

Project develops new system for testing plastic pipe joints

The Guild has recently joined a project, co-ordinated by leading global engineering company TWI, to develop an automated non-destructive evaluation (NDE) approach for testing welded joints in plastic pipes.

The TestPEP project involves 17 partners from seven countries across Europe.

Plastic pipes are already used to transport gas, water and chemicals due to their many advantages over metals or concrete such as good chemical resistance, low weight, low cost and longer predicted service life.

However their use in more safety critical applications is limited by the fact that there is no inspection system available to evaluate plastic joints.

Although a number of non-destructive inspection systems are available commercially to inspect welds in plastic pipes, they have not been adequately



The use of plastic pipes in safety critical applications is limited by the lack of an inspection system for plastic joints

validated and the data generated by these systems are not linked to any acceptance criteria. In addition, these systems require trained operators to allow interpretation of the results.

Following responses received from the plastic pipe industry, the system that will be developed within the TestPEP project will be designed to accommodate pipe diameters

from 90mm to 1m for both butt fusion and electrofusion joints.

Another part of the project will be to develop acceptance criteria for various types of flaws in welded joints based on both short-term and long-term testing. The NDE and mechanical test data will be brought together to develop a system capable of delivering an automatic pass/fail result, thus eliminating the need for a trained NDE operator.

For more information on the TestPEP project please contact mike.troughton@twi.co.uk



The TestPEP project has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme managed by REA-Research

Executive Agency (FP7-SME-2008-2) under grant agreement no. 243791.

Fisher German manage 140-mile Total pipeline

Total UK have appointed leading chartered surveyors Fisher German to manage their 140-mile (230km) petroleum pipeline, running from Immingham in Lincolnshire to the Buncefield fuel depot in Hemel Hempstead.

Fisher German's Pipelines department, based in Ashby de la Zouch, has taken over land management, maintenance and emergency response of the underground pipeline for the next three years. The firm have more than 20 years experience of managing pipelines and now manage three out of the four largest refined petroleum pipeline networks in the UK.

The contract includes the overhead helicopter maintenance controls as well as providing the first point of contact for landowners, emergency services, councils and other utility providers.

To accommodate the additional work, Fisher German has expanded their team to include three full-time maintenance engineers and a full-time administrator.

Know-how and creativity scoops award

Andrew Palmer & Associates, the offshore stream of The Penspen Group, has won the Subsea UK Global Export Award 2011.

The award follows on from an excellent year for the group in which it also achieved the Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade 2010 as a result of growing exports over 90% in three years to £75m.

The Subsea UK Awards celebrate excellence, innovation and exceptional achievements across the entire UK subsea supply chain.

After accepting the award at the Subsea UK dinner at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, Ernie Lamza, Director of Offshore, said: "I am delighted to accept this award on behalf of Andrew Palmer & Associates and the Penspen Group.

"A combination of our strong technical offer to clients, as well as the creativity, determination and hard work of all our personnel, has enabled us to really grow our offshore business on a truly global scale."



Ernie Lamza, Director of Offshore at Andrew Palmer & Associates with the Subsea UK Global Export Award 2011