

Monitoring quality in plastic pipes

SMART EU project update



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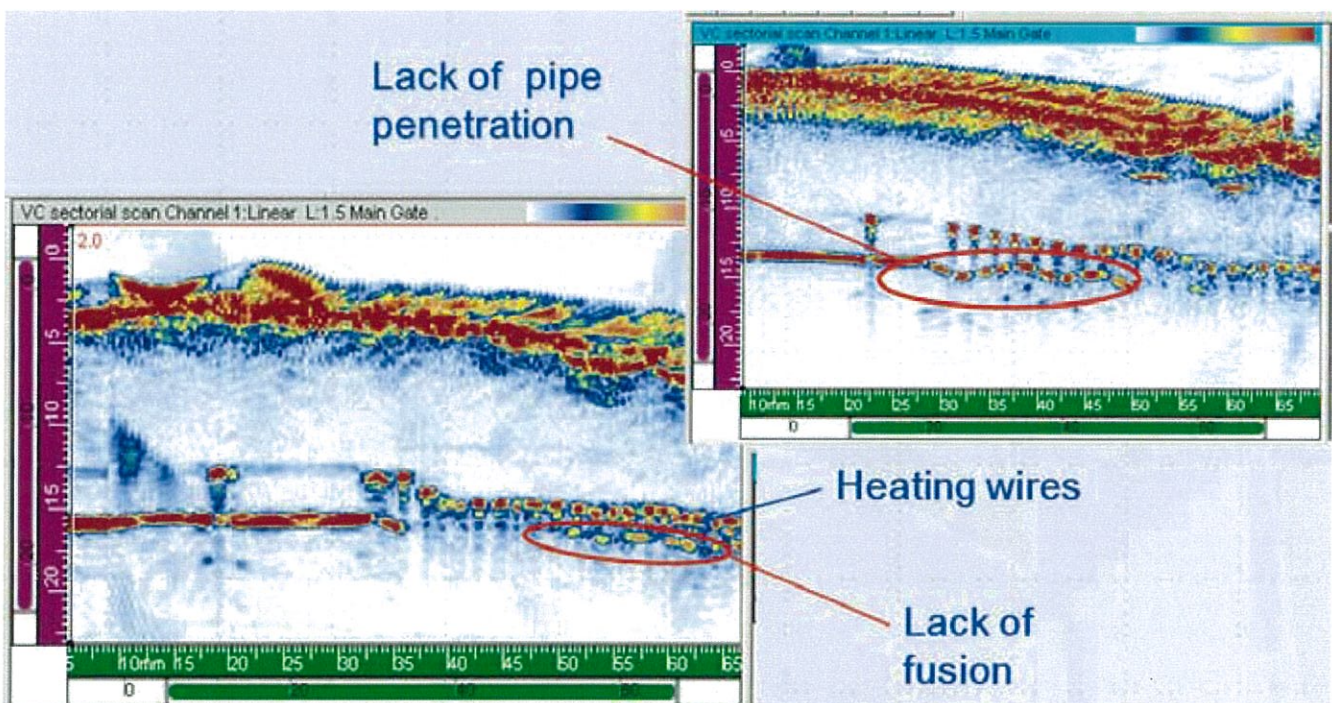


The type of environment where testing of pipe welds need to be conducted.

TestPEP, the goal of which is the development and validation of an automatic, non-destructive testing of welded joints and plastic pipes, has been running successfully for twelve months. SMART Group's role in the project, like our other EU activity, is to disseminate information on the project and provide training. A further activity is to take the equipment and, using inspection criteria produced from mechanical testing, confirm the test equipment can detect joint failure that does reduce the life of the welds. A highlight for the author is to test welds in deep muddy ditches, half full of water, and test the robustness of the

equipment. Although this application of non-destructive testing is a little different than SMART's normal activity, the testing methodology and use of electronics, setting and training inspection staff is what we do well. The EU FP7-funded project involves 13 organisations from seven European countries.

Plastic pipes offer significant advantages over other materials, such as cast iron, steel, copper and concrete, for the transportation of natural gas, water, effluent, corrosive liquids and other fluids. They do not corrode; they have a longer predicted service life, leading to less frequent replacement. They are less



Example of existing NDE test being conducted and the result indicated on the software display