

# UKOPA INSIGHTS

SPRING 2024



## UKOPA Members Meeting

27-28 February 2024,  
The Bruntsfield Hotel, Edinburgh

The first UKOPA Members meeting of 2024 took place in Edinburgh's Bruntsfield Hotel to discuss the topic of 'Sustainability & Resilience' in relation to the UK's onshore buried pipeline industry.

The two-day event welcomed more than 20 speakers to discuss a range of research and findings for the shared benefit of members. The event was very well attended with nearly 100 member participants, representing nearly 97% of the pipeline operators in the UK.

As well as excellent presentations and sector specific updates, the event gave a fantastic opportunity to network and meet with friends and colleagues from across the sector, with a three

course dinner carefully positioned between the two days.

We would like to extend our thanks to all the speakers and attendees for taking the time to make this such a worthwhile event. For those who were unable to attend, copies of the presentations can be found on the members section of the UKOPA website or by [clicking here](#).

The next UKOPA Members' Technical Seminar is scheduled for the 22 May at RAF Museum in Telford. We very much look forward to seeing you then.

**Darren Thomas**  
Chair - UKOPA

## Sustainability & Resilience

The event kicked off with an update from Tim Over and Stephen Thorp on the progress being made on the National Underground Asset Repository (NUAR) project. As part of the Government's Geospatial Commission, NUAR is building a digital map of underground pipes and cables to revolutionise the way operators install, maintain, operate and repair the buried infrastructure. It is hoped that the not-for-profit platform will be fully operational by the end of 2025.



The delegates also received excellent presentations from Matt Williams, Tim Rudd and John Madden. Matt, from National Gas, gave fascinating insights into the work that National Gas is doing to reduce methane emissions particularly at above ground installations and compressor sites. Tim Rudd of Valero explained the role drag reducing agents can play in improving the efficiency of fluid flows in pipelines. Whilst John Madden provided an insight into cyber events and considerations that should be given to improving operational resilience.

All the presentations clearly highlighted how sustainability and reliability are increasingly important financial and environmental consideration in pipeline operations.

## Working Group Updates

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for UKOPA's working groups to give an update on the work plans, projects and progress made since the last meeting. On day one there were informative and insightful updates from John Ferarri from the Process Safety Working Group, Barry Dalus from the Governance Group and Darren Cushen and Graham Goodfellow from the Fault & Risk Assessment Working Group. John also explained that more than 15 learning briefs had been produced and shared with members in less the last six months – examples of the learning briefs can be found [here](#).

Day two saw updates from John Madden from the Emergency Planning & Resilience Working Group, Carl Scott from the Infringement Working Group, Morgan James from the Pipeline Integrity Working Group and Stephanie Corless from the Corrosion Prevention Working Group. Copies of all the updates and all the other presentations can be found [here](#) on the members' section of the website.





## Young(er) Pipeline Professionals

Case studies provide an excellent way to illustrate and share good practice in the field. We welcomed presentations from Cameron Millar from INEOS and Tom Oldfield from ROSEN.

Cameron Millar gave an insightful presentation on how in-line inspection work was effectively carried out on buried large bore pipework at the Dalmeny Tank Farm, part of the Forties Pipeline System, providing excellent learnings for future projects.

Tom Oldfield, a representative of the Young Pipeline Professionals Europe (YPPE) and winner of the UKOPA sponsored YPPE presentation paper, shared with members the importance of Inline Investigation Validations. His report suggested that operators should demand and check for high quality in-field verifications as a way of guaranteeing safer operation during the energy transition. Undertaking such validations ensure that a pipeline's performance is within the specification, and that the guiding data can be trusted.

We would like to extend its thanks to Nikki Barker for her excellent organisational skills, all attendees and the speakers for making the event so worthwhile. We look forward to maintaining the positive momentum throughout 2024 and to continue the great work that is being undertaken across the membership.



## Help from the HSE

Members were delighted to welcome in person Hazel Hancock, Principal Inspector from the HSE's Energy Division on day 2, along with her colleagues Kirsty Forder and James Rutherford via TEAMS. Hazel's presentation gave members a valuable insight into the organisational structure and key contacts within the HSE as well as the reporting requirements of MAH pipeline operators at the various stages in the lifecycle of the pipelines.



Hazel also took the opportunity to share soon-to-be-published revisions to the Gas Safety Management Regulations as well as the HSE's intervention plans for 2024-25 which will be issued shortly. She also updated members on the evidence being gathered as part of the Hydrogen Heating Programme that will feed into the government's policy on the use of hydrogen.

## Special Congratulations

Members warmly welcomed the decision to award Barry MacKay with the Chair's Commendation Award in recognition for his work in supporting UKOPA, the wider pipeline industry and as UKOPA Board member for the last 10 years. Although now retired, we congratulate Barry and hope he will continue to play an active role in supporting the UK's pipeline industry.



# UKOPA

United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association

Forthcoming meetings:

- 22 May, Technical Seminar at RAF Museum
  - 8/9th October, Board and Members Meeting (likely to be Bristol)
- For further information, contact [Secretary@ukopa.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@ukopa.co.uk).