Unlimited fast make-break cycles
- Wide range of sizes (6” to 48”)

The installation of the PLET may cause a large amount of stand-by time for the installation vessel. In order to minimize the installation time of such items on the pipeline, the employment of the GMC Mechanical Connector is beneficial. The GMC Mechanical Connector allows the time consuming offshore welding operation to be performed onshore, off the critical path. During the offshore operation, only the fast coupling of the male and female connector is performed at the connector station.

As a result, GMC allows for better planning and, with the appropriate technology, the offshore installation contractor can effectively reduce the stand-by time and the actual operation time of the installation vessel.

Outline of the Standard Operating Procedure:

1. Pipelay vessel completing the normal pipelay operation
2. Installation of a transition joint in the “bead stall” by welding a 12 meter pipe with an end male connector. The transition joint is welded to the pipe string using standard welding equipment. The transition joint will connect to a female connector on the A&R head.
3. Engagement of the connected A&R head
4. Abandonment of the pipeline
5. Positioning on the A-frame of the PLET
6. Recovery of the pipeline by means of the A-frame
7. Clamping of the pipeline with the hang-off clamp
8. Removal of the A&R head (disengagement of the connector A&R head)
9. Lowering of the PLET in order to allow the male and female connector to engage. Connection of the PLET with the pipe string.
10. Lowering of the pipeline by means of the A-frame
ABOUT GMC

GMC is an industry leader in innovative engineering, project management, and installation solutions and products, from the seabed to the surface, for offshore oil and gas SURF, drilling, and production projects. Established in 1990, GMC has offices in the UK and USA.