Happy New Year! 2017 was a great year for the PPSA. We were involved in many industry events, rolled out our new website, engaged with the next generation of industry leaders, held another excellent seminar in Aberdeen, and developed training materials, among other things. These successes could not be accomplished without you, our members. I know I speak for the Board when I say thank you for all you do to advance PPSA’s role in the industry by promoting the knowledge of pigging and its related solutions.

Our Operational Pipeline Pigging Seminar was November 7th and 8th in Aberdeen. Sessions included two excellent tutorials and ten papers that are currently available for download at https://ppsa-online.com/papers.php. If you have not participated in this event previously, I encourage you to attend in 2018.

The Pipeline Pigging and Integrity Management (PPIM) Conference is just around the corner, and PPSA will once again have a major presence. Our annual golf tournament will be held at the BlackHorse Golf Club in Cypress, Texas, on Monday January 29th. For information on this course visit: https://www.blackhorsegolfclub.com/. If you would like to enter a team, join a team, or provide a sponsorship, please contact Diane for details on how to get involved at diane@ppsa-online.com.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place at 3 p.m. in the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Houston, Texas, on Tuesday January 30th. This is a great opportunity to get updates on Association activities and help guide our future. We will also be electing new Directors for the Eastern Hemisphere. The AGM will be followed by the opening of PPIM, with a reception and exhibition from 5:00 p.m. at the George R. Brown Convention Center. PPSA will be in booth 716. We will have the newly developed pig launcher and receiver simulators on display. Please drop by and see us!

My last responsibility as President will be the AGM, although I will remain on the Board as Director. As such, this will also be my last President’s Letter. It has been a pleasure serving the Association and I thank you all for the opportunity. Finally, I would like to congratulate Michael Rapp, our incoming President, who will take over following the AGM.

Many thanks to all our golf tournament sponsors:

The PPSA golf tournament is taking place at the BlackHorse Golf Club, Houston, USA on Monday 29th January 2018.

Sponsorship opportunities and player places are still available. Everyone is welcome to take part (teams and individuals). Come and join the fun.

For details please visit: http://ppsa-online.com/golf.php.
**NDT Global announces Atlas UG service extension**

NDT Global have announced the forthcoming upgrade of their Atlas UG service, in line with the recently presented Pipeline Research Council International's Dent Fatigue Life Assessment methodology.

This approach offers less conservative assessments, not only using the depth and length of the dent, but the actual shape of the dent giving pipeline operators resulting parameters for dent prioritization and dent fatigue life assessment.

NDT Global COO Andy Bain commented, "At NDT Global we are always looking for new ways to ensure we are delivering pipeline operators complete data set. By introducing this new methodology, we can now assist our customers with ongoing pipeline integrity management, identifying the true risk of a feature and enabling the correct prioritization of maintenance."

This service extension is a great fit to the Atlas UG inspection, currently delivering accurate and reliable ultrasonic ILI data by combining a corrosion or crack assessment with an ultrasonic based geometry measurement. Using ultrasonic technology ensures precise, direct measurement of dents with depth resolution down to 0.1 mm (0.004 in). System upgrades will be available for all customers during Q1 2018.

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**3X Engineering reinforces reboiler**

In August 2017, 3X ENGINEERING (3X) and its local distributor PETROENERTECH performed a repair to reinforce a reboiler located on FPSO suffering from external corrosion. After analysis of the corrosion extent, calculations according to ISO 24.817 were performed, concluding that 4 layers were needed to reinforce the reboiler. Because of the specific reboiler design, it was decided to use REINFORCEKIT® PATCH product, specially designed for tank & vessel repair e i.e. 4 Kevlar® patches size 1032×1032 mm for this case.

Surface preparation was completed, using Bristle Blaster machine, to remove coating and get a good surface roughness (between 60 μm and 100 μm anchor profile) to ensure a good bonding between the steel and the composite. Before composite patching, dew point, moisture and surface temperature were checked and the surface was cleaned and degreased.

Composite repair was performed as follows:
- F3XS1 filler was applied on the patch area (previously delimited) to fill metal loss and reshape the tank side.
- The surface was then covered with 3X specific epoxy resin (R3X1660) to ensure good wetting and impregnation of the Kevlar® tape.
- First Kevlar® patch was applied on the wet surface using paintbrush and making sure to remove all air bubbles. The Kevlar® patch was then impregnated with R3X1660 resin to create the wet surface for the next patch. This step was repeated until 4 layers/patches was reached.
- Final layer of epoxy resin was applied over the repair for protection.

Thanks to the efficient collaboration between 3X and its local distributor the corroded area of the reboiler was successfully repaired. The reboiler integrity is now restored.

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**F3XS1 filler application on patch area**