THE PRESIDENT’S LETTER

By Jessica Nichols, Inline Services, USA

2019 has proven to be another solid year for the pigging industry. We have observed consistent growth in new pipeline construction projects, an increase in pipeline companies implementing pigging programs and the introduction of exciting new pig capability innovations.

The exciting growth and innovation in the industry are reflected in the 2019/2020 PPSA Buyer’s Guide & Member Directory distributed in September. You may request your complimentary copy of the directory at https://ppsa-online.com/subscriptions.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new PPSA members and thank existing members for their continued support. Member participation plays an integral role in the PPSA’s ability to provide events, information and tools, such as the Technical Inquiry service, to support operators around the world.

Upcoming 2019 Events:
The 2019 annual PPSA seminar takes place in Aberdeen, UK, on 19th/20th November. The seminar includes an exposition providing a unique opportunity to view new technologies, listen to technical presentations given by PPSA members, and network with fellow pigging industry professionals.

Some changes to the PPSA seminar format this year includes, a chance for anyone to visit the exhibition the day before the seminar, from 4-5pm, at no cost, without attending the seminar. Also there is a social networking event at the whisky bar, and PPSA is hosting a visit to Petrofac’s testloop in Montrose, Aberdeen. The visit is available to YPP members only (under 35 years). Details about the seminar can be found at www.ppsa-online.com/seminar.

2020 Events:
The PPSA golf tournament is scheduled for Monday 17th February 2020 in Houston, TX. We are looking for members to make up teams, sponsor holes, lunch, prizes and gifts. If you would like to participate, please contact Diane at diane@ppsa-online.com. All are welcome! Funds raised from the golf tournament will support the young pipeline professionals in the industry.

I would like to invite everyone to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 18th February at the Marriott Marquis hotel in Houston, USA. This meeting in an integral part of learning and sharing ideas that will shape the future direction of PPSA. Your participation in the AGM is encouraged and welcome.

PPSA will be accepting nominations to fill vacancies for two new Directors from the Western Hemisphere in 2020. 2020 is the PPSA’s 30-year anniversary and we would like ideas from our members on how to mark this special occasion. All ideas are welcome, so let your creative juices flow and send them to Diane at diane@ppsa-online.com.

PPSA seminar in Aberdeen, UK
The 3 & 4inch Pioneer tools can be easily dropped into a typical pig valve, like an Argus valve or similar, and pushed through the pipeline by either the product or by Nitrogen.

The Pioneer smart pigs developed for pipelines that have pig valves in place is a great asset to any pipeline operator that is looking to inspect their gathering pipeline network. The ease of deployment and the ability to get inspection data on pipelines that have previously been un-inspectable increases the overall integrity of the pipeline network by the collection of more inspection data but this can be carried out at a cost far lower than conventional ILI technology and with far less disruption to operations and the environment. 121 now have field proven pig valve ILI tools for 3inch pipeline and up.

3X Engineering restores aerial pipeline

The objective of the job, carried out in June 2019 in Austria, was to restore the pipe integrity of a 12” gas line suffering from external corrosion at weld connection. The access to the defect was complicated due to the height of the line. The aerial line is situated on a bridge crossing the Danube river. The complicated pipe location required Rope Access Work.

Each repair is designed specifically according to the characteristics of the pipe, the operating conditions and the size of the defect. According to ISO 24.817 standard and 3X ENGINEERING (3X) repair calculations, 4 layers of REINFORCEKIT® 4D-EC were determined to reinforce the straight line.

Before starting the reinforcement, the coating was removed each side of the weld to have enough length for composite application. Surface preparation was then completed using Bristle Blaster® machine to get a good surface state and surface profile. Finally, the whole prepared surface was cleaned with acetone and roughness test and hygrometric measures were performed to ensure that all the conditions were satisfying before composite application.

The composite repair was then performed following several steps:
1/ F3X8 filler application on weld and defect to reshape the pipe.
2/ R3X1060 resin application on the whole surface to protect it from corrosion.
3/ Wrapping process using Kevlar® tape impregnated with R3X1060 resin → 4 layers completed for a total repair length of 400mm.
4/ Finalization of the repair. R3X1060 resin application over the repair to ensure good wetting of the fibers and good visual aspect and identification plate application for traceability purpose.

Hardness measurements on resin and filler samples were performed 10 days after job completion to check the good curing and validate the repair. The project was effectively planned and executed by 3X specialists. This job demonstrated the capacity and adaptability of 3X technicians to work on specific conditions such as aerial work with rope access. This composite repair will extend the lifetime of the pipe while awaiting its replacement (design lifetime: one year, as per client requirement).

15th Pipeline Technology Conference

The Pipeline Technology Conference (ptc), will take place for the 15th time from 30 March - 2 April 2020. ptc brings together pipeline operators and technology and service providers from all over the world to engage in a fruitful exchange about the latest challenges to the industry. Almost 80 different pipeline operators sent delegation to Berlin for ptc 2019.

More than 900 participants and 90 exhibitors are expected to participate in the 15th ptc in Berlin. The conference will feature lectures and presentations on all aspects surrounding oil, gas, water and product pipeline systems.

In addition to the traditional focus on pipeline safety, questions about the future of the industry will again be discussed in the coming year: Public perception, promotion of young talent, hydrogen / future fuels. The core of the next ptc will again be the 25 technical sessions with more than 80 speakers reviewed by the members of the ptc advisory committee. In addition to all these program items, the 15th Pipeline Technology Conferences offers several seminars, workshops, round table talks and social events. For more information please visit: www.pipeline-conference.com