UKOPA

UNITED KINGDOM ONSHORE PIPELINE OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION

30TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
OF COLLABORATION,
INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE

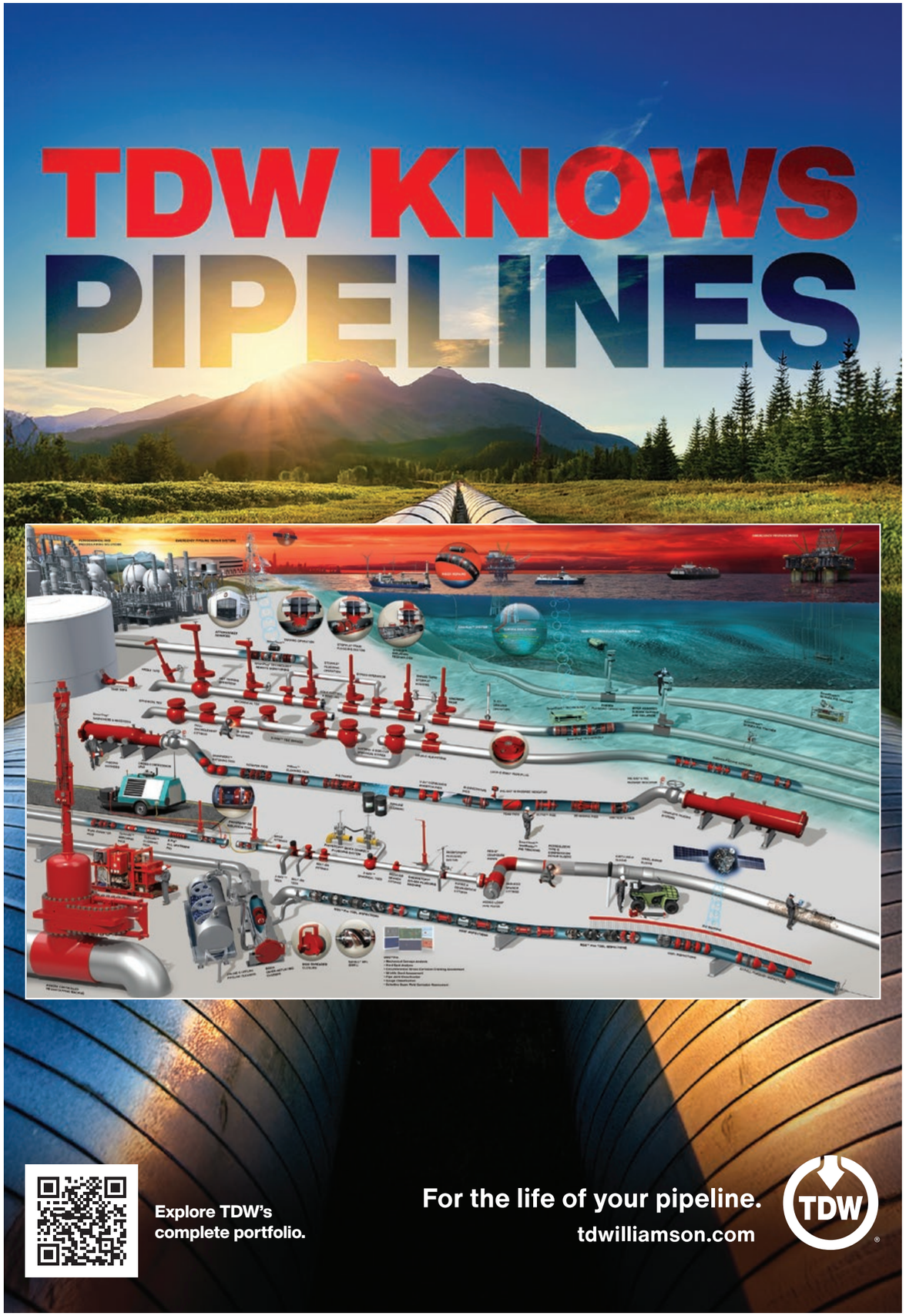


LOOKING BACK
Milestones in the
UKOPA journey

LOOKING AHEAD
The future of energy
in a changing world

STRONGER TOGETHER
The value of partnership
and shared purpose

UKOPA ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
30 Years





UKOPA at 30: Welcome



It is a great privilege, as Chair of UKOPA, to welcome you to this special publication marking the 30th anniversary of the United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association.

Thirty years is an important milestone. It gives us an opportunity to reflect on how far both UKOPA and the wider UK pipeline industry have come since 1996, to recognise the many people who have contributed along the way, and, importantly, to look ahead with confidence to the future.

UKOPA was founded on a relatively simple but powerful principle: that our industry is stronger and safer when we work together. Three decades later, collaboration remains at the heart of everything we do.

Our members may operate different assets, transport different products and face different operational challenges, but through UKOPA they come together with a common purpose: to continually improve the safety, integrity, resilience and performance of the UK's onshore pipeline network.

That willingness to collaborate is something of which we should all be extremely proud. Across UKOPA's working groups, committees, events and wider activities, people freely share their knowledge, experience and expertise. Lessons are discussed, data is analysed, challenges are addressed collectively and good practice is developed for the benefit of the wider industry.

It is this openness and desire to learn from one another that has helped UKOPA make such an important contribution over the last 30 years.

The pipeline industry we see today is very different from that of 1996. Technology has advanced enormously, our understanding of risk and asset integrity has developed, data and monitoring have become increasingly sophisticated and our approach to emergency planning and resilience continues to evolve.

Most importantly, the UK's pipeline network today is safer, more secure and more resilient. That has not happened by accident. It is the result of decades of sustained focus, investment, technical excellence and cooperation between operators, regulators, contractors, suppliers and many other organisations and individuals.

An anniversary naturally encourages us to look backwards, UKOPA has always been an organisation focused on continuous improvement – and there is still much more to do.

The next 30 years are likely to bring changes every bit as significant as those we have experienced during the last three decades. The transition to a lower-carbon energy system will create new opportunities and challenges for pipeline infrastructure, including the transportation of hydrogen. At the same time, we must continue to respond to changing environmental expectations, new technologies, cyber security, climate resilience, evolving regulation and the need to attract and develop the next generation of pipeline professionals.

Whatever changes lie ahead, I believe the principles that have served UKOPA so well since 1996 will remain just as relevant: collaboration, shared learning and an unwavering focus on safety and integrity.

Our role is not simply to respond to change, but to help shape it – bringing together the collective knowledge of our membership and working constructively with regulators, government, industry partners and other stakeholders to ensure the UK continues to benefit from a safe, reliable and resilient pipeline network.

None of this would be possible without the people and organisations behind UKOPA.

On behalf of the Board, I would therefore like to offer my sincere thanks to all our member companies and their employees. UKOPA relies enormously on the time, expertise and enthusiasm that individuals from across our membership contribute, particularly through our specialist working groups. Your willingness to share knowledge and work collectively is what makes UKOPA the organisation it is today.

> **"Our role is not simply to respond to change, but to help shape it – using our collective knowledge to keep the pipeline network safe, reliable and resilient."**

I would also like to thank our sponsors and exhibitors, for their support for our 30th anniversary celebrations and for UKOPA more widely. This helps us bring the industry together, exchange ideas and showcase the innovation and expertise that exists throughout our sector.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has contributed to UKOPA during the past three decades: our members past and present, regulators, partners, suppliers, stakeholders and the many individuals who have given their time and expertise.

Our 30th anniversary is a celebration of everything that has been achieved together. But it is also the starting point for what comes next.

By continuing to collaborate, support one another and maintain our shared focus on safety, integrity and continuous improvement, I am confident UKOPA and its members can help ensure the UK pipeline industry remains safe, resilient and ready for the opportunities of the next 30 years.

Clive Zanker, Chair, UKOPA

Please scan the QR code to download a full copy of the 30th Anniversary Event programme.

Building a Stronger Voice for the UK's Onshore Pipeline Industry



Thirty Years of UKOPA: Building a Stronger Voice for the UK's Onshore Pipeline Industry By Peter Davis, UKOPA Board Member (2013–2021) and former Director and General Manager of British Pipeline Agency Limited (BPA) (2000-2021)

As UKOPA celebrates its 30th anniversary, it is an opportune moment to reflect on how far the organisation has come and the important role it has played in supporting, representing and strengthening the UK's onshore pipeline industry.

Having been involved with UKOPA for much of its history, first as BPA's representative from 1996 and later as a Board member and Chair, I have had the privilege of witnessing the organisation's evolution from a small industry forum into the recognised voice of UK onshore pipeline operators.

The Origins of UKOPA

The story of UKOPA begins in the mid-1990s, a period of significant regulatory change for the pipeline sector. The introduction of the Pipeline Safety Regulations (PSR) 1996 fundamentally altered the legislative landscape and created new responsibilities for pipeline operators.

During the consultation process leading up to the regulations, operators largely engaged individually with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Once the regulations came into force, however, it quickly became clear that the industry would benefit from a collaborative approach. Informal meetings, initially facilitated by Transco, the company formed after the demerger of British Gas plc into the retail and infrastructure business units, brought operators together to discuss common challenges and seek consistent interpretations and implementation of the new requirements.

From these early discussions, several clear objectives emerged. Operators needed a forum to share knowledge and best practice, develop common approaches to regulatory compliance, contribute to future legislative development and present a coherent industry voice to regulators and policymakers.

Those foundations remain central to UKOPA's purpose today.

Establishing an Industry Voice

UKOPA was formally established with eight member organisations and a clear mission: to provide the recognised and authoritative view of UK pipeline operators on strategic issues relating to pipeline safety, integrity and operations.

The organisation quickly demonstrated its value. Early work focused on emergency planning, land use planning, risk assessment methodologies and the development of industry data that would support evidence-based decision making. One particularly important initiative was the creation of a UK specific pipeline failure rate database, providing operators and regulators with a stronger understanding of pipeline risk and performance.

By bringing operators together around shared challenges, UKOPA helped establish consistency across the sector and fostered constructive relationships with regulators. Membership grew steadily, reflecting the industry's recognition that collective action could achieve far more than individual engagement alone.

From Forum to Formal Organisation

A major milestone came in 2000 when UKOPA was incorporated as an independent, non-profit organisation funded by its members. This transition placed the association on a formal footing and provided the governance structure necessary to support its expanding activities.

Dedicated working groups were established to tackle key technical and regulatory issues, covering areas such as land use planning, emergency planning, competency and training, and fault data management. These groups became the engine room of the organisation, bringing together expertise from across the industry to develop practical solutions and guidance.

As UKOPA matured, its relationship with the HSE strengthened considerably. The association became an increasingly important source of industry expertise, providing common positions on emerging issues and contributing to discussions around policy, risk assessment and future regulatory developments. UKOPA's involvement in HSE working groups and its close engagement with organisations such as PIG, CONCAWE, IGEM and UKPIA (now known as Fuel Industry UK) as well as the Process Safety Forum, further enhanced its influence and reach.

Evolving to Meet New Challenges

The pipeline industry has changed significantly over the last three decades, and UKOPA has evolved alongside it.

A major strategic review in 2013 modernised the organisation's structure and broadened its representation. Membership categories were simplified and governance arrangements updated to ensure that gas, chemical and other pipeline operators were fully represented at Board level. This helped create a more inclusive organisation that reflected the diversity of the sectors it served.

The strategy adopted during this period focused on several enduring priorities: sharing good practice, improving risk assessment methodologies, reducing third-party damage, collecting and analysing fault and near-miss data, supporting competency development and continuing constructive engagement with government and regulators.

Importantly, UKOPA recognised that its greatest strength lay in collaboration. The association expanded opportunities for technical learning and knowledge exchange, introducing annual technical seminars and strengthening the sharing of operational experience across member companies.

Delivering Value to Members

Over the years, UKOPA has developed a broad range of services and initiatives that provide tangible value to members and contribute to safer, more resilient pipeline operations.

These include safety alerts, fault and defect analysis reports, process safety benchmarking, infringement reporting, emergency responder training and a growing library of guidance documents and good practice resources. The annual technical seminar and regular member meetings continue to provide important opportunities for learning and collaboration.

The association's working groups remain at the heart of these activities, adapting their focus to address emerging challenges including the impact of infrastructure associated with net zero, such as wind and solar farms. Together, they help ensure new risks, knowledge and lessons learned across the industry are shared and applied for everyone.

> **"From an informal gathering of operators responding to new regulations, UKOPA has grown into a respected and influential industry association."**

The Importance of Working Together

Perhaps UKOPA's greatest achievement has been its ability to bring competitors together to address common technical and operational challenges.

Pipeline operators may differ in size, location and the products they transport, but they share a commitment to heath, safety and environmental management, reliability and operational excellence. By providing a trusted environment for collaboration, UKOPA has enabled the industry to speak with a stronger voice, share experience openly and develop practical solutions to complex challenges.

This spirit of cooperation has enhanced the reputation of the industry, strengthened relationships with regulators and helped ensure that the UK's pipeline network continues to operate safely and effectively.

Looking Ahead

As we celebrate thirty years of UKOPA, we should take pride in what has been achieved. From its origins as an informal gathering of operators responding to new regulations, UKOPA has grown into a respected and influential industry association with a vital role in supporting the UK's pipeline sector.

The challenges facing the industry will continue to evolve, whether driven by energy transition, changing regulation, new technologies or public expectations. However, the principles that guided UKOPA's formation in 1996 remain just as relevant today: collaboration, knowledge sharing, technical excellence and a commitment to safe and responsible pipeline operation.



Esso pipeline laying at Bramdean, Hampshire, 2022: a new chapter in the development of the UK's onshore pipeline network.

Those principles have served the industry well for the past thirty years and will continue to guide UKOPA into the future. As we look ahead, we extend our sincere thanks to our member companies and their employees for their continued commitment to UKOPA, and to all our supporting organisations whose valued contributions make the delivery of our work plans possible. Together, we look forward to building on the achievements of the past thirty years and continuing to strengthen the UK's pipeline industry for many years to come.

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Working Groups: Driving UKOPA Forward

As UKOPA celebrates its 30th anniversary, it is an ideal opportunity to reflect on what has made the organisation such an effective and respected voice for the UK pipeline industry.

For three decades, UKOPA has brought together operators, technical specialists and industry experts with a shared commitment to the safe, reliable and responsible operation of the nation's pipeline infrastructure. While UKOPA is often recognised for its advocacy, guidance and industry leadership, much of its most valuable work happens behind the scenes through its working groups.

These groups, made up of volunteers from across member companies, provide the technical expertise, practical experience and collaborative environment that enable member organisations to address common challenges, share lessons learned and develop industry-leading guidance.

Collectively, they help ensure that more than 27,000 kilometres of high-pressure UK pipelines continue to operate safely while meeting the needs of communities, businesses and the wider economy. They also provide an important interface with regulators, emergency planners, government bodies and other stakeholders.

As we celebrate 30 years of UKOPA, it is fitting to hear directly from the six working groups that continue to shape the future of pipeline safety, integrity and operational excellence.

Emergency Planning & Resilience Working Group
Chair, John Madden's, Perspective

The Emergency Planning & Resilience Working Group exists to ensure that the pipeline industry is prepared for whatever challenges may arise.

Our role is to provide consistent expert guidance on emergency planning and resilience matters affecting pipelines. We work closely with operators, emergency planners, regulators and local authorities to ensure that plans, procedures and communications are robust, practical and effective.

A significant part of our work involves supporting Local Authority Emergency Planners. Pipelines are critical national infrastructure, and it is essential that emergency responders understand the risks, the mitigation measures in place and the actions required should an incident occur. The EPRWG developed, manage, run and regularly update the industry recognised, Pipeline Emergency Response Operative (PERO) course. Ensuring that the emergency responders are supported if a high pressure pipeline incident does ever occur.

The group provides a forum where members can share experiences, review emerging risks and learn from exercises and real-world events. Whether the challenge relates to severe weather, infrastructure resilience, supply security or emergency response arrangements, collaboration helps us strengthen our collective preparedness.

Over the years, the group has helped build strong relationships across industry and government, ensuring that emergency planning continues to evolve in line with changing risks and expectations. Resilience is not a static goal; it is an ongoing process of learning, adapting and improving.



Emergency Planning & Resilience Working Group, February 2024: UKOPA's group shared updates on emergency planning, resilience and preparedness across the pipeline industry.

Working Groups: Driving UKOPA Forward



Fault and Risk Assessment Working Group
Past Chair, Martin Davey's Perspective

Understanding risk is fundamental to safe pipeline operation, and that is where the Fault and Risk Assessment Working Group plays its part.

Our responsibility is to provide expert advice on pipeline fault data and risk assessment methodologies. We act as a focal point for the collection, analysis and interpretation of information that helps operators understand how pipelines perform and where risks may exist.

One of our most important activities is maintaining and developing industry knowledge relating to pipeline faults, damage and failures. By gathering data from across the sector, we can identify trends, improve understanding and support evidence-based decision making. On an annual basis we produce the UKOPA Product Loss Incidents and Fault Report, that is published on the UKOPA website.

The group also works closely with regulators and technical stakeholders to ensure that risk assessment methodologies remain appropriate, consistent and aligned with modern expectations. This includes contributing to discussions on risk criteria, land-use planning, pipeline routing and future regulatory developments.

Risk assessment is often viewed as a technical discipline, but its impact is very practical. Every improvement in our understanding of pipeline performance contributes to safer designs, better operational decisions and more effective management of assets throughout their lifecycle.

The collaborative approach fostered by UKOPA enables operators to learn collectively, creating a stronger and more resilient industry for everyone.

Infringement Working Group
Chair, Carl Scott's, Perspective

One of the greatest risks to buried pipelines continues to be third-party activity. Excavation work, construction projects and ground disturbance can all pose significant threats if undertaken without proper awareness and planning.

The Infringement Working Group focuses on reducing those risks through awareness, education and data-driven improvement.

We manage the UKOPA Infringement Database, which captures information on incidents and near misses involving third-party activity around pipelines. The data provides valuable insight into trends, behaviours and areas where further intervention may be required. The annual infringement reports produced by the group give a clear picture of industry performance and help direct future safety initiatives.

However, collecting information is only part of our role. Our real objective is prevention.

The group leads initiatives to improve pipeline safety awareness among contractors, utilities, developers, landowners and anyone carrying out work near pipeline infrastructure. Through guidance, campaigns, industry engagement and communications, we seek to ensure that people understand the importance of safe excavation practices and early engagement with pipeline operators. Along with Good Practice Guides, IWG has also produced the Working Safely Near Hp Pipelines Agricultural Course (which can be accessed by all from the UKOPA website) and a working safely video.

Success in this area is often measured by incidents that never happen. Every avoided pipeline strike represents improved safety for workers, communities and the environment. That is why awareness and education remain at the heart of everything we do.

> **"By bringing together specialists from different organisations, we can collectively address challenges that no single operator would be able to solve alone."**

Process Safety Working Group
Chair, Martin Cook's, Perspective

Process safety is about preventing major incidents before they occur.

The Process Safety Working Group provides leadership, guidance and expert opinion on process safety matters affecting pipeline operators and industry stakeholders. Our aim is to help organisations strengthen their process safety management systems and continuously improve performance.

One of our key responsibilities is developing and maintaining process safety performance indicators. These metrics provide valuable insight into how effectively organisations are managing risk and where opportunities for improvement may exist.

The group also manages UKOPA's Process Safety Assessment Tool, which enables benchmarking across member organisations. By sharing results and learning from one another, operators can identify strengths, address weaknesses and accelerate improvement.

A major benefit of the group is the opportunity for members to exchange knowledge and experience openly. Process safety challenges are rarely unique to one organisation, and collaboration allows solutions to be developed more efficiently and effectively.

We also engage with regulators and industry bodies to help shape future thinking on process safety leadership and performance measurement. The PSWG represent UKOPA on the national Process Safety Forum (PSF).

As the industry continues to evolve, maintaining strong process safety cultures remains essential. Through shared learning, benchmarking and guidance, the group helps ensure that process safety remains a central priority across the sector.

Pipeline Integrity Working Group
Chair, Morgan James', Perspective

Pipeline integrity is about ensuring that assets continue to perform safely and reliably throughout their operational lives.

The Pipeline Integrity Working Group provides expert guidance on integrity management and defect assessment, helping operators make informed decisions about inspection, maintenance and long-term asset stewardship.

Pipelines are designed for longevity, but maintaining their integrity requires continuous attention. Advances in inspection technology, monitoring techniques and analytical methods mean that operators now have access to more information than ever before.

Our role is to help members interpret that information, share best practice and develop consistent approaches to integrity management.

The group provides a forum for technical specialists to discuss emerging issues, review lessons learned and collaborate on solutions to common challenges. Topics may range from defect assessment and inspection technologies to maintenance strategies and regulatory expectations. The group has sponsored ongoing research into weld quality via two MSc project and currently a PhD project with Swansea University.

One of the greatest strengths of the group is the breadth of expertise represented across UKOPA's membership. By bringing together specialists from different organisations, we can collectively address challenges that no single operator would be able to solve alone.

Ultimately, effective integrity management protects people, the environment and critical energy infrastructure. It is a responsibility that demands continuous learning and continuous improvement.

Corrosion Prevention Working Group
Chair, Adrian Wathen's, Perspective

Corrosion remains one of the most significant threats to buried infrastructure worldwide, making effective corrosion management a critical aspect of pipeline safety.

The Corrosion Prevention Working Group was established to bring together expertise from across the industry and promote a proactive approach to corrosion prevention and mitigation.

Our objective is simple: share knowledge, develop guidance and improve understanding so that operators can better protect their assets.

Corrosion can be complex and influenced by soil conditions, coatings, cathodic protection systems and environmental changes. By pooling experience across the UK pipeline sector, we develop a stronger collective understanding of these challenges and provide guidance to operators and others who may impact pipeline integrity.

The group actively promotes knowledge sharing and collaboration, helping members understand both established practices and emerging technologies. We also contribute to guidance that supports consistent approaches to corrosion management across the industry. CPWG has been instrumental in bringing together energy sector experts to produce guidance on electrical interference and this year has published the long awaited GPG on battery energy storage systems.

Beyond the technical benefits, effective corrosion prevention delivers wider advantages. It helps reduce environmental risk, improves operational reliability and reduces the long-term financial costs associated with asset degradation.

As our infrastructure continues to age and operating environments change, the importance of corrosion management will only increase. Through collaboration and shared expertise, the group helps ensure that operators remain well equipped to meet those challenges.

Working Groups: Driving UKOPA Forward

Looking Ahead

The success of UKOPA over the past 30 years has been built on collaboration, expertise and a shared commitment to safety.

The six working groups demonstrate the very best of that approach. From emergency preparedness and risk assessment to process safety, asset integrity, corrosion management and public awareness, each group plays a vital role in supporting the safe operation of the UK's pipeline network.

Together, they provide a powerful mechanism for knowledge sharing, technical leadership and continuous improvement. They enable member organisations to address common challenges, engage constructively with regulators and stakeholders, and develop practical solutions that benefit the entire industry.

As UKOPA enters its fourth decade, the challenges facing infrastructure operators will continue to evolve. New technologies, changing regulations, energy transition initiatives and emerging risks will all require fresh thinking and strong collaboration.

The foundations are already in place. Through the dedication of its members and the ongoing work of its working groups, UKOPA is well positioned to continue leading, supporting and strengthening the UK pipeline industry for many years to come.



UKOPA continues to adapt, share ideas and strengthen pipeline safety and resilience.

Future-fit integrity: Penspen's digital approach to UK pipelines

Risk management has always been inherently linked to our industry. Three decades on from the formation of UKOPA, UK onshore pipeline operators are facing increasing pressure to manage ageing infrastructure safely, efficiently and with greater visibility of risk. Simultaneously, operators are managing growing volumes of integrity, inspection, and operational data across multiple systems, facilities, and asset types.

While access to data has improved significantly in the last 30 years, translating that data into clear operational and investment decisions remains a major challenge.

Integrity information is often fragmented across legacy databases, spreadsheets, inspection reports, and disconnected systems. Engineering insight can become difficult to align with operational priorities, maintenance planning, and executive decision-making. As a result, operators can struggle to consistently prioritise risk, optimise inspection programmes, and maintain clear visibility across their asset portfolio.

Collecting integrity data isn't the challenge. It's turning that data into decision-ready insight.

Penspen's integrity intelligence offering brings together deep pipeline and asset integrity expertise with structured data enablement and digital modelling capability through THEIA, the company's integrity management platform.

We recognise that technology isn't a standalone solution. Our engineers and consultants use asset intelligence to enhance engineering judgement, accelerate analysis, and improve visibility of integrity risk across pipeline systems and associated facilities.

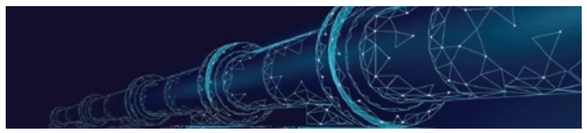
What sets Penspen's offering apart is data enablement. Many operators hold decades of historical integrity information in myriad formats with varying levels of quality. Penspen works with operators to validate, structure, and integrate this data, creating a reliable foundation for integrity management, RBI reviews, anomaly management, and long-term operational planning.

By connecting degradation mechanisms, inspection findings, and operational data into a consistent risk framework, our clients gain a clearer understanding of asset condition, remaining life, and prioritised actions across networks and facilities.

This creates a stronger line of sight between engineering teams, operational teams, and leadership. Beyond face-value technical findings, decision-makers receive clearer insight into operational risk, maintenance priorities, and investment implications. Data-informed asset intelligence becomes 'business as usual'.

As an industry, we recognise we must move toward a more integrated, insight-led approach to integrity management. Static reports no longer represent our operating environment reality.

Penspen ensures that digitally enabled integrity isn't a software challenge, but an opportunity to harness integrity intelligence to make informed operational and business decisions.



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Setting the Standards for 30 Years



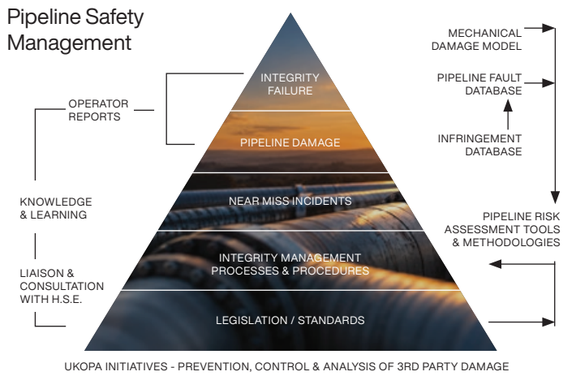
For three decades, UKOPA has brought operators, regulators, government and technical specialists together to turn operational experience into safer, more consistent practice across the UK pipeline industry. Here, Nikki Barker, UKOPA Technical Secretariat and Principal Consultant at PIE, shares how UKOPA has set the standards for 30 years.

When UKOPA was established in 1996, the immediate backdrop was the introduction of the Pipelines Safety Regulations (PSR). The high-pressure pipeline industry needed a coordinated voice while important questions remained unresolved, including the status of gasoline pipelines, local-authority testing of emergency plans, the responsibilities of pipeline designers and constructors, and the programme for replacing iron gas pipes.

UKOPA was created as a practical forum in which operators could compare experience, establish common positions and work constructively with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and other stakeholders. Its purpose was to improve safety by sharing knowledge, promoting good practice and helping shape the legislation, standards and guidance used across the sector. Those founding principles have remained consistent throughout the past 30 years.

From operational experience to shared knowledge

UKOPA's early structure reflected a clear understanding of pipeline safety management. Legislation and standards provide the foundation; integrity-management processes sit above them; and lessons from near misses, damage and failures must feed back into prevention, control and analysis. The original graphic developed to explain UKOPA's initiatives captured that relationship and still describes much of the association's value today.



UKOPA's original pipeline safety management model: learning from experience and turning it into prevention, control and analysis.

This approach shaped UKOPA's first major initiatives. The association supported development of a pipeline fault database, which underpins reporting on product-loss incidents, faults and failures. It brought operators together to examine risk prediction and mitigation and established a shared approach to preventing third-party damage. Those strands continue through fault and failure reporting, annual infringement reporting, the Working Safely video and agricultural awareness training.

Evidence from real assets and events helps the industry identify trends, understand causes and turn one operator's experience into a preventative lesson for all.

Supporting consistent risk assessment and land-use planning

Land use planning (LUP) is a clear example of UKOPA translating industry knowledge into wider public-safety practice. UKOPA representatives participated in HSE working groups on pipelines and risk assessment, reviewing the advice applied to development near major accident hazard pipelines. The association also supported the sharing of pipeline-route information for HSE's PADHI land-use planning system, now delivered through the HSE Planning Advice Web App.

Land around a pipeline rarely remains unchanged throughout the asset's life. Housing, commercial development and infrastructure can alter population density and activity near an existing pipeline. Planning authorities, developers and operators therefore need a consistent, evidence-based means of assessing risk and identifying appropriate mitigation.

In 2005, UKOPA identified the need to publish recognised risk-assessment methods, bringing greater transparency and consistency to decisions. This helped lead to IGEM/TD/2 in 2009, covering proposed developments near high-pressure natural-gas pipelines, and PD 8010 Part 3, addressing development near major accident hazard pipelines carrying flammable substances.

These documents gave operators, planners, developers and risk practitioners a common technical basis for calculating risk and considering mitigation. The methods drew on UK operational evidence, including fault and damage data, failure-frequency analysis and studies of increased wall thickness, greater depth of cover, concrete slabbing and enhanced surveillance. UKOPA therefore helped convert operational learning into methods that could be applied consistently in real planning decisions. Its members remain involved as the standards, data and assumptions evolve.

A long-standing relationship with HSE

UKOPA's relationship with HSE extends across much of its work. HSE has been invited to participate in the Infringement Working Group since the association's early years, connecting operator experience with regulatory priorities. UKOPA infringement data and process-safety indicators have also informed HSE reporting on major-hazard safety performance.

HSE is invited to UKOPA members' meetings, and the Board meets HSE annually to discuss strategy, regulatory interventions, emerging risks and innovation. This dialogue connects operational realities with regulatory expectations and the direction of safety policy.

Emergency plans that work in practice

Emergency preparedness has been another enduring priority. PSR requires emergency arrangements for major accident hazard pipelines, but a written plan is only the starting point. Operators, local authorities and emergency services must understand their roles, share the right information and work together under pressure. Testing identifies gaps before a real incident occurs.

Through its Emergency Planning and Resilience Working Group, UKOPA has developed good practice to support a consistent approach. GPG/10 guides the testing of a major accident hazard pipeline emergency response plan; GPG/11 provides an emergency-plan template; and GPG/12 supplies a testing and exercising pro forma. Together, they help organisations move from compliance on paper to demonstrable readiness.

Testing can range from a discussion exercise or control-room simulation to a larger multi-agency scenario. It can examine notification and escalation, communication, command and control, access to technical information, public protection, environmental impacts and recovery. Exercises also allow pipeline personnel, local-authority planners and emergency services to build relationships before responding together for real. Lessons are then captured, responsibilities clarified and plans improved.

UKOPA provides a common framework, shares learning from exercises and encourages meaningful testing. Its work with HSE and local authorities reinforces a central lesson: resilience depends as much on interaction between organisations as on any individual plan.

Building competence through PERO

That emphasis on practical capability is embodied in UKOPA's Pipeline Emergency Response Officer (PERO) course. Developed by pipeline operators and first rolled out in its current form in 2009, the intensive two-day course prepares people who may take a frontline role at a pipeline emergency. It is established, nationally recognised industry training and is encouraged by the HSE Pipeline Inspectorate.

The PERO is typically the first operator representative at the scene, linking the pipeline company, emergency services and the operator's incident-control arrangements. Training covers incident assessment, product hazards, safety cordons, public protection, worst-case scenarios and liaison with police, fire and rescue services, environmental bodies and local authorities. Scenario-based exercises require delegates to manage an evolving incident and communicate at operational and tactical command levels.

A PERO needs technical knowledge, sound judgement and calm communication. Mixed-operator courses encourage shared learning. More than 1,300 delegates had completed the training by early 2025, demonstrating the value placed on a consistent and competent emergency response.

Making underground assets visible

The National Underground Asset Register (NUAR) created another need for coordinated engagement. Since the Geospatial Commission began leading the programme in 2019, UKOPA has contributed to discussions about how a national platform should work for cross-country pipeline operators.

Board member Grant Rogers led early work explaining why long-distance pipeline operators differ from utilities concentrated beneath urban roads and footways. UKOPA's engagement has helped ensure that security, data governance, route context and information use are understood while supporting safer excavation and fewer accidental strikes.

A coordinated voice in a changing energy system

UKOPA's convening role remains relevant as the energy system changes. In 2025, it responded to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's consultation on consents, land access and rights under section 37 of the Electricity Act. UKOPA warned that measures designed to accelerate electrical infrastructure could unintentionally reduce consideration of their impact on existing buried metallic pipelines. This led to constructive discussions involving DESNZ, the Energy Networks Association, HSE and UKOPA.

UKOPA also brought pipeline operators together with electricity asset owners, designers and developers to address electrical interference. The resulting GPG/050 promotes early engagement and good practice in managing interactions between electrical infrastructure and pipelines. It demonstrates UKOPA's established model: identify an emerging risk, convene the right parties, combine technical knowledge with operational experience and publish practical guidance.

Thirty years of influence - and a platform for the future

Across planning, standards, infringement prevention, emergency preparedness, asset data and energy policy, UKOPA turns individual experience into collective knowledge and better practice. Its influence appears in guidance, training and policy responses, but its real strength lies in the relationships and trust behind them.

Existing pipelines will increasingly operate alongside electricity networks, renewable generation, carbon dioxide and hydrogen infrastructure. Amid growing development pressures, data requirements and public expectations, the need for a coordinated voice, robust evidence and consistent standards remains unchanged.

Thirty years on, UKOPA continues to turn lessons into action. Its collaborative approach will remain central to keeping the UK's pipeline network safe, resilient and ready for the future.



A.Hak UK Ltd: Delivering Sustainable Infrastructure

Beneath every thriving community lies an invisible network of infrastructure that keeps homes powered, businesses operating and industries connected. From high-pressure gas pipelines to high-voltage electricity connections, these underground systems form the backbone of modern life. For more than 60 years, A.Hak has been helping to build, maintain and protect this critical infrastructure, evolving from a Dutch pipeline contractor into an international specialist operating across Europe and the Middle East.

Today, A.Hak UK Ltd brings this expertise to projects across Britain, supporting the delivery of essential energy infrastructure while maintaining a strong commitment to safety, quality and sustainability.

Operating from its headquarters in Stafford, A.Hak UK Ltd is part of the wider A.Hak Group, founded in 1963. The company specialises in underground infrastructure, including transport pipelines, high-voltage electricity connections, distribution networks and associated above-ground installations. As the UK responds to the challenges of energy security, decarbonisation and infrastructure renewal, A.Hak is helping clients develop the networks needed for the future.

Supporting the Energy Transition
The UK is undergoing one of the most significant infrastructure transformations in its history. Achieving net-zero ambitions requires new technologies and modern networks capable of transporting cleaner energy, connecting renewable power sources and ensuring reliable supply.

A.Hak sees itself as more than a contractor. It is a long-term partner in the energy transition, combining decades of engineering expertise with innovative solutions for district heating networks, renewable energy connections and future hydrogen infrastructure. The company's mission is built around a simple belief: what happens underground makes a difference above ground. Every pipeline and cable contributes to keeping society connected, making safe and responsible delivery essential.

Safety as a Way of Working
Safety is at the heart of everything A.Hak does. Rather than treating safety as a compliance exercise, A.Hak has embedded it into its culture. Alongside quality and sustainability, safety is one of the company's core values and guides every decision, from project planning through to execution.

The nature of underground infrastructure demands this commitment. Installing and maintaining high-pressure pipelines and electrical connections requires disciplined planning, careful risk management and highly skilled teams. At A.Hak, safety is a shared responsibility. Every employee is expected to contribute to a safe working environment, supporting colleagues and maintaining the highest standards throughout each project.

This philosophy extends beyond the workforce. A.Hak works closely with clients, supply chain partners, stakeholders and local communities to identify risks early, minimise disruption and ensure projects are delivered responsibly. Open communication and proactive planning allow safety to be integrated into every phase of project delivery.

Knowledge Built Through Experience
One of A.Hak's greatest strengths is its people. The company values an experienced workforce that shares practical knowledge across projects. Engineers, supervisors and field personnel play an important role in mentoring colleagues and passing on lessons learned from years of working in complex infrastructure environments.

This collaborative approach supports continuous development. Safety knowledge is reinforced through daily conversations, site briefings and operational planning, creating consistent standards across the organisation. Employees learn from one another, strengthening both technical expertise and a shared commitment to safe working practices
Working on critical infrastructure requires specialist skills, sound judgement and a strong understanding of risk management. A.Hak invests in developing these capabilities throughout employees' careers, recognising that safety is not only a technical competency but also a mindset. By encouraging everyone to take responsibility for their own wellbeing and that of their colleagues, the company continues to build a culture where safe outcomes come first.

Building Sustainable Connections
Sustainability is another key pillar of A.Hak's approach. As energy systems evolve, infrastructure providers must balance growth with environmental responsibility. A.Hak supports projects that contribute to cleaner energy solutions and more sustainable networks, recognising that underground infrastructure will play an increasingly important role in the transition to a low-carbon future.

Whether delivering renewable electricity connections, district heating networks or preparing infrastructure for hydrogen transport, the company combines technical innovation with a commitment to minimising environmental impact. Working closely with customers, regulators and local stakeholders, A.Hak develops practical solutions that support long-term sustainability while maintaining operational reliability.

Looking Ahead
The future of infrastructure will be shaped by changing energy demands, technological innovation and an increasing focus on sustainability. Meeting these challenges requires organisations that combine engineering expertise with an unwavering commitment to safety, quality and collaboration.

Backed by more than six decades of international experience, A.Hak UK Ltd is well positioned to help deliver the infrastructure that will support the UK's energy future. Whether installing pipelines, delivering high-voltage connections or enabling the next generation of low-carbon energy projects, the company remains focused on creating safe, reliable and sustainable connections beneath the surface that make a lasting difference above ground.

For A.Hak, infrastructure is more than engineering. It is about protecting people, supporting communities and enabling a more sustainable energy future — one connection at a time.



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The Future of UK Pipelines

By Simon Joyce, Vice Chair of UKOPA and Principal Engineer & Head of Innovation Futures at SGN

As UKOPA marks its 30th anniversary, the pipeline industry finds itself at an important point in its development. The operating principles that have served the sector so well, safety, integrity, resilience and long-term asset stewardship remain as relevant as ever, however, the products transported, the customers served and the relationship between pipeline networks and other infrastructure systems are changing.

For pipeline operators, the future is therefore not simply about preserving existing assets or replacing one product with another. It is about understanding how our networks, engineering capabilities and operational experience can contribute to a more diverse and increasingly interconnected energy and industrial system.

The UK already has an extensive portfolio of pipeline assets, supported by decades of investment, technical knowledge and operating experience. The transition ahead presents an opportunity to make intelligent use of that inheritance: maintaining and adapting existing infrastructure where it is safe and practical to do so, while developing new networks and capabilities in response to emerging requirements.

Some pipelines may continue performing roles very similar to those they fulfil today, others may be repurposed or integrated into new low-carbon systems. While new infrastructure could be developed for hydrogen, biomethane, carbon dioxide and other renewable or low-carbon products. Pipelines will likely also play a greater role in supporting local energy resilience, linking production, storage and large industrial and commercial users.

The pipeline of the future may transport a different molecules, connect different places or operate under a different commercial model and have more intelligence to understand the safety impacts - but the need to move energy and essential products safely, efficiently and at scale will remain.

The question therefore is not whether pipelines have a future, but how their role will evolve as the UK works towards net zero.

A diverse future energy system

It is unlikely that the UK's future energy requirements will be met through a single technology or energy vector. Instead, we are likely to rely on a combination of electricity networks, gas networks, green gases, carbon dioxide transportation systems, renewable fuels, heat networks and different forms of energy storage.

Each component will have particular strengths. Electricity will be central to decarbonising many activities, supported by expanding renewable generation. Pipelines can transport large quantities of energy, gases or liquids while helping to provide storage, flexibility and resilience.

Biomethane is already demonstrating how lower-carbon gases can be introduced into existing infrastructure. Produced from sources including food waste, agricultural materials, sewage and other organic matter, biomethane can be injected into the gas network and transported using assets that are already in place. As production develops, it could make an increasingly important contribution to the decarbonisation of heat, transport and industrial processes.

Large industrial and commercial customers will also play a significant role in shaping the future. Their energy requirements can be considerable and their operations may not always be suited to full electrification. Reliable supplies of biomethane, hydrogen, renewable fuels or other gases could help these organisations reduce emissions while maintaining the performance, resilience and continuity their operations require.

This may create new relationships between producers, network operators and customers. In time, UKOPA could include a broader range of pipeline operators - perhaps organisations managing more localised systems in which supply, demand and storage are closely connected. An operator might oversee a network linking a biomethane producer with industrial customers, for example, or manage infrastructure serving a low-carbon industrial cluster.

The definition of a pipeline operator may therefore expand alongside the energy system itself.

Planning infrastructure as a whole system

One of the greatest challenges facing the UK is how its different infrastructure systems are planned and developed together.

Electricity networks are already under increasing pressure as demand grows, renewable generation expands and more projects seek connections. Significant investment is needed in generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure, and connection queues can affect the pace at which new developments and low-carbon technologies are introduced.

At the same time, the UK has an extensive network of existing pipeline infrastructure with the ability to transport energy at scale. These assets representing many decades of investment, engineering knowledge and operational experience. They should therefore be considered as part of the solution when decisions are made about the future energy system.

The energy transition should not be viewed simply as a process of replacing existing infrastructure. It should involve adapting and making the best possible use of the assets, capabilities and skills that are already available, while constructing new infrastructure where it is genuinely required.

A coordinated approach could help the UK determine where electrification offers the best solution, where gases or liquid fuels may be more appropriate, and where a combination of technologies will provide the greatest resilience and value. It could also help avoid unnecessary duplication and ensure that investment is directed to where it delivers the greatest benefit for consumers, communities and the economy.

This principle extends beyond energy. Electricity, gas, water, telecommunications and transport networks increasingly depend upon one another. A disruption affecting one can quickly have consequences for several others. Future infrastructure planning must recognise these interdependencies and consider resilience across the whole system rather than within individual sectors.

From separate sectors to shared solutions

Infrastructure industries have historically tended to plan and operate within their own boundaries. Each has developed its own regulatory frameworks, investment cycles, technical standards and specialist supply chains. This approach has supported the creation of highly capable sectors, but it can also make coordination difficult.



The challenges ahead do not sit neatly within established boundaries. Decarbonisation, climate resilience, security of supply and affordability are shared national priorities. Addressing them will require operators, regulators, government, academia, technology developers and supply chains to work together much more closely. A challenge the industry is ready to accept.

Collaboration will be every bit as important as technology.

There will inevitably be uncertainty. Technologies will develop, government policies will change and markets will evolve. Not every proposed energy pathway or project will reach maturity. The answer is not to wait until every uncertainty has been resolved, but to build stronger relationships, share evidence and create infrastructure strategies that can adapt as circumstances change.

The pipeline industry is well placed to help convene these discussions. Its members possess extensive experience in long-term asset stewardship, risk management, engineering, emergency response and the safe operation of nationally important infrastructure. This knowledge can contribute to decisions that extend well beyond pipelines themselves.

By bringing industries together, we can identify common challenges, share learning and explore how different networks can support one another. This will help create an infrastructure system that is not only lower carbon, but also safe, resilient, secure and affordable.

Innovation in pipeline infrastructure

The continued importance of pipelines does not mean that the way they are operated will remain unchanged. Innovation is already transforming how operators inspect, monitor and manage their assets.

Advances in inspection technologies are providing increasingly detailed information about pipeline condition. Robotics can enable inspections and interventions in environments that may be difficult to access using conventional methods. Remote monitoring systems can identify changes in operating conditions, while improvements in sensors and data analytics can help operators detect potential issues earlier.

Digital twins offer further possibilities. By creating a dynamic digital representation of a physical asset or network, operators can bring together operational data, inspection findings and predictive models. This can support maintenance planning, test different operating scenarios and improve understanding of how assets may respond to changing demands or new products.

Artificial intelligence and increasingly sophisticated analytical tools could also help organisations interpret large amounts of network data, identify patterns and focus resources where they will have the greatest impact. These technologies do not replace engineering judgement or operational experience; they strengthen them by giving people better information on which to base decisions.

Innovation will be particularly important as existing infrastructure is assessed for different future uses. Operators will need a thorough understanding of asset condition, material performance and the characteristics of any new product being transported. Safety must remain at the heart of every decision, supported by robust evidence, appropriate standards and the sharing of practical experience across the industry.

The journey ahead

Between now and 2030, the priority will be to lay the foundations for a more integrated energy system. This will mean a greater focus on coordinated planning, alongside continued investment in asset health, resilience and digitalisation. It will also require closer engagement between infrastructure sectors so that emerging risks, dependencies and opportunities can be understood.

From 2030 to 2040, we are likely to see more strategic whole-system development. Pipeline networks may interact more closely with low-carbon production, industrial clusters, storage facilities and different

groups of customers. Digital technologies will become increasingly embedded in network management, helping operators optimise performance and respond to changing patterns of supply and demand.

Beyond 2040, the boundaries between infrastructure sectors may become less distinct. Networks could operate as parts of a connected system rather than as separate industries. Pipelines may support a wide range of energy and industrial requirements, depending on the technologies, policies and markets that develop.

Whatever the precise pathway, decarbonisation cannot be the only measure of success. The UK's future infrastructure must also remain safe, resilient, secure and affordable. A system that reduces emissions but cannot reliably meet the needs of households, businesses and industry will not be sustainable in the fullest sense.

UKOPA's future role

For 30 years, UKOPA has brought pipeline operators together to share knowledge, promote good practice and maintain high standards of safety and asset stewardship. These responsibilities will remain fundamental, but the changing infrastructure landscape creates an opportunity for the organisation to play an even broader role.

UKOPA can help create the conditions in which collaboration and innovation flourish. It can support the exchange of operational experience, engage with government and regulators, contribute to the development of proportionate standards and encourage new ideas that improve the safety, resilience and efficiency of pipeline networks.

It can also strengthen links with other infrastructure industries, researchers, technology providers and emerging operators. As the range of products, business models and organisations involved in pipeline transportation grows, UKOPA is already proven as a trusted forum in which shared challenges are considered openly and collectively.



Thirty years of cooperation has shown what can be achieved when operators share knowledge and work towards common goals. That desire for shared cooperation is seeing UKOPA now open its membership to Associate Members who are as invested in the pipeline sector and share the same cooperative spirit that will be essential during the decades ahead.

Pipelines have a future because the need they meet will continue in all future scenarios. The UK will continue to require secure, efficient and resilient ways to move fuel and essential products. What those pipelines carry, where they connect and how they are operated will evolve but their value as national infrastructure will endure.

Technology will provide many of the tools needed to make that transition possible. Collaboration will determine how successfully we use them.

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As the global community intensifies efforts to meet net-zero emissions targets, carbon capture and storage (CCS) is emerging as a cornerstone of industrial decarbonization.

From cement and steel to chemicals and power generation, CCS offers a viable pathway to reduce emissions from sectors where electrification or fuel switching is not yet feasible. But capturing carbon is only part of the equation, transporting it safely and efficiently is equally critical.

Recognizing this challenge, DNV has launched Skylark, a pioneering joint industry project (JIP) aimed at advancing the global understanding of CO_2 pipeline operations. This three-year initiative is designed to equip regulators, operators, and emergency responders with the highest quality data and insights to support safe, scalable CCS deployment.

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DNV

Pipelines at DNV represent one of the company's core energy disciplines, supporting the design, operation, integrity management, and safety of onshore and offshore pipeline systems worldwide. From natural gas transmission networks to emerging hydrogen and carbon dioxide infrastructure, DNV provides industry-leading standards, technical guidance, and research that help operators develop safe, reliable, and efficient pipeline systems across the globe.

In the UK, DNV's pipeline capability is rooted in the pioneering work of British Gas research. This expertise continues today through DNV's operations and the Spadeadam Research and Development Facility, where full-scale testing has contributed significantly to pipeline safety, integrity assessment, and hydrogen transportation research.



Fracture propagation is a critical consideration for high-pressure pipelines. Modern high-strength steels must possess sufficient toughness to arrest running fractures, while gas composition can influence crack propagation behaviour. Extensive modelling and full-scale testing are therefore essential to ensure safe pipeline operation.

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UKOPA at 30: Competing Well, Collaborating Better



As UKOPA marks its 30th anniversary, the occasion is about much more than the passing of time. It is a moment to recognise three decades of shared stewardship across one of the United Kingdom's most important, and often least visible, industries: the onshore pipeline network that quietly supports everyday life, national resilience and economic activity.

Behind every kilometre of pipeline sits a long-standing commitment to engineering excellence, operational discipline and safety. The U.K.'s onshore pipeline network may rarely be seen by the public, but its contribution is felt every day: in the homes it helps heat, the businesses it helps power, the transport systems it supports and the essential industries that depend on a secure and reliable flow of energy and products.

Over UKOPA's first 30 years, the industry has had to adapt continuously. Regulation has evolved, public expectations have risen and many assets have matured from relatively young infrastructure into long-term national systems requiring careful stewardship. Through that period, operators have expanded, modernised and maintained their networks while preserving the standards of reliability, safety and public confidence on which the sector depends.

The next 30 years may prove even more transformative than the last. The energy transition is already reshaping the role of pipelines, with growing interest in transporting hydrogen, carbon dioxide and other lower-carbon products. Each brings its own technical, operational and integrity considerations but also reinforces the value of existing pipeline knowledge, experience and collaboration. At the same time, the sector must continue to develop the skills, investment confidence and knowledge transfer needed to keep critical infrastructure safe, resilient and relevant in a lower-carbon future.

Every successful industry has to live with tension between competition and cooperation. Competition brings urgency. It pushes organisations to improve, innovate and challenge accepted ways of working. Collaboration brings something equally important: the ability to learn openly, solve shared problems and prevent hard-won lessons from being lost inside individual organisations. When the two are held in balance, competition raises ambition while collaboration protects the standards, knowledge and safety on which everyone depends.

Collaboration is often easiest to talk about and hardest to deliver. It asks organisations to invest time, build trust and look beyond immediate commercial priorities. In a sector shaped by regulation, confidentiality, resource pressure and demanding operational schedules, bringing different organisations around a common purpose is never automatic; it has to be built and maintained. Yet where safety, integrity and resilience are concerned, there is no meaningful competitive advantage in knowledge left unshared. The U.K.'s onshore pipeline industry has shown that competitors can work side by side to improve guidance, strengthen competence and share lessons learned, helping to protect the communities and environments through which these critical assets pass. That spirit of openness has helped create a network that is dependable, well managed and widely respected. Indeed, the U.K.'s onshore pipeline network is rightly regarded among the best in the world, a benchmark for safety, professionalism and engineering leadership.

There are many examples of industries where fierce competition has not prevented meaningful collaboration. Silverstone is a fitting setting for that reflection: Formula One teams compete for fractions of a second, yet the sport has repeatedly come together when safety has demanded it. The same principle can be seen in aviation, where commercial rivals share safety data and best practices, and in technology, where competing companies often collaborate on common standards that allow entire markets to develop. The lesson is clear enough: Organisations may compete in the marketplace, but when safety, progress or the greater good are at stake, collaboration is often what enables the greatest advances.

> **"Where safety, integrity and resilience are concerned, there is no meaningful competitive advantage in knowledge left unshared."**

Since its formation in 1996, UKOPA has provided a practical answer to that challenge. What began as a forum for sharing operational experience has become the recognised voice of the U.K.'s onshore pipeline sector, bringing together operators across gas transmission and distribution, aviation, oil, petrochemical liquids and chemical pipelines, and representing the vast majority of the country's pipeline infrastructure.

Through its engagement with regulators, technical guidance, specialist working groups and competence programmes, UKOPA helps turn shared experience into practical industry improvement. Its work complements established international standards such as ASME, alongside U.K. and industry-specific requirements such as IGEM/TD/1, while giving operators a forum where lessons learned can be discussed openly and applied consistently across the wider pipeline community. In doing so, UKOPA has helped shape a stronger, safer and more resilient industry that quietly underpins everyday life across the country.

UKOPA stands out because, for 30 years, it has shown that organisations with different markets, priorities and commercial pressures can still work together when the objective is important enough.

By creating a space where lessons are shared, standards are developed collectively and industry challenges are discussed openly, UKOPA has turned collaboration from a familiar aspiration into a practical force for improvement.

At a time when the sector faces new technical, regulatory and societal demands, that ability to unite around shared objectives may be one of UKOPA's greatest achievements and one of its most valuable assets for the future.



Sharing knowledge, testing ideas and preparing the pipeline network for its next chapter - from safety and integrity to the challenges of a changing energy landscape.

Thirty years is a milestone worth celebrating, but the greater test lies in what comes next. If UKOPA's first three decades helped make pipelines safer, its next three should prepare the industry for the future.

That sense of long-term responsibility resonates across the operator community and within T.D. Williamson (TDW), where longevity brings not only experience but an obligation to keep strengthening the knowledge, standards and technologies on which the sector will depend.

At TDW, more than 100 years of experience brings an obligation to uphold the highest standards of safety, quality and technical excellence, not only through the products and services we provide but through the knowledge and expertise we help pass on to future generations.

Industries evolve, technologies advance and expectations rise, but trust is earned over decades and maintained through consistency. Our responsibility is to ensure that the lessons learned, innovations developed and standards established throughout our history continue to support operators in meeting the challenges of today and tomorrow.

TDW has evolved alongside the global pipeline industry, pioneering many of the technologies that today are considered fundamental to pipeline operations, including pigging, hot tapping and pipeline isolation. The development of the STOPPLE® plugging machine in the 1950s, followed by decades of advances in intervention, pigging, inspection and repair technologies, helped establish practices that remain central to safe pipeline operation today.

As the pipeline industry prepares for its next chapter, TDW believes innovation, partnership and collaboration will be essential to balancing safety, reliability and sustainability. The challenge is not simply to introduce new technology for its own sake, but to provide practical solutions that help operators intervene safely, reduce emissions, extend asset life and prepare existing infrastructure for new demands. That is the purpose behind continued investment in technologies such as SHiiELD™, SmartPlug®, cross compression and PETROSLEEVE®: solutions designed for today's operational realities but developed with tomorrow's requirements in mind.

TDW remains deeply committed to the U.K. market and proud to support the operators shaping its next chapter. In recent years, that commitment has been reflected in involvement across hydrogen pipeline projects, key U.K. commissioning and decommissioning programmes, and the deployment of industry-leading solutions. It is a role TDW values highly.

Taken collectively, this forward-looking mindset across operators, UKOPA and supply-chain partners gives the industry a stronger foundation for the future. By looking beyond immediate operational pressures and planning for long-term change, the sector can continue to protect today's network while preparing for the technical, environmental and societal challenges that will define the decades ahead.

Thirty years is a generation. Those now shaping the future of the industry inherit more than infrastructure; they inherit the knowledge, values and commitment built by those who came before them. The challenges ahead may look very different from those of the past, but the foundations are strong. The task now is not simply to preserve what has been achieved, but to improve it, ensuring that the U.K.'s pipeline network remains safe, resilient and fit for purpose for the generations that follow. If UKOPA's first 30 years were about building a community, its next 30 will be about helping that community lead safely, collaboratively and with the confidence to shape the future of one of the world's most respected onshore pipeline networks.

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Operating from strategically located depots across the country, we provide a nationwide capability backed by decades of operational experience. Our teams understand the pressures facing asset owners and operators because we've spent years delivering solutions in challenging environments where safety, reliability and responsiveness are critical. Today's infrastructure operators face a complex set of challenges.

Ageing assets, changing operational requirements and increasing expectations around network resilience all demand specialist expertise and trusted delivery partners. That's where National Gas Services adds value. Our role is straightforward: helping customers manage risk, maintain asset integrity and maximise the performance of their infrastructure. Whether delivering inspection programmes, undertaking planned maintenance, carrying out complex repairs or responding to emergencies, our focus is always the same: safe delivery, practical solutions and high-quality outcomes. As the pipeline sector continues to evolve, operators will continue to rely on organisations with proven engineering capability, operational experience and a strong safety culture. National Gas Services is proud to provide that support today and to help shape the infrastructure networks of tomorrow.



Current Affairs: Is the Pipeline Industry Keeping Pace with an Electrified World?

By Razwan Arshad, Head of Consulting at ROSEN Group

Pipelines have not changed, the world around them has.

Across the UK, renewable generation, battery storage facilities, substations and transmission upgrades are rapidly reshaping the landscape. Many of these developments are being built alongside existing pipelines, creating new interfaces between pipeline and electrical infrastructure.

Most discussion around electrification understandably focuses on decarbonisation, energy security and grid resilience. Less attention is given to what this changing landscape means for pipeline operators.

That may be because electrical interference is not new. The industry has managed cathodic protection (CP), Alternating Current (AC) interference, Direct Current (DC) interference and stray-current risks for decades. The engineering principles remain sound, and the body of guidance available to operators continues to grow.

What feels different today is not the existence of those mechanisms, but the scale and pace of change around existing pipeline systems. Electrical infrastructure is becoming denser, higher-powered, and more interconnected. High-voltage systems are carrying greater currents, while new transmission, generation and storage assets are appearing alongside pipeline corridors that were designed in a very different electrical environment.

For operators, this raises a broader question: are integrity programmes evolving at the same pace as the environment around them?

One of the realities of corrosion management is that significant metal loss rarely appears without warning. Long before corrosion becomes apparent during internal inspection, there are usually signs that something has changed within the protection system or the environment in which it operates. Those signs may appear in CP measurements and surveys, coating assessments, interference studies or operational observations.

Most of the information already exists within routine reporting. The real task is often recognising its significance when it is spread across different surveys, reports and disciplines. In many cases, the challenge is not a lack of data, but the ability to connect information from integrity, corrosion, electrical, and operational teams to build a complete understanding of emerging risk. As infrastructure networks become increasingly interconnected, effective decision-making may depend as much on integrating knowledge across disciplines as on collecting additional data.

The relationship between coating condition, CP performance and external corrosion has been understood for years. The emerging consideration is how increasingly complex electrical conditions influence established practices.

As electrical infrastructure becomes more widespread, operators are encountering more sources of stray current, more complex current paths and more opportunities for interference. In some circumstances, a defect that once allowed a comfortable response window may demand attention much sooner than operators would previously have expected.

Battery storage facilities, renewable developments and major transmission projects are no longer isolated components of energy-transition infrastructure. They are becoming part of the long-term operating conditions for many pipeline systems.

Operators may increasingly need to consider traditional CP data alongside wider evidence of AC and DC interference, particularly where new transmission, storage, generation or electrified transport assets have entered the operating environment.

The industry has adapted successfully to many shifts over the last few decades, from advances in inspection technology to changing regulatory expectations. Electrification represents another such shift. It does not invalidate existing practice, but it does challenge some of the assumptions that sit behind it. Sound engineering judgement, effective corrosion protection, and informed decision-making remain as important as ever. What may need greater attention is how evidence is integrated across disciplines, organisations, and sectors.

For operators, this means regularly reassessing CP and interference management programmes against an evolving electrical landscape, rather than assuming historical performance guarantees future protection.

Audits, peer reviews, and independent assessments can provide valuable scrutiny where conditions have changed or new risks have emerged. Equally important is strengthening and sharing expertise across the industry through updated guidance, lessons learnt, and closer collaboration between pipeline operators, power utilities, developers and service providers.

Corrosion management has always been about understanding the environment in which an asset operates. As energy infrastructure continues to evolve around existing pipeline networks, the operators best placed to manage risk will be those that can recognise changing conditions early, challenge established assumptions, and act before emerging risks become failures.



Pipeline course and pylons, Withington, Gloucestershire: established pipeline infrastructure sharing an increasingly electrified landscape.

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Penspen designs, maintains, and optimises global energy infrastructure to improve access to secure and sustainable energy for millions of people across the Middle East, Africa, Europe, UK, and Latin America. Providing engineering, project management, asset management, integrity, digitalisation and training services to the energy industry worldwide for more than 70 years, Penspen grown to employ more than 1,700 specialists, with offices in the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Latin America.
Penspen is a proud member of Sidara, a global collaborative of leading specialist firms that design for people and the planet.

www.penspen.com
contact@penspen.com

National Gas Services
Silver Sponsor

National Gas Services is the UK's leading specialist provider of pipeline inspection, repair, maintenance, and replacement services. With more than 45 years' experience supporting infrastructure operators, we deliver safe, reliable, and efficient solutions across critical energy networks. Our nationwide depots and highly skilled engineering teams provide rapid-response emergency support alongside a comprehensive range of planned intervention services. From inspection and maintenance through to complex pipeline repairs and upgrades, we combine proven expertise, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to safety. National Gas Services is helping asset owners maximise network resilience today while supporting the transition to tomorrow's low-carbon energy systems.

www.nationalgas.com/national-gas-services
box.enquiriesngs@nationalgas.com

Applus+
Bronze Sponsor

Applus+ is a global leader in testing, inspection, and certification (TIC) services, helping clients improve the safety, reliability and performance of critical assets and infrastructure. With extensive experience across the oil and gas sector, we deliver advanced inspection, NDT, asset integrity, certification, and engineering solutions that support safe, efficient, and sustainable operations. Our multidisciplinary teams combine technical expertise, innovative technologies, and practical industry knowledge to solve complex challenges throughout the asset lifecycle. From new build projects to ageing asset management, Applus+ is a trusted partner committed to operational excellence, risk reduction, and long-term value creation.

www.applus.com/uk/en
info.uk@applus.com

CRC Evans
Bronze Sponsor

Built on more than 90 years of technical expertise, CRC Evans is a global leader in specialty welding, coating and project services for pipeline and critical infrastructure projects. We support onshore pipeline developments with advanced welding technologies, integrated equipment solutions and experienced personnel, helping customers deliver projects safely, efficiently and to the highest quality standards. From conventional oil and gas to hydrogen and carbon capture infrastructure, our expertise spans both established and emerging energy sectors. Through continuous investment in research and development, CRC Evans remains at the forefront of innovation, delivering technology-enabled solutions that support safe, reliable and efficient project delivery across evolving energy markets.

www.crcevans.com
enquiries@crce.com

Baker Hughes
Bronze Sponsor

Baker Hughes is an energy technology company. We are rewriting The Energy Equation™ by sustainably providing radical new industrial outcomes, rethinking how energy is sourced, and delivering on the world's aspirations.
Baker Hughes, Process & Pipeline Services (PPS) brings together a unique portfolio:

- Pipeline pre-commissioning and maintenance to help enable event-free start-up, improve reliability, reduce downtime, increase efficiency, maximize throughput and support decarbonization.
- Advanced pipeline inspection technologies supported by integrity engineering expertise to help enhance pipeline safety, reliability and performance.
- Quest Integrity advanced cleaning and inspection, engineering and asset assessment capabilities to address difficult-to-inspect assets with confidence.

www.bakerhughes.com/process-pipeline-services
Barry.Nicholson@bakerhughes.com

HENKEL
Bronze Sponsor

Protecting global critical infrastructure is essential to keeping energy and utilities flowing safely. As aging assets increase the risk of corrosion and failure, effective asset integrity solutions are more important than ever. Henkel has created a global platform that unites three industry pioneers: Seal For Life Industries, CSNRI, and LOCTITE. Together, they deliver an integrated, end-to-end approach to infrastructure protection, repair, and maintenance. The future of critical infrastructure depends on strategic planning and investment in proven technologies. Henkel's solutions meet or exceed industry standards, reduce risk, minimize downtime, and ensure the right intervention at the right time.

www.cs-nri.com
E: CSNRI-Info@Henkel.com

Exhibitors

Enivibes

Enivibes, part of the Eni group, specializes in advanced solutions for pipeline integrity monitoring.
Our flagship technology, e-vpms (Eni Vibroacoustic Pipeline Monitoring System)® , monitors thousands of kilometers of pipelines, ensuring the early detection and prevention of issues such as leaks, product theft, and third-party interference.
Enivibes is committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety and reliability in pipeline operations, contributing to a sustainable and secure energy future.
Enivibes is capable of delivering e-vpms to more than 120 countries worldwide. Find out more at enivibes.com.

www.enivibes.com
info@enivibes.com

Fisher German

Fisher German is a leading UK property and infrastructure consultancy with nearly 200 years' experience helping clients maximise value, manage risk, and deliver long-term goals. Its 800-plus professionals provide expert advice across property, planning, development, utilities, and infrastructure projects. As the UK distributor of OVERPIPE products, Fisher German also offers innovative utility protection solutions. OVERPIPE UK supplies HDPE pipeline protection plates and woven PET mesh designed to safeguard buried assets, reducing excavation damage, repair costs, service disruption, and project delays. Together, Fisher German and OVERPIPE support safer construction practices, regulatory compliance, and long-term infrastructure resilience across the UK.
Website URL

fishergerman.co.uk overpipeuk.com
Sam.parton@fishergerman.co.uk enquiries@overpipeuk.com

Frontline Integrity

Frontline Integrity is a UK-based company providing independent pipeline engineering consultancy and bespoke software solutions to energy and mining markets.
The company works with pipeline operators to manage all pipeline threats, supporting the full Pipeline Integrity Management System (PIMS) lifecycle to enhance safety, compliance, and decision-making. In addition to its consultancy services, Frontline Integrity has created an innovative, cloud-based software platform (RAPID) which allows pipeline operators to visualise, assess, and predict, enabling effective integrity management. Frontline Integrity has assisted operators in over 20 countries globally and was recently awarded the coveted King's Award for Enterprise in the International Trade category.

www.frontlineintegrity.co.uk
Enquiries@frontlineintegrity.co.uk

Intero Integrity

Intero Integrity is the leading specialist for keeping critical infrastructure clean, safe, well maintained, and highly productive. Founded in 1985, this innovative technology company offers advanced ultrasonic (UT) and magnetic flux leakage (MFL) inspection, environmental, and industrial services. Across the full asset lifecycle, from design and maintenance to end-of-life, Intero helps clients maximize integrity, ensure compliance, and maintain uninterrupted operations. With a strong focus on safety, efficiency, and sustainability, Intero turns complex data into clear, actionable decisions.
Headquartered in the Netherlands, Intero supports projects worldwide with offices in the United States, Canada, Belgium, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Australia, China, Germany, Romania, France, Italy, Spain, and Serbia.

www.intero-integrity.com
bianca.miranda@intero-integrity.com

LSBUD

LSBUD is the UK's national safe-digging service, protecting people, pipelines and critical infrastructure from avoidable strikes. For oil and gas operators, it provides a fast, free-to-use portal for contractors, landowners and all other excavators to identify high risk assets and consult with asset owners before work begins. With millions of enquiries each year and extensive coverage of all utility networks, LSBUD supports safer excavation planning, regulatory compliance and asset integrity. For UKOPA conference attendees, LSBUD's role is clear: reducing third-party damage, improving visibility of buried infrastructure and connecting those who dig the holes with those who own the assets.

www.lsbud.co.uk
enquiries@lsbud.co.uk

NDT Global

NDT Global is a leading provider of inline diagnostic solutions, advanced data insights, and integrity management services for energy infrastructure. Recognized for its expertise in ultrasonic technologies, including Pulse Echo, Pitch-and-Catch, Phased Array, and Acoustic Resonance (ART Scan), as well as ultra-high-resolution Magnetic Flux Leakage (MFL) inspection, NDT Global delivers comprehensive asset integrity solutions.
Through continuous innovation and research, NDT Global develops advanced technologies that help operators manage assets more safely and efficiently. By providing predictive, decision-ready insights based on highly accurate inspection data, NDT Global enables customers to reduce risk, optimize performance, and support more sustainable operations.

www.ndt-global.com
apiga@ndt-global.com

The Presserv Group

The Presserv Group is a global leader in preservation and corrosion protection.
We specialise in offering tailored solutions in corrosion prevention of existing assets, strategic preservation management and spare part preservation within the energy, chemicals, construction and marine industries.
Since 1996, we have been strongly committed to our role as a strategic partner in the distribution of numerous products worldwide including those from Cortec® and Stopaq® within the UK.
With a commitment to extending the life of assets, we help reduce environmental impact and support sustainable business practices worldwide
At the Presserv Group we live our vision – making things last.

presserv.com
SalesUK@Presserv.com

STATS Group

STATS Group are market leaders in the supply of pressurised pipeline isolation, hot tapping and line stopping services to the global energy industry. Type-approved isolation tools provide leak-tight double block and bleed isolation, enabling safe and efficient maintenance and repair of onshore, topsides and subsea pipeline infrastructure. Process plant solutions include hot-work barriers, localised hydrostatic weld test tools and mechanical repair clamps and connectors. These solutions help verify weld integrity, reduce downtime, minimise environmental impact, improve worksite safety and remove the need for welding, lowering costs and risks during pipeline tie-ins, repairs and end-capping.

www.statsgroup.com/
sales@statsgroup.com

Synthotech

Synthotech is a leading British engineering business, focused on the development of pioneering 'must have' products and services for utility and infrastructure markets around the world. Innovation is at the heart of everything they do. For 30 years they've lead the way in driving significant advancements in the exploration and maintenance of under pressure pipework. Their core product range is based on highly innovative camera and robotic systems, and associated live launch processes, for carrying out survey, repair and maintenance activities on live gas and water mains.

www.synthotech.co.uk
info@synthotech.co.uk

Downstairs Exhibit

The British Institute of NDT

The British Institute of NDT is the professional institute for all those engaged in non-destructive testing and condition monitoring. It is concerned with the education and training of its members, and the advancement of the science and practice of the subjects. Over its 50 years, the Institute has established itself as one of the country's leading engineering institutions, and has achieved professional engineering institute (PEI) status with the Engineering Council. The object of the Institute is to promote the advancement of the science and practice of non-destructive testing, condition monitoring, diagnostic engineering and all other materials and quality testing disciplines.

www.bindt.org
info@bindt.org

Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM)

The Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers, IGEM, is the professional engineering institution supporting individuals and businesses working in the global gas industry. Our core role is to encourage the highest standards of professional competence amongst individuals working in gas.
We help individuals stay up to date by delivering technical training. We support industry through the development of technical standards that are recognised around the world. We share knowledge and expertise amongst our members and the wider gas industry. We work across sectors to demonstrate the innovation taking place in the industry through networking events and conferences.

www.igem.org.uk
membership@igem.org.uk

Lavender International

Lavender International is a global provider of Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) training, examination and consultancy services. Established in Sheffield in 1976, we have built a strong reputation with a diverse international client base. Our experienced technical team delivers accredited training and certification programmes, including PCN (BS EN ISO 9712), EN4179, NAS410 and SNT-TC-1A, across Levels 1, 2 and 3. Training is delivered from our UK facilities in Penistone and the Advanced Manufacturing Park, with additional operations in Houston, USA. We also support programmes worldwide and offer accelerated work experience routes and NDT apprenticeships for operators and engineering technicians.

www.lavender-ndt.com
joy.gregory@lavender-ndt.com

The Pipeline Industries Guild

The Guild empowers people and embraces diversity across the pipeline and infrastructure sectors, bringing professionals, skilled workers, leaders and organisations together through a trusted membership community.
We invest in and develop talent through knowledge sharing, collaboration, events and networks, enhancing skills and building connections. Drawing on our heritage and expertise, we promote innovation, champion new ideas and share best practice to advance technology and strengthen infrastructure resilience.
Through collaboration and support, we nurture talent, encourage professional development and help deliver safe, sustainable and resilient projects and technologies, supporting a stronger future for the pipeline industry.

www.pipeguild.com
hqsec@pipeguild.com

World Pipelines Magazine

World Pipelines is the leading source of technical insight and industry news for the global pipeline sector. Alongside our monthly magazine, we deliver podcasts, webinars, interviews, newsletters, and in-person events that connect pipeline professionals with the latest technologies, projects, and best practices. Covering construction, integrity, maintenance, and management, along with emerging topics such as carbon capture and hydrogen, we provide practical, independent content for engineers, operators, contractors, and decision-makers. Whether you're working across the UK or internationally, World Pipelines keeps you informed, connected, and ahead of industry developments.

www.worldpipelines.com
Elizabeth.corner@worldpipelines.com

YPPE

Young Pipeline Professionals Europe (YPPE) is a network of highly motivated early-career professionals working across the pipeline industry. Our mission ensuring the industry's longevity, through knowledge sharing and fostering connections between emerging and experienced professionals across Europe. Founded in 2018, the network has grown to over 300 members committed to a safe and sustainable future. We continue to expand through educational initiatives, social engagement, and networking events, linking young professionals with industry experts. We foster a strong sense of pride and belonging while supporting the transfer of knowledge from experienced pipeliners to the next generation of industry professionals.

wwwyppeurope.org
contact@yppeurope.org

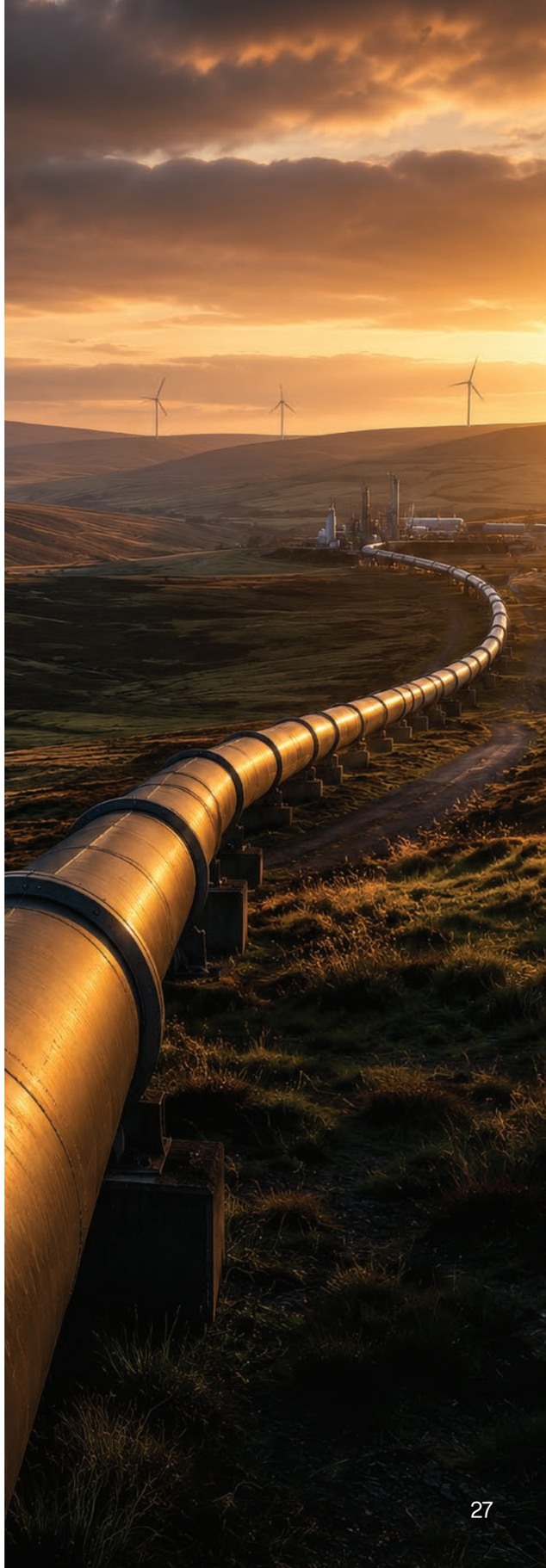
Thank You Kirsty!



UKOPA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kirsty McDermott for the enormous amount of work she has put into organising our 30th anniversary conference and celebration.

Bringing such a significant event together required exceptional planning, creativity and attention to detail. Kirsty's dedication behind the scenes ensured that UKOPA's three decades of achievement, collaboration and industry leadership were celebrated in fitting style.

On behalf of the UKOPA Board, members and everyone who attended, thank you, Kirsty, for helping to make this milestone occasion so memorable.



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Designed for unpiggable and complex infrastructure, our non-intrusive pipeline assessment delivers actionable insight without operational impact. By integrating above-ground survey data with predictive analytics, we provide a comprehensive view of pipeline integrity – evaluating the combined influence of cathodic protection, coatings condition, environmental factors, and material performance.

Our approach translates complex data into reliable condition assessment, strengthening confidence in anomaly detection and supporting targeted integrity management decisions across even the most challenging environments.



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www.rosen-group.com/nipa

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