



IPLOCA

TOGETHER - DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Newsletter

March 2024

Number

98



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IPLOCA Mission

To provide value to members through a forum for retaining and sharing knowledge globally, facilitating business opportunities and promoting the highest standards in safety, innovation, quality, business ethics and sustainability throughout the pipeline construction industry.

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IPLOCA Newsletter

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Letter from the President

Looking ahead to 2024: the Annual Convention, the Novel Construction Spring Session, the IPLOCA Awards and an array of informative and high-value events and initiatives are rolled out for members to benefit from in the coming months. We encourage you to participate in as many activities as possible.

I am delighted to announce that two deeply knowledgeable and experienced professionals have joined the IPLOCA Board of Directors. A warm welcome to Hakan Göral of Tekfen Construction, a Regular Member, and Somaieh Salehpour of Seal for Life Industries, an Associate Member, whose profiles you will find on page 7 and 8.

To kickstart the new year, IPLOCA Executive Secretary Georges Hage and I took part in the Pipe Line Contractors Association's Annual Convention in Nassau, the Bahamas. The World Federation of Pipe Line Industry Associations' first meeting of the year was held during the PLCA Convention, where we discussed industry challenges.

Attracting new talent tops the list of issues in our industry, as the results of a recent survey show (see page 13). This topic was also discussed at the last World Federation Meeting. With that in mind, I launched a new initiative headed by Board Member Saji Khoury with the aim of involving young professionals in the events and initiatives of our Association. I hope to see more of our young colleagues join us at the Annual Convention and other events. Our workshops provide a great opportunity to learn about the latest advances in the field of construction technologies and workplace safety.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, Novel Construction will return in April to Windsor, where its journey began two decades ago. The Novel Construction Fall Session, as well as the next HSE & CSR Workshop will be held in October. Improving safety, avoiding accidents and incidents on our various sites is a top priority for our Association and our members. For this reason, we rigorously collect and analyse health, safety and environmental data to identify the major causes of recurrent issues and accidents. Please help us carry out this work by returning your 2023 HSE Statistics online by 1 April 2024, if your company is a Regular Member.

Each year, our members' exemplary achievements are recognised by the IPLOCA Awards. Three awards will be presented this year during the Convention in Sorrento: the IPLOCA Health & Safety Award sponsored by TC Energy, the IPLOCA Environmental Award sponsored by Shell, and the IPLOCA Excellence in Project Execution Award sponsored by IPLOCA. I would like to encourage all members to submit an entry in at least one category for the Awards.

Excellent speakers have been lined up for our Regional Meeting in San Diego on 6 March. Topics include improving safety and carbon reduction.

This year I'm particularly looking forward to our Annual Convention to be held in the picturesque town of Sorrento, in my home country Italy, from 9 to 13 September. You will find more details about the Convention on pages 18 and 19. Registration opens on 15 May, so for now, save the date and please plan on attending.

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!

Roberto Castelli, Bonatti S.p.A
IPLOCA President 2023-2024

News from Geneva



Georges Hage takes the helm at IPLOCA

Georges Hage became the eleventh person to lead IPLOCA when he took over the role of Executive Secretary on 1 January 2024, after a career in

the industry spanning over 40 years and following the retirement of Juan Arzuaga.

Georges, the staff at the Secretariat and IPLOCA's Board of Directors look forward to supporting our members as the industry continues to transition to new energy resources. Georges also looks forward to meeting you at the Annual Convention in Sorrento or at one of the many events planned in 2024.

Should you wish to get in touch with Georges, do not hesitate to email georges.hage@iploca.com.

Board Meeting Update

7-8 December 2023 – Milan, Italy



Convention review

The first morning's discussions were focused on the IPLOCA Annual Convention. The Convention fee this year will be EUR 2,400 per single attendee or per couple. Convention registration is a benefit of membership and is limited to representatives of IPLOCA members, media partners and invited guests.

Two hours of Business-to-Business sessions are planned during the Convention. These 10-minute one-to-one appointments with buyers, suppliers and contractors give members the possibility to express their interest in potential business opportunities. First time attendees are encouraged to register for these B2B meetings. Registered delegates will have the opportunity to host Poster Sessions during the coffee breaks at the Open General Meetings.

Roger Spee, Convention & Board Location Project Lead,

presented his report. The aim is to develop a roadmap of potential Annual Convention locations for the next five years for the Board to select the most suitable destinations.

Roger Spee also heads a special group, the Speakers' Committee, which was setup during the Vancouver Convention with the aim of securing top-tier speakers. Directors were asked to send speaker suggestions to the Committee Chair.

After a discussion the Board decided that the next Convention in Sorrento, Italy, would be made up of two business days and three cultural days. This year's cultural programme will include a not-to-miss visit to the island of Capri. 12 and 13 September will be dedicated to the Open General Meetings (OGM) and the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Board Meetings will be held on 8, 12 and 13 September.

Delegates will once again be asked to pay a small fee (EUR 30) to participate in a cultural tour. The entirety of the income will help fund the IPLOCA Scholarship Programme. The fee was introduced to encourage participants to attend after making their booking, as there is regularly 30% of no-shows.

HSE & CSR Committee

Bruno Pomaré, HSE & CSR Committee Chair, presented the report. The next HSE & CSR Committee Meetings are scheduled to take place on 13 December 2023 (online), 23 April 2024 in Windsor, and 11 June 2024 in Geneva.

HSE Statistics forms had been received from 67% of Regular Members. Two fatalities were reported. Given the fact that only two-thirds of members submitted their statistics forms, the Board decided to contact members who did not submit their statistics for 2022.

Energy Transition Committee

Andrew Ball, Energy Transition Committee Chair, presented the Committee Report. Four additional Board members showed interest in the work of the Committee, which holds online meetings every month. He encouraged everyone interested in energy transition to regularly go to the Energy Committee's page on the IPLOCA website, namely the "Information Sharing and Exchange" section, where the latest reports and most important documents on the topic are continuously being uploaded.

The page is available at: www.iploca.com/committees/energy-transition/information-sharing-and-exchange/

He presented key takeaways from two reports authored by the International Energy Agency (IEA): the "Net Zero



IPLOCA President Roberto Castelli with his wife Francesca, and IPLOCA Executive Secretary Georges Hage with his wife Myrna

Road Map 2023" and the "2023 CCUS Policies and Business Models". The Board decided to continue with the Green Leaves Programme.

Innovation Committee

Gerben Wansink, Innovation Committee Chair, presented the Committee Report. The Novel Construction Initiative's last session, held in Munich on 25-26 October 2023, gathered 70 attendees. The next Spring Session will be held in Windsor on 24-25 April 2024 and will mark a special milestone in the life of the project. It will have been 20 years since the first Novel session was held in Windsor. On this occasion the group will take the opportunity to take stock of the past 20 years and carve out a new direction for the Novel Initiative for the next couple of years.

The Committee Chair also spoke about the "Road to Success" (RTS) tool, a "live" application that identifies key drivers in a pipeline project and intended to be widely used in the pipeline industry. All chapters have been completed by the working groups. Therefore, the structure and objectives of Novel meetings need to be reviewed. The Board was briefed on the latest developments related to the IPLOCA Members Technology Platform, a place where members promote their new technologies. The future of the platform will be discussed at the next Board Meeting in San Diego.

Membership Committee

Bill Solomon, Membership Committee Chair, presented the report. The Committee made recommendations about how to increase membership figures. Andrew Stuart, member of the Committee, gave a presentation about social media membership drive. His recommendations for LinkedIn include posts with testimonials, introduction of new members, event promotion and a photo competition.

IPLOCA Scholarship Programme

Saji Khoury, Scholarship Committee Chair, presented the report. A limited number of scholarships are awarded each year as a financial contribution to full-time study at an accredited institution of the student's choice. Applications are open to candidates from all trades. Applicants must be children or grandchildren, aged 26 years and under, of employees of IPLOCA Regular or Associate Members. The Board agreed to finance 12 scholarships in total in 2024. Applications, open since January, must be made online before the 11 March deadline. The application form is available at: www.iploca.com/committees/scholarship-programme/application/.

The scholarship information flyer is available in various languages at: www.iploca.com/committees/scholarship-programme/scholarship/.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Adam Wynne Hughes, presented the report, which included the fourth quarter forecast and the Annual Report. The Board approved the 2024 Budget.

Membership changes

At the time of the Board meeting, the IPLOCA membership status was 84 Regular Members, 106 Associate Members and 33 Corresponding Members.

The following membership application was approved:

- **Nesma & Partners**, Saudi Arabia – Regular Member

The following terminations/resignations were received:

- **Ledcor Pipeline Limited** – Regular Member
- **Limak Construction Industry and Trade Inc.** – Regular Member
- **SPAC** – Regular Member
- **Cross Country Canada Supplies and Rentals Inc.** – Associate Member
- **MS Welding Systems** – Associate Member
- **Specialty Polymer Coatings** – Associate Member

The following name change request was received and approved by the Board:

Old name: "The Pipeline Engineers and Associates Limited"

New name: "**PEAL Engineering and Construction Limited**"

Upcoming Regional Meetings

San Diego is the location of the next Regional Meeting on 6 March 2024. Directors for the "America North" region will organise the event with the support of the Secretariat. Board Director Marcin Przywara recommended the southern Polish city of Cracow as a potential location for a Regional Meeting, a Novel Construction Session or a Board Meeting. The city's



Former IPLOCA Executive Secretary Juan Arzuaga with his wife Alejandra

rich cultural heritage makes it an attractive location for visitors from around the world.

New initiative to attract young professionals

Roberto Castelli, the President of the Board, introduced a new initiative with the aim of involving young professionals in the activities and events of the Association. Board Director Saji Khoury was chosen to be in charge of the Initiative as Sponsor. The Board was asked to reach out to S. Khoury with recommendations on how to move forward.

Changes on the Board

The Board was informed that Edgar Chavez, Director for Associate Members, had resigned as Member of the IPLOCA Board. The President asked the Board to approve the appointment of Somaieh Salehpour to replace Edgar Chavez. S. Salehpour works as Vice President Strategic Marketing & Technology for Associate Member "Seal for Life Industries". The Board unanimously approved the nomination.

New Directors on the 2023-2024 IPLOCA Board

We warmly welcome the following Directors, who were recently appointed by the Board to replace two members who have resigned.

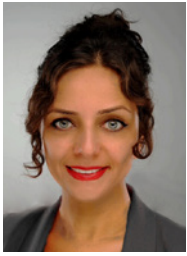


Hakan Göral

Director for Europe Eastern

Hakan is CEO and President of the Turkey-based Tekfen Holding. Founded in 1956, and an IPLOCA member since 1966, today the company is active in

various sectors including construction, agriculture and real estate. Hakan has held senior leadership positions in the automotive and construction industries during his career spanning over 30 years. He joined Tekfen's fertiliser producing arm as General Manager in 2016, and became Vice President at the Holding's Agri-Industry Division before being promoted to President and CEO in 2023. He studied engineering at Boğaziçi University and holds a Master of Science degree from Marmara University. Hakan attended Advanced Management programmes at Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, and Stanford University. He lives in Istanbul with his wife Seda, while their daughter Defne studies abroad at the Rotterdam School of Management. In his free time, he enjoys cycling and partaking in outdoor recreational activities.



Somaieh Salehpour

Director for Associate Members

Somaieh is Vice President of Technology and Strategic Marketing at Seal for Life Industries, which offers diversified coating solutions for infrastructure protection.

During her career, she not only directed various technical and marketing groups internationally, but she also authored or co-authored several patents. Scientific journals have published more than 50 papers written by Somaieh. She is committed to innovation and solution development

within the infrastructure and pipeline coating industry and has successfully guided many ideas from conception to commercialisation. In addition to her corporate role, she is actively engaged in the international community, serving on various technical panels and committees. Over the last 16 years, she has guided global technology and marketing groups in the ever-evolving oil and gas, water and renewables markets. She holds a PhD in Polymer Science and Engineering from the University of Ottawa. Currently, she lives with her husband in Houston, Texas. In her free time she enjoys taking part in culinary adventures, cycling escapades on scenic trails, and activities involving dance and music.

Sister Associations



WFPIA Meeting. From left to right: Georges Hage (IPLOCA), Roberto Castelli (IPLOCA), Adam Wynne Hughes representing Kate Lazenby (PIG), Elizabeth Worrell (PLCA), Robert Bell (PLCA), Rob Darden (DCA), Mark Albert (DCA), Kevin O'Donnell (PLCAC), Wes Waschuk (PLCAC).



IPLOCA President Roberto Castelli and his wife, Francesca, participated in the **Pipe Line Contractors Association's 76th Annual Convention**, which took place in Nassau, Bahamas from 30 January to 3 February, at which a World Federation of Pipe Line Industry Associations (WFPIA) meeting was held.



The **Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada's 70th Annual Convention** is scheduled to take place from 12 to 16 May at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. For further details and to review other PLCAC events, visit their website: www.pipeline.ca.



IPLOCA Executive Secretary Georges Hage, accompanied by his wife, Myrna, attended the **Distribution Contractors Association's 63rd Annual Convention** from 12 to 17 February on Kohala Coast, Hawaii, U.S.A.



The **Australian Pipelines and Gas Association** will hold its Annual Convention and Exhibition from 12 to 15 October in Adelaide, Australia. Further details at www.apga.org.au/events.



The **Pipeline Industries Guild's 66th Annual Dinner**, London, U.K. will be held on 12 March at the JW Marriott Grosvenor House London. For information on this and other PIG events please visit www.pipeguild.com.



The **International Marine Contractors Association** organises a regular programme of meetings and events all over the world including regional meetings and technical seminars. Further details may be found on www.imca-int.com/events.

Member News

Al-Qahtani Pipe Coating Industries awarded Aramco contract



Saudi energy company Aramco has awarded a contract to Al-Qahtani Pipe Coating Industries for work on the Master Gas System (MGS) expansion. The project involves 414 kilometres of 56", 30" & 24" diameter pipes' double joint welding and external FBE coating. The original MGS was built in the 1970s. Since then, Aramco has been supplying natural gas to its customers across Saudi Arabia via the network, mainly channeling associated gas from Ghawar and other oil fields. Over the past decade, amid rising gas demand from Saudi Arabia's industrial and household sectors, Aramco has undertaken projects to increase its non-associated gas production. It launched the second expansion phase of the MGS in 2015. The pipeline construction was completed in 2021, increasing the gas handling and transport capacity of the MGS from 8.4 billion cubic feet a day to 12.5 billion. Saudi Aramco's MGS expansion - Phase III project - aims to convert a number of power plants from oil to natural gas, contributing to the country's drive towards a cleaner energy mix.

Main contractor AVAX S.A. completes 47% of major high-pressure pipeline in Greece

The West Macedonia pipeline, planned to be handed over by the first trimester of 2025, will be the first high-pressure transmission gas pipeline in Greece, certified to transport up to 100% hydrogen and one of the first in Europe. It is part of the European Hydrogen Backbone, the infrastructure needed to achieve Europe's climate and energy objectives. Pipes comply with ASME B31.12 Option B specification. Once the construction carried out on behalf of DESFA is completed, the pipeline will provide a technically and economically feasible solution for the safe transportation of hydrogen at high pressures through



large diameter and high strength steel pipelines. Thus, pipes produced today and installed in the current gas network can cover the energy mix of tomorrow. The natural gas pipeline covers Greece's northern region of West Macedonia with a total length of 163 km of coated steel pipes (97km of LSAW 30" and 66km of ERW 14" and 10").

Bezemer completes shore crossings for Deutsche Ostsee LNG terminal



Winch supplier Bezemer Dordrecht provided equipment for the "Deutsche Ostsee Project", a new Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) - based LNG import terminal near Lubmin, Germany. The project included a pipeline shore crossing through a micro-tunnel. Bezemer Dordrecht supplied a continuous linear winch with a pulling capacity of 800 tonnes to complete this part of the project. Since the pull is through a micro-tunnel, the linear winch was delivered with a tunnel pit frame. This frame, originally designed for these kinds of projects, has an incorporated downward sheave to position the winch on top of the pit. Using different inserts, the winch pulls wires of various diameters allowing one winch to pull a 52mm messenger wire and a 127 mm pull wire, to which the pipeline is connected. Following the completion of the pull

in September, the German government decided to have the offshore moored FSRU moved to Sassnitz. Bezemer repeated the operation at Mukran Port, where the pipeline shore crossing was completed in December 2023.

Bin Quraya awarded contract to increase crude supply to Ras Tanura



Bin Quraya Company Limited signed a contract in December 2023 to increase the capacity of Ras Tanura Terminal. The Eastern Region terminals of Saudi Arabia consisting of Juaymah Crude Oil Terminal (JCOT) and Ras Tanura Terminal (RTT) experience unbalanced utilisation when exporting at maximum sustainable capability (MSC). JCOT has high utilisation of approximately 85%, whereas RTT is operating at approximately 60% of capacity. The scope of work is to install a new 32" diameter, 25 km long pipeline (KRT-2L) within the existing corridor from SJ-1 at KM @199 to RT Terminal North (TN) to support a total of 850 million barrels per day (mbd) Arabian Medium (AM) supply to RTT. The scraper receiver lateral line of the new KRT-2L will be connected to several feeding lines.

Some piping modifications and other tie-ins will be required across the pipeline network and in RTT (TN and TS). The facilities will include the installation of tie-ins at RTT North and South, piping modifications, two jump overs, a scraper launcher and receiver, a valve station, cathodic protection, electrical and instrumentation. The work comprises services to Qatif Gas and Oil Separation Plant with existing scraper trap facilities and a closed drain system, Qatif Central processing facilities, a medium level voltage station and motor operated valves for operational flexibility.

Electrification and energy solutions at Caterpillar

To amplify electrification and energy solutions, Caterpillar featured breakthrough innovations and next generation products and services at the forefront of electrification at

the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2024 that took place in Las Vegas, U.S.A. in January 2024. The exhibit highlighted Caterpillar's electric machines and energy solutions, designed to meet the evolving needs of construction industry customers as they electrify their job sites. As a technology leader for nearly a century, Caterpillar continues to innovate and invest in electrification, alternative fuels, connectivity, and digital solutions to help customers meet their sustainability goals. Exhibit visitors were drawn to the two electric machines on display: a zero-exhaust-emission underground loader for mining that included the industry's only onboard battery with fast-charging capabilities and a hydraulic excavator. Furthermore, the exhibit demonstrated Caterpillar's broad portfolio of integrated solutions designed to help customers electrify their job sites. The technology showcased included on-site power generation: generators capable of running on renewable fuels, solar panels, and hydrogen-powered fuel cells. Also on display were energy storage solutions that work with any combination of diesel, natural gas, or renewable energy sources for optimal power. Chargers, rigged battery packs with built-in telematics and inverters were also featured. Find out more about Caterpillar at CES 2024 at: www.cat.com/en_US/campaigns/event/cat-at-ces.html



C.A.T. Group expands commitment to sustainability and commences construction on ADNOC Estidama Project

In a move to address the climate challenge and amplify its commitment to community welfare, C.A.T. Group has recently established a dedicated sustainability department and formed a committee to spearhead environmental efforts, including a thorough assessment of CO2 emissions and the implementation of ambitious reduction targets. Highlighting its dedication to renewable energy, C.A.T. has installed a solar carport at its Dhahran head office, powering office lighting. Solar-powered cooling sheds have been introduced at various sites for employee comfort



during harsh weather conditions. The company's fleet has undergone a green transformation with hybrid cars, electric forklifts, and Euro 3 compliant trucks, showcasing its commitment to emission reduction. Complementing these eco-friendly measures, C.A.T. actively contributes to local green initiatives, such as the beautification of the Dammam gate roundabout, and supports diversity in the workforce by encouraging Saudi women to take up diverse roles, including welding and QA/QC inspection. The first Saudi woman to receive the ACI Certification in KSA is a member of the C.A.T. team. The C.A.T. Group and NPCC consortium has initiated full-scale construction on the Estidama - Sales Gas Pipeline Network Enhancement - Package 3 project in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. Valued at over USD 600 million, the initiative aims to ensure a sustainable and cost-effective natural gas supply, supporting ADNOC's growth strategy. The project involves the installation of 191 kilometres of 56" and 52" sales gas pipelines.

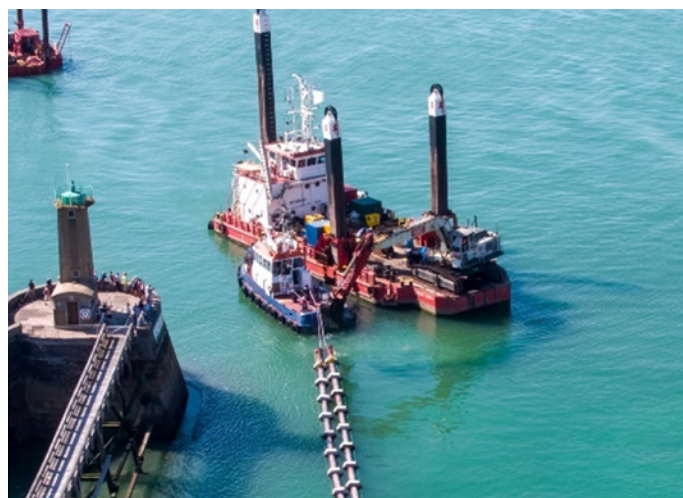
China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Co., Ltd. (CPP) employs cutting-edge engineering capabilities in Abu Dhabi



The Mirfa Plant Modification and Pipeline Project, located in the western region of Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., was launched

to address a growing nitrogen demand. The main scope of work covers the installation of a nitrogen pipeline covering 75 kilometres from the Mirfa plant to Ruwais. The contract was awarded to CPP by ADNOC Gas Processing. Designed as a fast-track project, the construction timeline given was 24 months. Key components include a 75-kilometre 48-inch pipeline and a 5-kilometre 12-inch pipeline. The scope extends to the construction and modification of metering stations, receiving stations and valve stations. Pipelines are laid in areas with high water levels, requiring specialised construction. The project also features 16 non-disruptive road crossing (NDRC) points and two hot tapping locations. CPP, the EPC contractor, has employed fully automatic welding technology, achieving an outstanding milestone in the U.A.E. – surpassing 80 joints per day for the 48" main pipeline. The maximum daily single crew welding capacity was 900 metres. The Vacuum Pipe Lifter was introduced for the first time in the U.A.E., increasing efficiency by over 50% during pipe unloading and laying. The project, advancing faster than scheduled, is expected to be completed by mid-November 2024.

De Romein Group installs pipelines connecting offshore windfarms to the grid



De Romein Group is increasingly active in nearshore cable enabling works across Europe. These works often include the installation of HDPE pipelines, which function as ducts to pull HVDC cables through, connecting offshore windfarms to the grid. In 2023, De Romein Group successfully delivered a 680 m long and 630mm diameter HDPE duct pipeline installation with concrete ballasts and a 2 km marine dredge for the Fécamp offshore windfarm project in France. Using De Romein's specialist nearshore fleet, which includes the Capall Mara, a 500-tonne backhoe dredger, from which a Liebherr R 984 excavator is operated, a 2-metre-deep trench was dug along the seabed and the pipeline anchored in the trench. Capall Mara was supported by other vessels including a 120-tonne deck

load capacity jack-up barge, offshore rigid inflatable boats (for crew transport) and shallow water work boats. In many of De Romein's other cable enabling projects horizontal directional drilling is undertaken from the shoreline, to insert the HDPE pipeline ducts to a defined point in the trench. Following the pipeline installation on the Fécamp project, De Romein also successfully carried out the HVDC cable pull installation and marine civil works.

Goriziane's Pipe Bending Machine updated with latest technology



Pipeline projects demand precision, efficiency, and reliability in every aspect of construction. In this quest for excellence, the role of cutting-edge technology becomes increasingly vital. One such technological marvel that has revolutionized the pipeline industry is Goriziane's Pipe Bending Machine, specifically designed for large-scale projects with pipes measuring 36 inches and above. In the dynamic landscape of pipeline construction, the use of advanced technologies, like the 36" and above pipe bending machines, is a strategic choice. The efficiency, precision, and safety offered by these machines not only expedite project timelines but also elevate the overall quality of the pipelines being constructed. As pipeline projects continue to grow in complexity and scale, the role of these cutting-edge machines becomes increasingly pivotal in shaping a sustainable and resilient future for the industry.

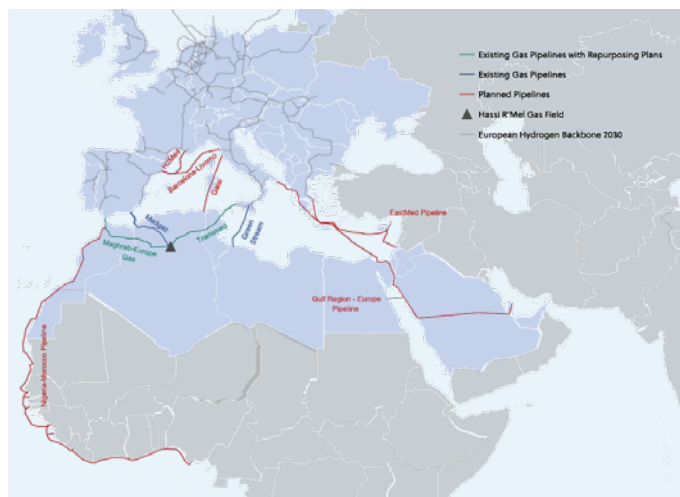
Herrenknecht's small diameter Direct Pipe deployed for European gas pipeline network

In highly permeable ground conditions, when horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is not applicable or feasible, Herrenknecht's Direct Pipe technology (sometimes also called "Direct Steerable Pipe Thrusting" or DSPT) provides a safe option for crossings and landfalls. The AVNS slurry MTBM concept with an integrated jet pump



system extends possible drive lengths to 1,500 metres for small-diameter Direct Pipe installations from 24" upwards. Further developments in the navigation system eliminate the use of magnetic-field detection systems. This makes small Direct Pipe even simpler, more reliable and versatile, opening new opportunities for owners and consultants when planning pipeline networks or underground cable routes. The safety benefit of slurry-based micro tunnelling and its high precision and performance rates in a wide range of ground conditions ensures a high-level of acceptance and reliability. After the first two 28" river crossings commissioned in Poland for the GIPL-Gas Interconnector Poland-Lithuania, a total of five crossings were commissioned by Gaz-System, with a maximum installation length of 884 m. Early 2023, small-diameter Direct Pipe installations were successfully completed in Italy for SNAM Rete Gas. Two sections of the Pipeline at Recanati-Chieti were installed, using an AVNS600 Direct Pipe MTBM and a 500-ton Pipe Thruster.

ILF white paper on bulk transport options for green molecules



The global hydrogen trade is projected to undergo a significant transformation by 2030, primarily focusing

on the European Union, Japan and South Korea due to their strict emissions regulations and limited local production. The MENA region, as well as countries like Mauritania, Namibia, South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Canada are expected to emerge as major hydrogen suppliers. Repurposing existing gas pipelines is a vital strategy for developing the hydrogen market, although logistical challenges remain. In their joint white paper, "Bulk transport options for green molecules", ILF Consulting Engineers' Management Consulting Team and Dii Desert Energy compared the levelized cost of hydrogen transportation for different existing and planned pipelines. The report analyses the global hydrogen trade and examines the role of cross continent pipelines. It offers selected expert interviews with key players in the green molecules value chain. The white paper is available for download here: www.ilf.com/news/publications/?download-id=1584864.

Attracting new talent tops list for issues facing midstream industry



Lamar University's Center for Midstream Management and Science conducted its 2024 "Top ten issues facing the midstream industry" survey, which yielded the following results. The top 10 issues include attracting new talent, the political environment, new regulations, government energy policy, aging infrastructure, business outlook, emerging engineering issues, permitting, capital availability and supply chain. Last year, human capital and what can be called day-to-day operating worries dominated industry concerns. In this year's survey, attracting new talent took first place again, but in an unexpected result, day-to-day operating concerns were replaced by political environment. Attracting new talent and political environment were not only very close in scoring but were also significantly more important than the remaining eight issues. The next two issues, new regulations and government energy policies, were tied in scoring. Authors of the survey

suggest it may be time for the midstream industry to reassess its interaction with the public, perhaps through an educational initiative targeting university students, energy consumers, and all levels of federal, state, and local government. The survey is available at: www.lamar.edu/midstreamcenter/newsfeed/top-ten-issues-facing-midstream-industry-in-2024.html

LaValley Industries forge alliance with CRC Evans



LaValley Industries announces the reacquisition of its DECKHAND® rental fleet from long-time industry associate CRC Evans. This development positions the manufacturer as the largest global DECKHAND® rental provider. LaValley Industries products have been transforming infrastructure job sites worldwide for over a decade. Designed with the operator in mind, manoeuvring pipe, poles, drill rod, I-beams and road mats has never been easier or safer. With this acquisition, the company is bringing together manufacturing excellence and rental service under one roof. CRC Evans will play a key role in this new chapter for LaValley Industries while continuing to deliver state-of-the-art services and equipment solutions. This partnership is a natural evolution of both companies' shared values and commitment to excellence. LaValley Industries' customers can expect an even more responsive service and support as the company reinforces its commitment to unparalleled precision, safety and efficiency in job site operations. Customers can rent attachments directly from the manufacturer or explore equipment rental packages offered by the LaValley Alliance Partner Network.

Lincoln Electric offers innovative approach to pipeline welding

With the release of the new Mechanized Pipeliner® AutoShield® solution, Lincoln Electric has helped usher in the next generation of pipeline welding. Ideal for



contractors looking for a more cost-effective way to mechanize their welding operations, the advancements provided by AutoShield help deliver more reliable, repeatable welds for X65 and X70 downhill welding applications. Designed for fill and cap welding passes, it is a complete mechanized, self-shielded flux-cored (FCAW-S) solution that offers an innovative approach to eliminating shielding gas and welding shacks out on the right-of-way - helping to reduce weld time by up to 30% when compared to similar SMAW applications. It also offers up to 50% reduced heat input when compared to similar FCAW-G applications.

MAX STREICHER S.p.A. participates in construction of renewable diesel plant in Rotterdam



The Finnish company Neste recently launched a new project to enhance the production capacity at its Rotterdam refinery in the Netherlands by introducing a plant capable of producing 1.3 Mt of renewable diesel annually. The project is divided into four construction lots, of which MAX STREICHER S.p.A. has been awarded the contract for mechanical works, the largest one of the four in terms of quantities and effort. The project started

this year and is scheduled to be completed by June 2025 with an expected start of operation by 2026. MAX STREICHER S.p.A. is in charge of several construction activities, including piping prefabrication, piping erection and painting works, as well as mechanical hoisting and assembly works, pre-commissioning works and assistance to commissioning activities. Welding processes with noble materials will be executed. The installation of heavy equipment of substantial weight and size will require the use of cranes, up to a capacity of 1,200 tons, as well as the installation of rotating machines requiring the expertise of professional teams. The project is expected to employ more than 300 workers at its peak.

Monter Strojarske Montaže d.d. completes underground gas storage facility



The project, listed among the strategic investment initiatives in Croatia, involved the construction of a gas station with a compressor station, serving as the central facility for gas production, and a gas dehydration unit in Grubišno Polje. As part of the project, gas pipelines were built to connect two production wells, and a measuring station was created with connecting pipelines to the entry point of the transportation system. The facility was commissioned, entering a trial operation phase in July 2023. The completion of this underground gas storage project not only marks a significant achievement for Monter Strojarske Montaže d.d., but also contributes to Croatia's strategic energy infrastructure. The successful integration of the gas production and storage facility enhances the country's energy security and represents a vital step in fostering sustainable and efficient energy management.

PEAL's innovative risk management approach

PEAL Engineering and Construction was recently contracted for mechanical construction on a booster compressor project in Bibiyana Gas Field, Hobiganj,

Bangladesh. The project, awarded by a global oil and gas company, aimed to enhance long-term operation and production. PEAL encountered a major risk, namely extreme summer heat in the month of May and June 2023 during the full phase of execution with temperatures hitting 40°C and humidity at 96%. The typical 15-minute heat breaks mandated by compliance weren't enough so a risk response plan was developed. 30 minutes of additional time was required to resume work. PEAL's innovative approach included a hydration and energy boost: water, bananas, glucose and electrolytes were provided for instant energy replenishment. Medical support and monitoring: on-site medical support was set up to ensure worker safety and prioritise treatment. Enhanced cooling measures: temporary sheds, water sprays and stand fans were used to mitigate extreme temperatures. Age-focused strategies: workers over 40 were given less strenuous tasks with health checks for proactive assistance. Work optimisation: whenever possible, tasks were prioritised based on heat tolerance and hot work was moved to controlled fabrication shop environments. These strategies yielded impressive results. Worker morale remained high, productivity losses were minimised, and the project was delivered on schedule to the client's satisfaction.



SICIM S.p.A. awarded major gas utilisation project in Iraq

Over the 12 years of its presence in Iraq, SICIM successfully implemented several oil and gas projects, not only supporting the expansion of the national energy infrastructure, but also providing jobs and professional development opportunities to local communities creating a mutually beneficial and sustainable business environment. SICIM has expanded its portfolio of EPC projects in Iraq with a new plant, which includes the design, procurement, construction and commissioning of a gas sweetening unit, critical for sustainable power generation at the West Qurna-2 field, and raw gas



compression and dehydration facilities that will condition raw gas for its subsequent export to the downstream centralized gas hub for final processing. The ambitious project, planned to be completed within 33 months, provides employment to hundreds of qualified and semi-skilled Iraqi citizens. Dozens of local Iraqi subcontractors and service providers will have the opportunity to work on the project. By minimizing gas flaring, the plant will play an important role in the decarbonization of the Basra region, as well as help reduce Iraq's dependence on imported gas.

New documentary premieres about construction of Néstor Kirchner Pipeline

Celebrating engineering prowess and collective effort, the documentary 'GPNK: El Camino del Gas' premiered at the 38th Mar del Plata International Film Festival in Argentina. The film, available on YouTube, provides insight into the construction of the Presidente Néstor Kirchner Gas Pipeline (GPNK), and chronicles Techint Group's efforts to build a key piece of energy infrastructure. The 35-minute film, directed by Gianfranco Quattrini,



Film director Gianfranco Quattrini during a special screening in General Acha, a community involved in the construction.

documents how the pipeline was completed in just ten months, when building infrastructure of this scale normally takes two years. The documentary captures the experiences of over 4,000 people involved in the construction. Special screenings were organised for local communities involved in this mega project. The 36-inch diameter pipeline with a total length of 573 km transports natural gas produced in Vaca Muerta to the province of Buenos Aires. It will increase the country's natural gas transportation capacity by 30%. "It's impressive how we have managed to come together with a collective vision, as a group that combines all its strength for gas, to achieve something very important for the country," said Paolo Rocca, President of the Techint Group. The film is available here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqFHqKiLIAC

Vacuworx lifters used on Australian pipeline project

A large coal mining project in central Queensland, Australia, required two Vacuworx lifters for the installation of a new 500 mm HDPE pipeline. The purpose of the pipeline is to transport water to a coal washing facility and aid in dust suppression – a critical task due to erosion concerns and the proximity of neighbouring agricultural activities. For the successful execution of this project, two Vacuworx lifters were employed – one RC



10 and one RC 12. Both lifters underwent 'Mine-Spec' preparation, incorporating features such as battery isolation and E-Stop switches, protective covers on all electrical terminals, and high-visibility equipment number stickers. Each lifter was equipped with an 8-metre spreader beam and dual pads, specifically designed to handle 21-metre lengths of HDPE pipe. This functionality supported the unloading of incoming pipes and their transportation from the stockpile to the welding process. The welding process involved creating 150-metre strings from each welder, subsequently pulling them into the right-of-way before joining each string and trenching them into the ground.

Membership Centre

New Regular Member



Nesma & Partners is the leading contracting company in Saudi Arabia that delivers innovative solutions to some of the biggest energy and infrastructure challenges in the Middle East.

Founded in 1981 to meet the needs of a booming economy in the rapidly developing Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, today, Nesma & Partners is a partnership of four shareholders: Nesma Contracting Limited, Alturki Holding, Rawabi Holding, and the Public Investment Fund (PIF). Over the last 40 years, Nesma & Partners has grown into a leading innovator serving the entire region with a track record of success in delivering the region's most ambitious industrial, infrastructure, and building construction projects.

IPLOCA Membership

As of 20 February, IPLOCA's membership stands at 229 members comprising:

- 81 Regular Members
- 103 Associate Members
- 33 Corresponding Members
- 4 Academic Members
- 8 Honorary Members

Nesma & Partners Contracting Co. Ltd.

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IPLOCA Scholarship Programme

Applications are open for the 2024 IPLOCA Scholarship Programme

Each year, IPLOCA offers scholarships for students to pursue a full-time undergraduate degree in their chosen field of study. Since 2016, the scholarship has reached more than 150 students around the world.

We are proud to have helped students achieve their educational goals and to have contributed to the next generation's start in the workforce. Should your company wish to promote education by sponsoring the programme, please contact Saji Khoury (saji@ccc.net) of CCC, a member of the IPLOCA Board of Directors, who leads the selection process committee.

To be eligible applicants must:

- be children or grandchildren (biological, step or adopted), aged 26 years and under, of full-time or part-time (where

required by country specific regulations) employees of IPLOCA Regular or Associate Members as of the application deadline Monday 11 March 2024

- be students in their final year of upper or higher secondary school or currently be technical or university level students
- plan to enrol in full-time undergraduate study at a bona fide college, university, vocational, technical or trade school for the entire upcoming academic year

IPLOCA awards scholarships annually. The amount of each scholarship is USD 4,500. We encourage all IPLOCA members to publicise this programme as widely as possible within their organisations.

Applications must be made online at: www.iploca.com/committees/scholarship-programme/application/

Regional Meetings

America North



The IPLOCA event season kicks off with a Regional Meeting taking place on Wednesday, 6 March 2024 at the Carte Hotel, San Diego, U.S.A.

This all-day meeting will be co-hosted by Caterpillar, CRC Evans, Gulf Interstate Engineering, ISCO Industries, Michels, U.S. Pipeline and Vacuworx. Major themes covered by the speakers will include:

- Health and safety
- Market overview - pipelines and renewables
- IPLOCA Initiatives
- Current and future challenges of the pipeline industry

Middle East & Africa



The IPLOCA Middle East & Africa Regional Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5 June 2024 at the Nile Ritz Carlton, Cairo, Egypt.

IPLOCA members and representatives of international companies from the pipeline and construction industry in the region will speak at the event. There is no fee to participate, but you will need to complete the online registration form.

More information about the Regional Meetings is available at: www.iploca.com/events/regional-meetings/



Mark your calendar!

Online registration will open on Wednesday,
15 May 2024 at: www.iploca.com

56th Annual Convention Sorrento, Italy

IPOCA's Annual Convention will be held at the Hilton Sorrento Palace Hotel from 9 to 13 September 2024. As this is the first time IPOCA organises a convention in Sorrento, we expect a very high attendance, so we suggest you register early to take full advantage of the whole programme.

The theme for the Sorrento Convention will be announced soon. The presentations at the Open General Meetings will mainly focus on topics related to the industry outlook, carbon capture, hydrogen, renewables and HSE.

Programme

Based on feedback from attendees at the Vancouver Convention, the Board decided to make a few changes to this year's programme. Amongst others, these changes will include:

- A return to the original format of two days of business meetings and three days of cultural tours.
- The duration and the format of the Business-to-Business (B2B) Meetings will remain the same (2 hours), with each meeting lasting 10 minutes. A total of 10 companies will be confirmed as hosts. In order to facilitate these short meetings, delegates who request a meeting will be given the possibility to include information on their company and topics of interest when completing their registration.





We encourage all first-time attendees to participate in these meetings.

- Delegates will once again be asked to pay a small fee to participate in a cultural tour. The money collected from these fees will be used to help finance the IPLOCA Scholarship Fund.

Cultural tours

This year's cultural programme will include a not-to-miss visit to the island of Capri. An enchanting island boasting a magnificent blend of natural beauty and charm. For centuries, writers, poets, painters and artists have fallen under its spell and many great producers have chosen the island as the setting for their films. This full day tour will also include lunch in the beautiful coastal town of Positano, a pearl of the Amalfi Coast. Delegates will also have the opportunity to visit the National Museum in Naples, one of the best archaeological museums in the world that contains most of the Roman artifacts from Pompeii and Herculaneum. The Naples tour will also include a visit to Sansevero Chapel where delegates will discover the Veiled Christ, a masterpiece fashioned from a single block of marble. The Campania region of Italy, southeast of Naples, is also home to the two UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Pompeii



and Herculaneum. The excellent state of preservation of these rich archaeological sites gives an invaluable insight into everyday life in Roman times.

Convention sponsorship

Convention sponsorship opportunities will soon be available! Sponsorship is divided into three levels, Silver, Gold, and Platinum with all levels enabling your company to benefit from increased visibility before, during and after the convention week. In addition to the logo visibility that comes with the sponsored item or event, sponsors have their company logo included in the IPLOCA newsletter, on the convention app and on the IPLOCA website. Further details will be sent to all members in a few weeks. Contact for sponsorships: Caroline Green, Convention Manager caroline.green@iploca.com

Maats/Liebherr Golf Tournament

On Wednesday morning IPLOCA's golfers will be heading to Volturno Golf Club at the Crowne Plaza Marina Resort. Located in an immense oasis of green with panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea, Volturno Golf Club is one of the most well-known golf courses in the Campania Region with 18 holes requiring varying levels of technical skill.





IPLOCA Awards to be presented in Sorrento

Would your company like the opportunity to be selected and recognised as a leader in search for excellence within the pipeline industry?

It is now time to choose which of your company's significant initiatives or achievements meets the eligibility requirements to be considered for one of the IPLOCA Awards. Deadlines for submissions are coming up in April. For more information, such as guidelines, entry forms, eligibility and details on previous winning entries, go to www.iploca.com/awards. Note that all entries should be focused on the pipeline industry and related work and are required to comply with the guidelines, including submission in the appropriate format, not exceeding the maximum number of pages and within the specified time frame.



2024 IPLOCA Health & Safety Award sponsored by TC Energy

Submissions deadline: **19 April**

The Health and Safety Award is presented each year in recognition of members' initiatives, all of which are aimed at improving the health and safety of the pipeline industry such as:

- A unique innovation or initiative to avoid incidents
- A new and well-defined system, procedure or practice enhancing safety
- Implementation of lessons learned



2024 IPLOCA Environmental Award sponsored by Shell

Submissions deadline: **26 April**

The biennial Environmental Award, sponsored by Shell, is

given in recognition of members' initiatives, all of which are aimed at reducing the impact of pipeline construction on the environment, such as:

- Reduction of greenhouse gases
- Impact assessment and public consultation
- Energy use and efficiency
- Waste management and reduction
- Spill response preparedness
- Water usage and preservation
- Soil and ground restoration
- Archaeology
- Flora and fauna



2024 IPLOCA Excellence in Project Execution Award

Submissions deadline: **30 April**

Awarded every other year, the Excellence in Project Execution Award is presented in recognition of an outstanding project execution in onshore or offshore pipeline, or facilities construction by virtue of:

- Excellent client relationship/partnership beyond the expectations and/or contractual obligations
- Specific technology or engineering developed to either significantly reduce the cost of construction, or minimise the impact of the project on the environment, or to the local community, or for improvement in safety
- Outstanding response to unexpected difficulties faced during the execution of the project
- A remarkable or revised construction practice

Reminder

For the annual H&S Award, entries are limited to projects launched a maximum of three years earlier, and a maximum of five years for the four other awards that are presented every other year. If you have any questions, please contact Sébastien Goetschmann, sebastien.goetschmann@iploca.com.

Health, Safety, the Environment & CSR

HSE Statistics required of all Regular Members

On behalf of the Chair of the HSE & CSR Committee, Bruno Pomaré, we would like to remind our Regular Members that, as a condition of membership, they are required to submit their annual health, safety and environmental statistics to IPLOCA, such that aggregate statistics for the industry can be collected and monitored via the Annual Statistics Report issued in September.

Associate Members who have field construction activities are also welcome to submit their statistics. HSE data collection is crucial for IPLOCA to measure HSE performance through statistics and analyse results to identify the major causes of recurrent issues. **Company statistics for 2023 should be submitted no later than 1 April 2024.**

The online form and guidelines are available at : www.iploca.com/news-media/hse-statistics. Returns should cover onshore pipeline construction sites or offshore operations and all infrastructure-related projects. We thank all those companies who have already sent us their forms for 2023.



Important notes

- Returns are confidential documents and are not shown or passed on to any third party other than the HSE & CSR Committee working in collaboration with the IPLOCA Secretariat in order to produce the Annual Statistics Report.
- Regular Members must have submitted their 2023 Health, Safety, and Environmental Statistics Return and paid their 2024 membership fees to be eligible to attend the 2024 Annual Convention in Sorrento.

Two new members join the HSE & CSR Committee



Giovanni Pintabona

The HSE & CSR Committee welcomes Giovanni Pintabona. Giovanni has over 13 years of oil & gas industry experience in occupational health & safety, project management and consulting services. He joined Petro IT in November 2022 managing projects

and consulting on HSE issues and identifying potential hazards. Previously, he worked for CFTS, a safety and compliance company, and in the manufacturing sector.



Stacey Winkelman

The HSE & CSR Committee welcomes Stacey Winkelman. Stacey leads the EH&S program for CRC Evans Canada. After completing her Occupational Health and Safety education at the University of Alberta, Stacey spent 13 years as the Director of Safety for a

construction firm and Lead Consultant to construction and oil & gas companies. Her role was to merge, develop and manage companies' EH&S programmes.

HSE Shared Experiences Platform

**Share your experiences so that others may benefit!
Learn from the experiences of others and don't make the same mistakes!**

Around 400 documents are sorted into various categories and grouped under "Lessons Learned" and "Safety Alerts." Bilingual texts and documents in all languages are accepted. Note that, in addition to health and safety issues, major environmental incidents and best practices are also included. Should you have any questions or comments please contact sebastien.goetschmann@iploca.com. The HSE & CSR Committee encourages all industry players to visit and contribute to www.iploca.com/committees/hse-csr/hseplatform. We would like to thank SICIM S.p.A. in particular for their latest contributions.

Innovation

Novel Construction celebrates 20th anniversary in Windsor

Celebrating its 20th birthday, the Novel Construction Spring Session will return to Windsor, where its journey began two decades ago. The event will take place at The Castle Hotel, Windsor, UK, on Wednesday and Thursday, 24-25 April 2024.

Attendance at this event is free of charge, however registration is required before the deadline of Monday, 25 March. The agenda will be posted on our website closer to the event. The meeting registration form is available at: www.iploca.com/event/iploca-novel-construction-spring-session-2024/



If you would like to suggest a presentation for Wednesday or Thursday morning, please submit the title and a brief outline to gregoire.demontmollin@iploca.com as soon as possible.

IPLOCA Media Partners

IPLOCA members can sign up for the Pipeline & Gas Journal free monthly digital newsletter and keep abreast with industry-specific resources and events. As a benefit of membership, IPLOCA members have the possibility to post industry articles through any of our Media Partners,

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as listed below, including **Benjamin Media** and **Palladian Publications**.

Should you have an interesting article you would like to share, please contact: eszter.czirjak@iploca.com.

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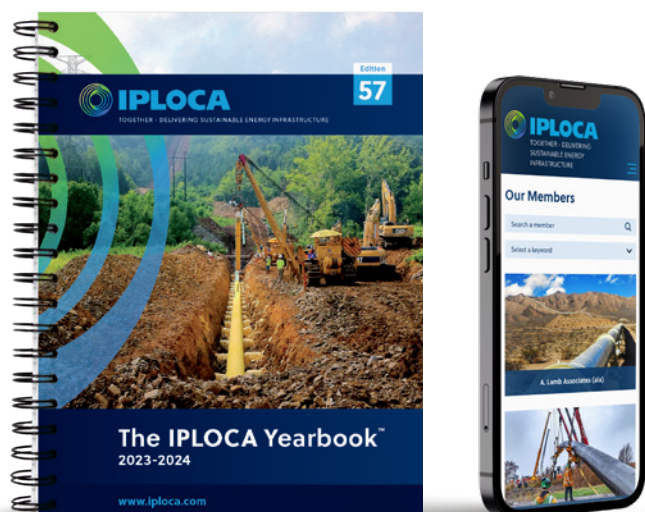
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IPLOCA Yearbook

2023-2024



The IPLOCA Yearbook is available in hardcopy and online at www.iploca.com/yearbook. Additional printed copies can be obtained on request from www.iploca-yearbook.com. Listing changes can be done on the IPLOCA website with your company's account that IPLOCA's Key Representative received. For more information please contact support@iploca.com

Important IPLOCA Dates

IPLOCA Scholarship Programme

11 March – Deadline for applications

Health, Safety and Environmental Statistics for 2023

1 April – Deadline for submissions

www.iploca.com/news-media/hse-statistics

2024 IPLOCA Health & Safety Award

19 April – Deadline for submissions

2024 IPLOCA Environmental Award

26 April – Deadline for submissions

2024 IPLOCA Excellence in Project Execution Award

30 April – Deadline for submissions

Member News for IPLOCA Newsletter in June

29 April – Deadline for submissions

newsletter@iploca.com

IPLOCA Annual Convention

15 May – Registration opens

Upcoming Events

2024

IPLOCA America North Regional Meeting

6 March – San Diego, U.S.A.

www.iploca.com/regional-meetings



PIG – The Pipeline Industries Guild 66th Annual Dinner

12 March – London, U.K.

www.pipguild.com

Pipeline Technology Conference

8-11 April – Berlin, Germany

www.pipeline-conference.com

Hannover Messe

22-26 April – Hannover, Germany

www.hannovermesse.de

IPLOCA Novel Construction Spring Session

24-25 April – Windsor, U.K.

www.iploca.com/novel-construction-sessions



Offshore Technology Conference

6-9 May – Houston, Texas, U.S.A.

2024.otcnet.org

PLCAC 70th Annual Convention

12-16 May – Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

pipeline.ca

IPLOCA Middle East & Africa Regional Meeting

5 June – Cairo, Egypt

www.iploca.com/events/regional-meetings



APGA Annual Convention and Exhibition

12-15 October – Adelaide, Australia

www.apga.org.au



IPLOCA Board of Directors 2023-2024



Back row left to right: David Lukas, Giovanni Muriana, Leonardo Gravina, Andrew Stuart, Bill Solomon, Gerben Wansink, Marcin Przywara, Gian Marco Dondi. **Second row:** Dean Cowling, Pablo Brottier, Andrew Ball, Tim Zboya, Roger Spee, Bruno Pomaré, Kent Wilfur, Sean McNally. **Front row:** Juan Arzuaga, Yasar Giregiz, Roberto Castelli, Kelly Osborn, Adam Wynne Hughes, Georges Hage. **Not in picture:** Doug Bailey, Hakan Göral, Saji Khoury, Risal Mahmud, Somaieh Salehpour.

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