

**Notes Of Meeting With Bob Stirling on the 22-08-03 to Discuss the Proposed E-PIMS EU Funded Project**

**Note these notes are confidential to UKOPA members only and are not for circulation outside of UKOPA.**

**Present:**

Bob Stirling	BS International Consultants
Ray Davies	DNV
Nils Sandsmark	DNV
Neil Jackson	Transco
Danielle Willett	Transco

As a representative of UKOPA I had a meeting with Bob Stirling on the 22 August in order to understand the European Pipeline Integrity Management System (E-PIMS) proposal that he was intending to submit for EU funding below are the notes of this meeting.

**Background:**

Bob is involved in an international consortium that includes DNV, Penspen and Cranfield that is intending to submit a proposal for the development of a safety management system (E-PIMS) for funding from the EU. The proposal will be submitted under the Improving Risk Management of the Information Technologies (IST) 2003-4. The proposal has been developed to support the implementation of the European Pipeline Safety Instrument.

**Summary of Discussion:**

Essentially Bob was looking for support from UKOPA that the project was worthwhile (to strengthen their submission to the EU) and participation on specific work packages either by UKOPA as an organisation or individual UKOPA members. The Work Proposal is split into a number of work packages that include:

- Advanced risk assessment techniques;
- Integrity goals;
- Performance measures;
- Inspection and monitoring techniques;
- Emergency planning and response;
- Risk mapping;
- IS Technologies and Infrastructure;
- Decision support tools;
- GIS risk assessment systems;
- One call systems;
- Data compatibility and databases;
- Organisational issues and human factors.

Based on a review of the proposal paperwork that was circulated by Bob before the meeting and discussions during the meeting, my personal view is that the deliverables do not appear to be well specified at present and the focus of the proposals appear to be written around system development, IS platforms/data formats and software solutions.

Again as a personal view I believe that there is currently room for a safety management framework document to support a high level goal EU Pipeline Safety Instrument but I do not believe the proposals in their current form will appropriately fill this gap. I made some suggestion to Bob as to how I thought the current proposals could be amended to better fit the requirements of pipeline operators, it however appears that Bob is reluctant at this late stage to make substantial changes to the documentation.

**Conclusions:**

The proposals do not appear to offering anything very new for UK pipeline operators who already have well developed safety management systems (as a result of existing UK Pipeline Legislation). UK companies also already have access to considered best practice for the safety management of high pressure pipelines through organisations such as UKOPA or other external contacts.

Although Bob was a bit vague on the level of commitment required, participation in the proposed work programme could be very resource intensive. He mentioned that there was some flexibility in the level of commitment required, I think however he was talking in terms of man months of effort rather than a number of man days or man weeks for participating companies. The current EU funding arrangements only allows participating companies to recover 50% of their costs. Bob however identified that it is possible to recover 100% of the costs for certain categories of assistance, academic researches were quoted as an example, it is not clear how whether this could apply to individuals (e.g. contractors) taken on by UKOPA to support the project.

The risk of not participating is that a set of overly onerous requirements could be developed which are not consistent with current UK practice and that these requirements are subsequently imposed on UK Operators by the EU.

My view is that we need to find some a pragmatic approach that would allow UKOPA members to influence the development E-PIMS so that it is consistent with current UK practice without an excessive commitment from UKOPA members. This could for example take the form of UKOPA members making relevant non sensitive data and information available in exchange for influence of over the output of the project.

Individual member companies should be encouraged to participate in individual work packages where they believe they can spare the required level of resource and they have relevant experience and existing systems that could be used as model approaches.

As discussed earlier Bob is keen to be able to tell the EU that UKOPA support the project in order to strengthen his case with the EU. I suggest we provide a statement that Bob can use stating that we support the development of a safety management framework that supports the Directive provided that the framework reflects current industry agreed best practice and has been developed with the active participation of pipeline operators.