

UKOPA INSIGHTS

SPRING 2025

UKOPA Members Meeting

26 February 2025
Manchester Piccadilly

Aging Assets and Inspection Techniques

Manchester hosted the first Members' meeting of 2025 with delegates gathering to discuss and share good practice in relation to managing 'Aging Assets and Inspection Techniques'. The meeting was well attended with more than 65 attendees representing organisations from across the UK and accounting for more than 95% of the UK's onshore pipeline networks, as well as our members from Swissgas.

The meeting kicked off with a special welcome from Clive Zanker, the newly appointed Chair, and a big thank you to Darren Thomas who now takes on the role of Vice Chair for the next year. From February 2026, Simon Joyce will take on the Vice Chair role become chair from February 2027. Clive informed the membership that there are new Chair's of two of the working groups, Martin Davey, will chair the Fault & Risk Assessment Working Group and Richard Price chairing the Pipeline Integrity Working Group.



Crack Susceptibility Analysis



Delegates were presented with interesting research looking at the types of cracks, abnormalities in the manufacturing process as well as the susceptibility indicators. The research and insights were supported by a fascinating case study of the work undertaken by Rosen on INEOS' Blackness to Grangemouth pipeline that looked at time dependant cracking threats in terms of stress, fatigue and joints. The presentation ended with safety recommendations and key learnings.



UT Wall Thickness versus MFL ILI techniques

Richard Price from BPA presented his experience comparing and contrasting the results of UT wall thickness inspection versus current MFL techniques, as part of an ILI verification study. Although this project is still ongoing the initial results indicated that the UT wall thickness measurements have identified areas of reduction in pipeline wall thickness, which in some cases led to the need for immediate repairs to be carried out. More information will be shared when there is further data available.

HSE share insights & advice

The HSE's Walt Doxford, outlined how today's quality could be tomorrow's major accident hazard'. The presentation used real life case studies to clearly show the importance of scrutiny of qualifications and quality of works undertaken as well as the important role supervision and culture play in helping organisations prevent accidents and deviance from good practice.



David Glass from the HSE's Chemical, Explosives and Microbiological Hazards Division also presented detailed safety alert case studies that clearly showed the need to improve safety culture across industry, the importance of QC controls to apply proper scrutiny and the role of both individuals and companies in ensuring the compliance to the Health & Safety and Work Act. Both presentations are available to UKOPA members on the UKOPA members centre.

UKOPA goes international

UKOPA has been invited to attend the Pipeline Technical Conference in Berlin. The event includes pipeline operators, industry leaders, experts, and young talent who gather to discuss the latest developments and advancements in pipeline technology on a global stage. UKOPA will be there to share the work it undertakes in the UK and to further broaden awareness of pipeline safety.

20TH
ANNIVERSARY



20TH PIPELINE
TECHNOLOGY
CONFERENCE
5-8 MAY 2025, BERLIN

GEEP Supporting opportunities in engineering



Shalaka Darshane from the Royal Academy of Engineering's Graduate Engineering Engagement Programme (GEEP) outlined the excellent work being undertaken to harness the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and inclusive economy. To date the GEEP programme has supported more than 1,300 students and received support from more than 300 volunteers from 50 organisations. UKOPA has committed itself to being a sponsor of the programme and is actively encouraging greater participation from its membership base.

Continuous Learning

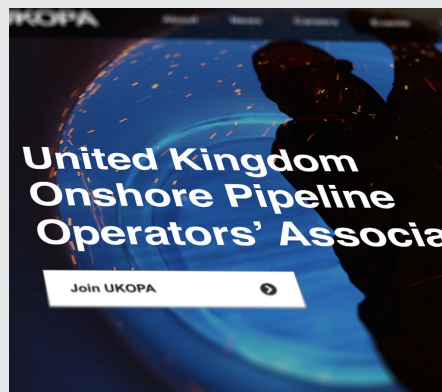
Shared learnings and good practice from across the pipeline industry is a key benefit of UKOPA membership, so delegates were pleased to receive a presentation that outlined nine new learnings from members and the wider industry. Copies of the learning briefs are available on the Members section of the website, including insights into managing spills, preventing accidents and ensuring safe practice along the pipeline network.

Swansea Students receive sponsorship support

Following on from the last 18 month MSc project at Swansea university (results of which will be presented at our next members meeting), UKOPA is sponsoring a 3 year PhD project. The latest sponsorship extends UKOPA's relationship with the university and will help fund vital research into weld quality research to gain valuable insights for the benefit of Members.



Copies of all of the presentations from February's Members Meeting are available solely to members in the UKOPA Member's Centre.



New website coming

The newly formed Communications Working Group shared an update on the work being undertaken as well as a glimpse of the new website that is under construction. As well as functional improvements, the website will feature a new discussion forum for members to ask questions and share good practice. The new website is scheduled for launch at the Technical Seminar in May. If you, or a colleague, would like to be involved in the new CWG email: communications@ukopa.co.uk.

Working Group Updates

All seven of UKOPA's working groups shared progress reports and the excellent work being undertaken by members to help ensure the continued development and implementation of good practice along the pipeline network for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders and the pipeline industry. Copies of all presentations and updates from the working groups are available on the members centre.



UKOPA

United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association

Dates for the diary - We have a busy schedule of forthcoming events including

- 14 -15 May 2025 - Technical Seminar "UK Pipelines: Fuelling the Net Zero Future" at DNV Spadeadam with transport being provided from Newcastle.
- 8 - 9 Oct 2025 - A Full member's meeting in the Midlands Focusing on "Pipeline Hazards & Resilience".