



THE IPLOCA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



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QUALITY PIPELINE EQUIPMENT FOR SALE



2015 Cat D8T (4 available)



2014 Cat D8R (3 available)



2012 & 2011 Cat D6N XL (6 available)



2012 Cat D7R2



2007 Cat D7R



Cat 572R (2 available)



2 / 5 – 2010 Cat D7G2
w/ 2010 Vanguard VP72G2S



2005 & 2006 Laurini Muletrax 3000
(9 available)



2015 Volvo PL3005D (5 available)



2013 Superior SPB6-20 (3 available)



Carco 70APS/B00100E (14 available)



2015 Superior 14"-16" (3 available)

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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 Secretariat

International Pipe Line & Offshore

Contractors Association

Chemin des Papillons 4

1216 Cointrin / Geneva

Switzerland

Telephone +41 22 306 02 30

Fax +41 22 306 02 39

E-mail info@iploca.com

Website www.iploca.com

IPLOCA Newsletter

Editor

Caroline Caravellas

Lay-out

Peter Schoonenberg

Advertising

peter@pedemex.nl

Comments & copy

newsletter@iploca.com

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Herrenknecht

IPLOCA Yearbook

Advertising

peter@pedemex.nl

Listing changes

listing@iploca-yearbook.com



Letter from the President

It is amazing how the world has been turned upside down in the space of a few weeks, that have now turned into months...I doubt that any one of us could have predicted several months ago that we would, across the globe, be confined to our homes.

As you would expect, COVID-19 is affecting almost everything that is happening on the planet at the moment. Since the coronavirus has become a global pandemic and most of the world is in lockdown, we have all had to adjust swiftly to new ways of living and working. At IPLOCA we are adapting our activities around the current restrictions and planning for the future, as countries gradually open up again. The Board is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and evaluating what impact it is having on our industry.

The Executive Committee has been deeply touched by the many recommendations and stories we have heard from our members of the challenges and hardships that they have been through to keep construction activities going and to preserve the health of the working communities. These are challenging times, not only for many companies but also for their employees. The Board and the Secretariat have been working round the clock to help our members overcome these difficulties.

The Board, the Secretariat and I are very disappointed that this is the first time in the 54-year history of our association that a convention has had to be cancelled and that we will not be able to bring our industry representatives together this year. The Board is, however, looking forward to hosting everyone at our next convention.

I wish you good health and good welfare during this period and I hope that you, your families, employees and colleagues continue to stay safe in the coming months as we transition to the post COVID-19 environment.

Best regards,

Losif Panchak

IPLOCA President 2019-2020

Editorial

Despite the confinement, we are pleased to offer you the June 2020 IPLOCA Newsletter, complete with the latest news from the Secretariat in Geneva, contributions from our members, details on nominations for the Board of Directors, dates for postponed and upcoming events and much more.

Working remotely, the Secretariat, in addition to daily responsibilities, has been very busy working on the development of a new database, a technology catalogue and website, holding a number of meetings by video conference, organising live webinars, populating the COVID-19 Repository and re-negotiating contracts for the Annual Convention, the Board Meetings and the Spring Novel Construction Session.

Since we will not be gathering together at the convention, alternative arrangements are being made for the selection process for the new Board of Directors to take place remotely and also the Annual General Meeting, at which members will be called upon to ratify the newly elected Board, amongst other transactions to be duly advised.

Should you be interested in joining the Board, please refer to the list of vacant seats on page 26 and take note of the deadline for completing your application.

Under the current circumstances the deadlines for submissions to this year's awards have been extended by one month, see page 17. The winners will be published on our website and in the September edition of the newsletter, along with the recipients of the 2020 IPLOCA Scholarships. I invite you to note the dates for the Safety Leadership Training, conducted by specialists from DuPont, and Novel Construction sessions on 20 October and 21-22 October. In addition Regional Meetings are planned for March and May 2021, in Azerbaijan and France, respectively.

Since we will gradually be transitioning in the future to only sending you this newsletter electronically, we ask you to please contact Jackie Tempel at jacqueline.tempel@iploca.com if you would wish to continue receiving a paper copy; otherwise we will automatically only send you an electronic version.

With best wishes,



Caroline Caravellas
IPLOCA Newsletter Editor
newsletter@iploca.com

News from Geneva

Events & Communication Assistant Moves On

Our Events & Communication Assistant, Di Lanh Nguyen, has decided to move on to new pastures and we wish him all the best in his next role.

We would like to thank Di Lanh for his dedication and enthusiasm in getting IPLOCA's social media activity off the ground in such a short space of time.

As noted in the March 2020 Newsletter, in 2019 we went from 1700 to 3200 followers on LinkedIn, reached a total of approximately 54,000 views for 67 posts on Instagram and a total of 19,000 views for 65 posts on Twitter. With the Secretariat staff working remotely, it has been decided

to delay the recruitment process to fill this vacancy; in the meantime, all activities continue to be covered by the Secretariat as a whole.

in <https://www.linkedin.com/company/17971543>

IG https://www.instagram.com/iploca_today

Twitter https://twitter.com/IPLOCA_today

IPLOCA Launches Webinars and COVID-19 Repository

Many of our members will be aware that we launched a series of weekly webinars early May.

These include short technical presentations and also cover protocols followed under the influence of COVID-19 in different regions across the globe. Last month Worldwide Group presented their Rubbl Online Rental Marketplace, PipeSak spoke about buoyancy control

for very large diameter pipelines, and Mears and SICIM described the protocols that they have put in place since the development of the current pandemic. For details on upcoming webinars please visit www.iploca.com/webinar.



In addition to that, we are collating from our member companies, initiatives and procedures related to working during a sanitary crisis to populate a new repository on our website. We encourage all members to contribute in order that others may benefit from your developments or initiatives. Contact sebastien.goetschmann@iploca.com to have your document included and to learn from the experiences of others visit www.iploca.com/covid-19.

New Secretariat Database and Website

Over the last few months, dotBase has worked with the Secretariat to customise Sugar, an intuitive and easy-to-use CRM solution that can be used on mobile phones as well as computers. It features a user-interface that provides information instantaneously using dashboards.

Sugar also offers reporting capabilities and integration with relationship management, mass email management and invoice management to create a centralised repository of all key information on IPLOCA's members. Another asset is that Sugar facilitates integration with the new website so that any changes made by a member on the website will be automatically taken into account in Sugar, thus eliminating the burden of tedious data entry and time-consuming updates.

Pedemex (publisher of the IPLOCA Yearbook) is working with the IPLOCA Secretariat to combine the new CRM, the information on the website, the Yearbook content and a new members' platform into one solid synchronised network. In addition to being able to edit their public

profile with contact information, images, awards and a profile text, in phase 2, members will be able to attach HSE documents, new technologies or project details and other specialised content to this new platform. Members will receive the appropriate login information once this capability is up and running. The visual design and the technical layout are currently under development. If everything goes according to plan, phase 1 will be ready at the end of August.

Agreement with Digital Technology Catalogue

We are excited to announce that IPLOCA has signed an agreement with technologycatalogue.com to develop an IPLOCA Technology & Innovation Portal.

This will improve the way we help IPLOCA members promote their technologies to potential clients. It will also facilitate knowledge sharing between IPLOCA members. Essentially, this portal will be a 24/7 digital exhibition, and as such will be a valuable tool for IPLOCA members to increase the visibility of their technologies and innovations. More information will be available soon.



Innovation and Convention Coordinator Undertakes Civil Service Duties

In the current COVID-19 environment, Grégoire de Montmollin has been called up for an undetermined period to undertake civil service duties

in Geneva, assisting with emergency services at the cantonal hospital. His tasks consist of different missions including disinfecting ambulances, assuring security and helping the medical staff in any possible way. We wish him the best of luck!

Environmentally-friendly Newsletter

In the future we are planning to phase out the printed version of the IPLOCA Newsletter and will eventually only distribute it electronically. In order to adapt the number of printed copies and mailing requirements, we invite you to let us know if you still prefer to receive a hard copy. Please contact Jackie Tempel at jacqueline.tempel@iploca.com

Caroline Green

Shares Some Memories of Her 15 Years With IPLOCA



When I joined the IPLOCA Secretariat as Office Manager on 1st April 2005, the team consisted of Luc Henriod - Executive Secretary, who had just set up the office in Geneva, and two consultants to the Board based in the U.K.: John Phillips, who later received recognition as Honorary Member of IPLOCA, and Roberto Pirani. Michèle

Bruynseels, previously IPLOCA's Office Manager in Gent, Belgium, provided a valuable contribution during the handover, and of course Pieter and Peter Schoonenberg were continuing their long-standing collaboration managing the IPLOCA Yearbook in The Netherlands.

In those days the annual convention was the main focus of the association, together with the work on safety initiatives and the annual awards for safety and new technologies. The convention still is a major attraction for membership of IPLOCA, providing participants with a unique networking platform where they have the opportunity to discuss business with top leaders of the pipeline industry in a relaxed social environment accompanied by their spouses.

Many changes have been made over the years and the association now provides much more in the way of membership benefits, including HSE workshops; the HSE Shared Experiences platform; an e-learning safety instructors tool, the annual HSE Statistics Report; the sharing of new technology initiatives, the Novel Construction sessions responsible for the creation of 'The Road to Success' (a best practices manual also available as an app); Regional Meetings; and the IPLOCA Scholarship Programme.

Members can also showcase their company's achievements by submitting entries for the awards that are presented at the convention. See page 12 for more information on membership benefits.

Today, the Secretariat consists of six full-time staff in the Geneva office:

- Juan Arzuaga – Executive Secretary;
- Caroline Green – Convention Manager;

- Jacqueline Tempel – Membership Manager;
- Grégoire de Montmollin – Innovation and Convention Coordinator;
- Sébastien Goetschmann – Accounting Manager and HSE & CSR Coordinator;
- Temporary vacancy – Events and Communication Assistant.

Two consultants also assist periodically: Caroline Caravellas as Newsletter Editor and Daniel Gasquet as Technical Consultant.

The last 15 years have definitely been "event full!"

As Convention Manager I have met many wonderful people and have had the privilege to visit amazing places all around the world. I have also had some unique experiences, including:

- In 2013, during the cocktail reception for the President's Dinner at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., the caterers set off the sprinklers and everyone had to evacuate the building, waiting outside for about two hours until the fire brigade had checked the premises and given the OK to continue with the evening's event. Fortunately, most of the guests patiently waited and were rewarded with a fabulous meal and a very special evening!
- Smog descending on the city during the Singapore Convention in 2015 and having to quickly find a supplier of face masks for everyone. This of course is a poignant reminder of what is currently happening around the world with COVID-19.
- An earthquake during the preparations for the Mexico Convention in 2017. The irony of it was that the IPLOCA staff had participated in the hotel's annual emergency evacuation drill that very morning. Together with the hotel management, kitchen staff, housekeeping employees etc., we dutifully followed the evacuation signs and lined up outside the hotel on a beautiful sunny day. Little did we know that tragedy would hit the city only a few hours later...



Other memories include:

- Ritchie Bros. inviting the IPLOCA directors onto Dave Ritchie's magnificent yacht for the Board of Directors Dinner during the Athens Convention in 2008.
- The extraordinarily beautiful and unique venues where IPLOCA had the opportunity to hold events during the Venice Convention in 2010.
- The Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and the honour to be able to hold the Presidents' Dinner in the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square, Beijing in 2011.
- In 2012, the exceptional concert given by the Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra, very kindly organised by Tekfen, for the President's Dinner at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski in Istanbul.
- The 'Arabian Adventure' party that was held in the desert, generously offered to all convention participants by CCC and NPCC during the Abu Dhabi Convention in 2014.
- The iconic venues in Paris, including the Eiffel Tower, Palais Garnier, and the Lido, where IPLOCA celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2016, as well as the unique Musée des Arts Forains, where Caterpillar held an unforgettable party amid ancient fairground machinery.
- And more recently, in 2018, the privilege of holding events at Tower Bridge, with the spectacular view of the London skyline at night, and the historical Guildhall with all its pomp and circumstance.

The list could go on forever, and could include other anecdotes about finding a horse at the very last minute so that the president could make a grand entrance on horseback at the welcome cocktails; the Board of Directors'



adrenaline-filled sail around Sydney Harbour on a round-the-world racing yacht; torrential rain flooding the venue for the President's Dinner in Mexico; the Secretariat staff staying up until 03:00 in the morning during one convention because of a mix up in the tour tickets; IPLOCA's trunks getting blocked at customs because of a packet of aspirin that was slipped into the trunks by a well-meaning member of staff, and Juan having to use all his diplomatic skills to coax, persuade, and sweet-talk the authorities into releasing them!

Thank you to all IPLOCA's sponsors and members. The association would not be what it is today without your valuable and active participation. A special thank you to all my colleagues, and the friends that I have made over the last 15 years at IPLOCA.

Board Meeting Update

19 March, via video conference

The following summarises the main discussions and outcomes of the March 2020 Board Meeting which was held via video conference call, due to the worldwide restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Opening Remarks

The President Iosif Panchak welcomed the board directors present and thanked them for making themselves available despite the difficult times.

Review of Action Items from December Meeting

The Board then reviewed the action items noted during the last board meeting in Lima. In addition to near-term events being cancelled or postponed, a number of action points from the December board meeting have

had to be postponed due to the slowdown in business related to the coronavirus pandemic, such as looking into various investment opportunities for IPLOCA's funds. The Secretariat is in the process of reminding members to post the IPLOCA logo on their website as soon as their membership fees for 2020 have been paid.

HSE Event with PLCA

Kelly Osborn (future PLCA President) stated that PLCA is happy to host an HSE event with IPLOCA's participation, during the last quarter of this year, although a date has not as yet been set. Kelly is currently working with Juan Arzuaga to find a mutually convenient date in October. A whole day is being planned with a good mix of speakers and a casual dinner will be organised in the evening.

Strategic Review

John Tikkanen presented the IPLOCA Mission & Vision so as to remind the Board of the five Strategic

Imperatives. Underneath each of the imperatives are the actions needed in order to achieve the objectives as outlined in Bangkok. These action items are linked to the implementation grid. The list will be handed over each year to the incoming President and board members so that there is continuity with regards to the action items. Two of the action items due to be addressed are updating the IPLOCA By-laws and a Corresponding Members survey.

Corresponding Members survey

It is important that the association is attractive to Corresponding Members and is in line with their needs. A survey will be undertaken with the aim of presenting the results to the Board at the next meeting in May. As it is important to have consistent feedback, John Tikkanen suggested that one person undertake all the interviews. It was voted that IPLOCA engage Ed Bond, the external



IPLOCA
INTERNATIONAL PIPE LINE & OFFSHORE
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

MISSION

IPLOCA envisions a future in which it is viewed by members as valuable to their business and by stakeholders as an authoritative commentator on issues related to the pipeline industry.

STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

To provide value

- ❖ A forum for retaining and sharing knowledge globally
- ❖ Facilitating business opportunities
- ❖ Promoting the highest standards in innovation, quality, safety, business ethics and sustainability throughout pipeline constructors industry

Over the years IPLOCA has identified 5 strategic imperatives to be addressed by our organisation in order to meet our vision and fulfill our mission



Action plan

- Add HSE focus to Prague Convention
- Review convention practices to improve experience



Action plan

- Establish a harmonised database
- Take Directory online
- Special agents for lapsed members
- Examine using Regional Coordinators
- Implement Social Media Plan
- Set up a long term scholarship funding



Action plan

- Interview Corresponding Members
- Guiding page in Prague Brochure
- Ppt for first-time attendees event
- Digitally connect members
- Consider part-time HSE Specialist



Action plan

- Provide agenda for Reg. Meeting
- Align Committees structure to vision, mission
- Separate committee and BoD work
- Change by-laws to reflect changes



Action plan

- Host HSE day with PLCA
- Identify partners to co-host regional meetings

adviser who had helped develop the strategic plan, to undertake the Corresponding Members survey on behalf of the association.

Implementation Grid

Juan Arzuaga posts updates on each of the activities noted on the implementation grid on a monthly basis. The grid can be consulted on the IPLOCA website reserved for board directors only. Each of the activities noted on this grid were presented for review during the board meeting held in Bangkok and are the result of the strategic review. Juan Arzuaga commented that currently all action items are moving forward according to the dates proposed in the original plan.

2020 Convention in Prague

As a result of global restrictions and economic repercussions, the Board voted to postpone the Annual Convention to be held in Prague to 2021 and to minimise the financial impact on the association as much as possible by negotiating with the hotel to transfer the contract.

Support Materials for the Annual Convention

Following on from a recommendation made at the last board meeting, directors provided suggestions on "How to Make the Most Out of the Convention" so that it can be published in the convention brochure. In addition a PowerPoint presentation has been compiled for the First-time Attendees Reception and a guidance document

for the election meetings (now called Regular and Associate Member Meetings) has been prepared for the directors to review.

Regional Meetings

The Regional Meeting for Europe Eastern has been postponed to 17 March 2021 and will be held in the same venue as originally planned in Baku, Azerbaijan, co-sponsored by SOCAR and Tekfen. A Europe Mediterranean meeting is being organised in May 2021 in Bordeaux, France, supported by Spiecapag and SPAC. The meetings planned for this year in Europe Central (The Netherlands) and East & Far East (Shanghai) are both on hold pending further information on when the social distancing restrictions will be lifted.

Membership

The following membership applications were approved:

- **Australian Gas Infrastructure Group (AGIG)**, Australia (Corresponding Member)
- **L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering**, India (Regular Member)

It was noted that the following resignations had been received:

- **Van Oord Offshore BV** (Regular Member)
- **Voestalpine Böhler Welding Group GmbH** (Associate Member)
- **Imbema Group** (Associate Member)
- **Elmed GmbH** (Associate Member)

Upcoming Events

2020

Note: As the situation evolves concerning the sanitary crisis in each country, we recommend you check individual websites to ensure an event is taking place.

Rio Pipeline Conference & Exhibition

21-24 September – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
www.riooilgas.com.br

8th Annual Global EPC Project Management Summit

23-25 September – London, U.K.
www.opexgrp.com/upcoming-events.aspx

EPOCH – Exploration and Production Offshore Congress Hub of Sustainability

5-6 October – London, U.K.
www.oilepoch.com

APGA – Australian Pipelines & Gas Association – Convention & Exhibition

17-20 October – Brisbane, Australia
www.apga.org.au

IPLOCA Safety Leadership Training

20 October – Geneva, Switzerland
www.iploca.com



IPLOCA Novel Construction Session

21-22 October – Geneva, Switzerland
www.iploca.com/novelsession



Offshore Energy

26-28 October – Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.offshore-energy.biz

Transportation Oil & Gas Congress 2020

16-17 November – Milan, Italy
togc.events

Regional Meetings

Although IPLOCA regularly hosts Regional Meetings, 2020 will be an exception, since many of the events taking place before the third quarter of the year have had to be cancelled.

The meetings planned for later this year in Europe Central (The Netherlands) and East & Far East (Shanghai) are both on hold pending further information on when the social distancing restrictions will be lifted.

We are, however, happy to announce the dates for two meetings to be held in 2021. For more details on regional meetings as they are confirmed, visit www.iploca.com.

Europe Eastern

The Regional Meeting due to take place in **Baku, Azerbaijan** has now been rescheduled for **17 March 2021** at the Four Seasons Hotel, as originally planned, and co-sponsored by SOCAR and Tekfen.

Europe Mediterranean

A Europe Mediterranean meeting is being organised in **May 2021** in **Bordeaux, France**, with the support of Spiecapag and SPAC.

Membership Centre

New Regular Member



L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering

L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering is an

engineering, procurement, fabrication, construction and project management company providing integrated 'design to build' solutions to large and complex offshore and onshore hydrocarbon projects globally. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro, an Indian multinational engaged in technology, engineering, construction, manufacturing, and financial services with over USD 21 billion in revenue. With its global operations and a sharp focus on customer service, L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering is uniquely positioned to deliver successful projects through enhanced responsiveness in all its engagements. The company's more than three decades of rich experience is backed by its extensive capabilities across the hydrocarbon value chain and a range of offerings that ensure demonstrable value for customers. Its in-house capabilities are further complemented by its strategic partnerships with global industry leaders. Employing digitalisation and cutting-edge innovation, L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering delivers technologically superior solutions at every phase of project execution.

L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering

L&T House, Ballard Estate
P.O. Box 278
Mumbai 400 001
India
T +91 22 6177 4200
www.lnthydrocarbon.com

New Corresponding Member



Australian Gas Infrastructure Group

Australian Gas Infrastructure

Group (AGIG) owns and operates

infrastructures that deliver gas to more than two million Australian homes and businesses. They also deliver gas that supports the Australian economy – for power generators, mines and manufactures. With a large portfolio of companies across Australia, the combined distribution, transmission and storage assets make AGIG one of the largest gas infrastructure businesses in Australia. AGIG has gas distribution networks dating back almost 150 years, and today includes the operations of the Dampier Bunbury Pipeline (DBP), Australian Gas Networks (AGN) and Multinet Gas Networks (MGN). Together, they deliver for customers across the gas supply chain – with over 34,000km of distribution networks, more than 5,500km of transmission pipelines and 57 petajoules of storage capacity. AGIG has approximately 315 employees across Australia and more than 1,600 contractors operating nationwide. AGIG is committed to ensuring remote power customers are delivered the lowest cost of energy. This is achieved through combining renewables, batteries and potentially hydrogen with traditional fuel sources and providing better carbon outcomes.

Australian Gas Infrastructure Group (AGIG)

Level 6
400 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Australia
T +2 8 8227 1500
www.agig.com.au

IPLOCA Membership



What Are the Benefits?

IPLOCA Membership Manager, Jacqueline Tempel outlines the many and varied benefits of being an

IPLOCA member, as a reminder for our current members and as an enticement for companies interested in joining the association.

IPLOCA brings together prominent and leading global players in the pipeline construction industry in what would otherwise be a collection of isolated companies. With this unity, members are able to share knowledge globally, facilitate business opportunities, promote the highest standards in HSE, innovation, quality, business ethics and sustainability throughout the pipeline construction industry.

There are five categories of membership:

Regular Members – experienced onshore and offshore

companies directly involved in construction or rehabilitation of pipelines covering a wide range of expertise

Associate Members – companies which provide vital services and equipment needed for the development and/or the maintenance of pipelines

Corresponding Members – oil & gas owners and operators of pipeline systems with an interest in the activities of IPLOCA

Academic Members – universities and research institutions related to the pipeline industry

Honorary Members – individuals who have provided remarkable services to the industry and/or the association

Founded in 1966 in Paris by a group of international pipeline construction companies, composed of 26 participants, in order to discuss the common interests and challenges faced in the industry, today IPLOCA's membership comprises 240 members and continues to unite players in the industry. Should you wish to discuss the possibility of joining IPLOCA please contact Jackie Tempel at jacqueline.tempel@iploca.com.

IPLOCA offers many valuable benefits

Resources

- ✓ HSE Guidance documents
- ✓ IPLOCA Yearbook
- ✓ "The Road to Success" app
- ✓ Pipeline Construction Safety Instructors Tool
- ✓ Webinars
- ✓ Annual Health, Safety and Environmental Statistics Report
- ✓ HSE Shared Experiences Platform
- ✓ Presentations made at the Conventions, Regional Meetings, Novel Sessions.
- ✓ All entries received for the five IPLOCA Awards: a great source of new ideas
- ✓ Access to SSI RM's data on security and risk in over 70 global locations
- ✓ Research projects co-funded with the Pipeline Research Council International (PRCI)

Awards

- ✓ IPLOCA Health & Safety Award sponsored by Chevron (annual)
- ✓ IPLOCA Corporate Social Responsibility Award sponsored by Total (biennial)
- ✓ IPLOCA Environmental Award sponsored by Shell (biennial)
- ✓ IPLOCA New Technologies Awards sponsored by BP (biennial)
- ✓ IPLOCA Excellence in Project Award (biennial)
- ✓ IPLOCA Scholarship Awards (annual)

Member Meetings

- ✓ HSE Workshops
- ✓ Novel Construction Sessions (on innovation and new technologies)
- ✓ Annual Convention
- ✓ Regional Meetings
- ✓ Board Meetings as a nominated Regional Director
- ✓ Sister Association meetings

Newsletters (published quarterly)

The IPLOCA Newsletter offers members the opportunity to publish news articles and promote new technological developments. Members also have access to an industry events calendar, updates on IPLOCA's initiatives and industry related news.

Other benefits

- ✓ Extensive networking opportunities during the association's events
- ✓ Access to information on the latest industry developments and projects
- ✓ Discounts to attend various industry events posted on the IPLOCA website
- ✓ Advertising opportunities in the IPLOCA Yearbook and Newsletter
- ✓ Sponsorship opportunities at the Convention, at Regional Meetings and for the scholarships
- ✓ Permission to use the IPLOCA logo on printed materials and on the member's website

Member News

Bin Quraya Holding Appointed to Support the Abqaiq Plant Restoration

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is fully recovered from the worst-ever incident on the world's energy infrastructure. The output had been restored in just 10 days after the episode last September. Saudi Aramco lost temporary production of 4.5 million bpd coming from the Abqaiq processing plant and almost 1 million bpd from Khurais. Nevertheless, production of oil and associated gases was re-established in record time. At the Abqaiq plant, the oil produced from Ghawar is handled by 18 stabilisation towers with a processing capacity of 7.1 million bpd. The production from Shaybah is stabilised and pumped to the plant and blended with other grades to lower the hydrocarbon ratio. Overall 11 spheroids and towers used for removal of H₂S and reduction were damaged.



Bin Quraya Holding was engaged to restore the surroundings of the damaged installations and bring the operations back to capacity by continuous double shifts to cover the emergency. At the Khurais Central Processing Facility the crude from this field is pumped through four processing trains into the East-West pipeline. Each train has a capacity of 300,000 bpd and two of them were severely damaged. Currently the plant has an output of 900,000 bpd that will reach 1.2 million bpd once the Abu Jifan and Mazalij fields are on stream. Bin Quraya has been working to reach full capacity during the first quarter of 2020.

C.A.T. Group Emergency Response Plan & Other Projects

Difficult periods impose exceptional ways of handling the crisis. Under the leadership of its new Group C.E.O., Dr. Joseph Gebara who joined in November 2019, C.A.T.



Group (C.A.T.) established an Emergency Response Plan to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas the challenge is huge, unprecedented and with implications that are yet to be fathomed, going back to the company's credo helped the leadership put things into perspective. Health and safety of the employees and their families comes first, to protect them and to protect the clients' employees and their contractors. Being in an industry that serves crucial sectors such as energy, C.A.T. also had to ensure it continued helping its clients in building and preserving their assets with minimum disruption and within the new regulations imposed by each of them and their governments.

In the first quarter of 2020, C.A.T. managed to tap into the strategic Unconventional Gas Programme of Total and ADNOC in the U.A.E. C.A.T. is building an 8" pipeline in a very short time to help its clients avoid flaring from the well sites being tested in Diyyab field. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, C.A.T. continues to support Saudi Aramco with the Maintain Potential Programme and has also won the South Ghawar Transmission Pipelines project to install 260 km of 30" and 16" gas and condensate lines. C.A.T. would like to wish all its clients, employees and colleagues, especially members of the IPLOCA family, a safe and healthy transition to the post COVID-19 world.

Driver Group's Services in Relation to Contractual Issues

Driver Trett, part of the Driver Group, is currently advising a contractor in what they would call "the IPLOCA sector" of the construction industry relative to time extensions and money claims. The issues they are facing are more or less the same as contractors are facing around the world. Since everyone's lives are currently dominated by the outbreak of coronavirus and its effects, this particular client was thinking only

of that when seeking to protect themselves against any deduction of delay damages/penalties and going on to produce fully detailed claims for time and money. Illogical as it may seem, Driver Trett's advice is to forget coronavirus, which is no doubt a root cause of the issues being faced and instead concentrate upon the remedies within the contract that will provide time extensions and the reimbursement of costs.

For instance, a government closes the area that includes the client's site can equate to either government actions or a lack of access (the government is their employer) or even other matters within the risk area of the employer. The basic rules for claim submissions apply: know your contract, submit notices and keep records. In addition, Driver Trett's advice is to think the long game; what are you going to do when the maximum period of suspension is reached? No doubt your employers still want a completed project, so now is the time to get around the table and agree a way forward but prepare well and know your options for entitlements. Should an IPLOCA member company wish to discuss any issues that they are facing, Driver Trett's Peter Banathy, MD for the Middle East or Paul Battrick, MD International would be happy to assist.



Milestone for Herrenknecht's Small Diameter Direct Pipe®

Along pipeline routes, crossing modern infrastructures and natural obstacles are key sections requiring specialised construction technology

in terms of safety and environmental impact. While horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is the most widely used technology for pipeline installations, Direct Pipe® has taken over in permeable, heterogeneous ground conditions, especially for river crossings and shore approaches. A new distance world record was set in 2018 in New Zealand, where a 48" pipeline had been installed on a record length of 1,930m from onshore to offshore with special attention to environmental protection.

For small diameter pipeline installations, a further milestone is currently developed for Direct Pipe®. In slurry microtunnelling, especially in the smaller Direct Pipe® diameters, traditional centrifugal slurry pumps are one of the most crucial components for longer distances. To enable drive distances of up to 2,000m in diameters from 20" to 36" the already proven jet pump technology from HDD has been transferred to slurry microtunnelling. Additionally, a new range of

small diameter Direct Pipe® cutterheads extends the application range to rock conditions with compressive strengths of up to 200 MPa.

M. Al-Barghash Co (MBTC) Awarded 147 km Pipeline Project by Saudi Aramco



MBTC has signed the contract with Saudi Aramco for the construction of 147 km including 95 and 52 km new internally coated oil trunk lines going from RGHF field to NYYM GOSP-1 and from HRML GOSP-1 to HWYH GOSP-3 of different sizes of pipes from 12" to 20". In undertaking the 95 km project MBTC met the agreed milestone date with a challenging schedule lasting five months. Saudi Aramco greatly appreciated the way the pipeline projects were executed on a fast track basis and completed on time ensuring all quality and safety requirements were fulfilled. MBTC's automatic welding process contributed significantly to the delivery of the works ahead of schedule and this technology allows MBTC to have maximum reliability. MBTC has been operating in Saudi Arabia for over 44 years and is committed to sustaining an active presence in the kingdom, where the company has recently been successful in winning a number of contract awards.

Techfem Consortium Executing Contract for Melita TransGas Pipeline

A Techfem-led consortium is executing a contract awarded by the Ministry for Energy and Water Management of Malta for the execution of FEED studies and the preparation of bid documents for the EPC contract of the Melita TransGas Pipeline Project, a gas interconnector between the islands of Malta and Sicily. The gas transmission system features a 22" diameter, 159km pipeline, of which 151 km is offshore, and includes shore approaches and terminal stations. The project is co-financed by the European Union under



the Connecting Europe Facility programme. Since the early stages of the project, the marine survey detected a carbonatic rock in the proximity of the Maltese coastline, where borehole samplings revealed the presence of fractured limestone and possible cavities in the substratum of the outcrop. Techfem recently carried out another offshore geophysical investigation (ERT) to collect detailed information on the subsurface lithology and verified the presence of karst phenomena along the drill path intended for the shore approach in Malta. Based on the near-shore survey additional information, a revised design is suggesting the microtunnelling method as the most promising trenchless option, with 1200 m of drilling length and a local relief of 50 m from the entry pit.

Tekfen Consortium and Kharampur Export Gas Pipeline Project

Tekfen Construction and Rusfen LLC (sister company and owned 100% by Tekfen Construction) established a consortium and were awarded a contract by Kharampurneftegaz LLC in December 2019, for the construction of a 90 km pipeline, namely the Export Gas Pipeline (EGP) in the Yamal-Nenets region of the



Russian Federation. This project is within the framework of the “Kharampur gas deposit construction project implementation and development of the Cenomanian deposit and the Turonian deposit section”. The construction of this pipeline is complicated because of existing soil conditions and the arctic climate conditions of the region. During the winter, the temperature sometimes drops below -50°C and in the summer it reaches 30°C. The pipeline route passes through swamp areas and permafrost ground formations, which forces the pipeline construction works to be performed only in the winter season with the construction of special winter roads or wooden roads, since the bearing capacity of the soil does not allow work without special provisions.



Changes to Vacuworx RC Series Maximise Safety and Minimise Downtime

As part of its commitment to continuous innovation, Vacuworx has engineered significant updates to its flagship line of RC Series vacuum lifting systems. All changes are designed to maximise safety while minimising downtime on the job. Although the installation for RC Series lifters is already quite simple, several key enhancements have been made to the adapter (the part that connects the lifter to the host machine such as an excavator).

For example, the adapter now features removable top caps, which allows the installer to position and secure the adapter pin easily. The standard pin size is 110 mm, but the adapter will also accommodate pin sizes down to 50 mm using bushings. Vacuworx also offers an adapter for 120 mm pins and larger. A flow control block has been incorporated into the adapter to allow for safer and more convenient adjustment of the hydraulics. In addition, the lifters are “smarter” than ever before by incorporating a CAN (Controller Area Network) bus system to provide real-time diagnostics and enhanced safety features. Commonly used in passenger vehicles and other equipment, a CAN bus allows internal devices to communicate with each other without a host computer. Using a central logic controller, the system is designed to monitor for faults and quickly diagnose specific problems. The new dashboard gauge on one side of the lifter shows error codes, oil and fuel levels, pressure level, number of lifts and engine hours. The logic controller increases safety by ensuring that the electronic components are operating correctly.

Health, Safety, the Environment & CSR

HSE Statistics

At the date of the HSE & CSR Committee meeting early April, 78% of Regular Members had submitted their statistics that were due on 8 March.

Reminders have been sent to those companies whose statistics have not been received. It is a requirement of IPLOCA Regular Membership to submit HSE statistics and a specific deadline is set such that aggregate statistics for the industry are collected and monitored on an annual basis. The 2019 IPLOCA Health, Safety & Environmental Statistics Report will be published in September. Members of the HSE & CSR Committee would be pleased to receive your comments on the content and the format of this report. You may send an e-mail to sebastien.goetschmann@iploca.com.

IPLOCA HSE Awards

Two HSE Awards will be presented this year: the 2020 IPLOCA Health & Safety Award sponsored by Chevron and the 2020 IPLOCA Environmental Award sponsored by Shell. Please note that the deadlines for submissions have been extended by one month to 8 June and 15 June, respectively.

We invite you to take this opportunity to choose which of your company's significant initiatives or achievements meets the eligibility requirements to be considered for one of these awards. (see next page for further details).

Information on the initiatives submitted and the winners will be published on our website and in future editions of this newsletter.



HSE Shared Experiences Platform

The HSE Shared Experiences Platform celebrates its 4th anniversary this month. It was launched as a databank to build and share an inventory of best practices, lessons learned and safety alerts from the industry to improve safety and the environmental imprint on pipeline construction sites.

The platform's main purpose is to help members avoid accidents. We would like to thank all those who actively participate in making this initiative a success. The HSE Committee has noticed, however, that given the size of our membership base this very valuable data source is not visited regularly enough and there are too few contributors. The committee welcomes and encourages all industry players to share their health, safety and

Save the date!

2020 Safety Leadership Training

Tuesday, 20 October at the Crowne Plaza Geneva, Switzerland

This year, the HSE workshop will be replaced by a Safety Leadership Training Session organised by DuPont. In order to encourage attendance of participants coming from pipeline operations, in addition to having the HSE specialists from many more members, this HSE Training Session will take place the day before the Novel Construction meetings.

The latter sessions are scheduled for Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October, also taking place in Geneva. There is no charge for attendance at these events, considered a benefit of membership, but registration is required.

Invitations will be sent out by the end of July. Look out for more information on www.iploca.com/hsetraining and via email.

environmental experiences and invites you to learn from others, by visiting www.iploca.com/hseplatform.

Over 300 documents have been uploaded and our target is to reach 500 ! Special thanks to Price Gregory for their recent safety alert related to steering trailers.

IPLOCA Awards

Deadlines Extended

Would your company like the opportunity to be selected and recognised as a leader in search for excellence within the pipeline industry? You now have extra time to choose which of your company's significant initiatives or achievements meets the eligibility requirements to be considered for one of the following IPLOCA Awards.

Please note that the deadlines for submissions have been extended by one month. For more information, such as guidelines, entry forms, eligibility and details on previous

winning entries, you may refer to www.iploca.com/awards. Remember 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.

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. Please contact Sébastien Goetschmann, sebastien.goetschmann@iploca.com if you have any questions.



2020 IPLOCA Health & Safety Award sponsored by Chevron New deadline: 8 June

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

- Spill response preparedness
- Water usage and preservation
- Soil and ground restoration
- Archaeology
- Flora and fauna

2020 IPLOCA Environmental Award sponsored by Shell New deadline: 15 June

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

2020 IPLOCA Excellence in Project Execution Award New deadline: 22 June

Introduced on the occasion of IPLOCA's 50th anniversary in 2016 and awarded on alternate years, 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

Innovation Committee

The Innovation Committee provides a forum, leadership and guidance to foster innovations and inform the IPLOCA membership about the current technologies and trends affecting the pipeline industry. It also collaborates with PRCI (Pipeline Research Council International) in the development of research studies that populate “The Road to Success” (RTS).

Novel Construction Fall Session

The Novel Construction Spring session due to be held in Athens in April was postponed and will now be held in Spring 2021.

The upcoming Fall Novel Construction Meeting will take place at the Crowne Plaza Geneva from 21 to 22 October. All the details regarding this event will be announced at a

later stage and will be available on our website: www.iploca.com/novelsession. Don't forget to also include the Safety Leadership Training Session in your diary, being held at the same venue on 20 October.

The Novel Construction programme is expected to be very similar to the one confirmed for April and will include a morning open forum for member and non-member companies to present their newest developments within our industry. In the following pages a number of our speakers agreed to give you a taste of the content of their presentations, to entice you to come to listen to them live and exchange with other IPLOCA members.

In the afternoon, working groups will meet and discuss their contributions to the RTS app. New contributors to these groups are always welcome, so should you be interested in helping to keep the RTS up to date, please contact the appropriate group leader:

Working Groups	Leader (Company)	Email
Health & Safety	Alain Gauthiez (Spiecapag)	alain.gauthiez@spiecapag.com
Earthworks & Crossings	Diana Rennkamp (Herrenknecht)	rennkamp.diana@herrenknecht.de
Steep Slopes Installation	Gustavo Guaytima (PipeSak)	gguaytima@gmail.com
New Trends & Innovation	Mustafa Abusalah (C.C.C.)	mabusalah@ccc.net
Coatings	Somaieh Salehpour (Seal for Life)	somaieh.salehpour@sealforlife.com
Environment	Katrina Cooper (RSK)	kcooper@rsk.co.uk
Logistics	Jean-Baptiste Rousseau (Spiecapag)	jean-baptiste.rousseau@spiecapag.com
Pre-commissioning	Vincenzo Calabria (SICIM)	v.calabria@sicim.eu
Bending	Geert Dieperink (Maats)	dieperink@maats.com

Current Construction Risks from a Contractor's Perspective

Zahi Ghantous, Consolidated Contractors Group S.A.L (Offshore) (CCC)

The engineering and construction industry faces many risks and challenges that impact the business ability to successfully deliver projects on time and within budget. Failure to recognise and adequately manage risks whether corporate or project-related is detrimental to the overall effective management of any project.

Contracting risks range from global market conditions including commodity prices, investment opportunities, and fierce competition to commercial challenges such as stringent contractual terms and conditions, insufficient tendering periods, ambiguous contract requirements, cash flow matters and strenuous dispute resolution mechanisms. They comprise client risks including

financial standing, experience, and SIMOPS management capabilities in addition to project-specific technical risks be they tight milestones, availability of pre-construction data, engagement of the right resources and split of responsibilities between stakeholders. EP partner and other synergy challenges, country risks such as currency fluctuations, political instability, ICV values, local laws, and reliability of local suppliers, and contractor own operations round up the main risks.

Whereas environmental risks cannot be overlooked either, the current business landscape has shed light on the unsettled geopolitical landscape, advance of national policies, and global economy events as key risks as well.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a sordid example on this type of risk which has repercussions on all project aspects involving travel and transportation restrictions, day-to-day operational requirements, country curfews, safety associated costs, and the like.

The pipeline sector – due to its nature of extended geographical spread – presents its own additional risks including the control of permitting and land entry agreements, handling multiple interfaces, execution of all types of crossings, varying weather conditions, additional safety hazards due to long open trenches for example, and security issues, to mention a few.

CCC's long track record of operation within different sectors of the industry and over diverse locations in the world has shaped its outlook on dealing with project risks, and consequently moulded its proactive approach to risk management whereby internal and external risks are identified from the early phases of execution; additionally, mitigation measures are continually revisited to ensure minimal disruption from threats and maximised utilisation of opportunities. Risk management is perceived as both a top priority and prerogative for corporate and project management, and advanced systems and tools are constantly evolving to empower the decision-making process and subsequently the success of project execution.

Earthquakes, Geohazards, and Real-time Remote Monitoring of Onshore and Offshore Gas Pipelines

Dr. Prodromos Psarropoulos, National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Many pipelines have been constructed worldwide, while many others are expected to be constructed in the near future. In parallel, our society demands increasing availability and reliability of energy supply, together with improved environmental standards.

Although most of the pipelines are onshore high-pressure gas pipelines, there is an evident increasing tendency for the construction of offshore gas pipelines. In some areas, such as S.E. Europe and the Mediterranean Sea, the earthquakes and the high seismicity may threaten the integrity of a pipeline since various potential earthquake-related geohazards and the consequent permanent displacements of the ground or the seabed may substantially distress the pipeline. Apart from the strong ground motion, the main potential earthquake-

related geohazards are: active-seismic-fault ruptures at the ground surface, soil-liquefaction phenomena, and/or earthquake-triggered landslides.

The simplistic provisions of seismic norms are rather incapable of sufficiently covering all issues of geohazard assessment and seismic design of pipeline projects (especially offshore). Therefore, the optimum (i.e. safe and in parallel cost-effective) design of a pipeline requires, apart from geoscientists familiar with qualitative geohazard assessment, engineers capable to perform the following:

- Quantitative geohazard assessment (based on reliable data);
- Realistic soil-structure interaction analyses; and
- Design of various geotechnical and/or structural mitigation measures (if required).

Nevertheless, in many cases, despite the proper and complete design and construction, there are various reasons for the use of real-time remote monitoring schemes and early-response systems in order to reduce the seismic pipeline risk:

- Human errors and negligence during the design, construction and/or operation phase cannot be excluded. Additionally, norms are not perfect and they are getting improved every 10 to 20 years.
- All input data has a certain degree of uncertainty, and climate change makes this uncertainty even higher (e.g. heavy rainfalls increase the risk of landsliding under static and seismic conditions).
- Seismic design relies on seismological studies based on probabilities and statistical interpretation of data.



Seabed morphology of the Mediterranean Sea, where great active-seismic-fault ruptures and submarine landslides frequently take place. (Permission from Atelier Berann, copyright Stern-Magazine)

- Some pipelines are located in remote isolated areas, with limited accessibility (e.g. mountains) or even zero accessibility (e.g. deep sea).
- As modern seismic design allows certain damage levels (in the case of onshore pipelines), a relatively small aftershock may cause the collapse of a

damaged pipeline if the structural damages of the main shock have not been identified and repaired quickly.

- An early-response system (e.g. smart block valves that connect components) may decrease the loss of new or old facilities, and therefore the total risk.

Omnisens' Comprehensive Approach to Pipeline Integrity Monitoring

Jose Maria Alvarez, Omnisens S.A., Switzerland

The essence of asset monitoring is to identify threats at an early stage, so actions can be taken before those threats develop into major failures.

Based on that principle and backed by twenty years of experience in the industry, Omnisens has developed Lynx, an external integrity monitoring system that tackles the main threats affecting pipelines: incipient leaks, intrusions in the Right of Way (RoW) and various types of geohazards (landslides, subsidence, soil erosion or water infiltration).

Lynx is based on state-of-the-art distributed fiber optic technologies (DAS/DTS/DSS). By simply plugging an interrogator (Figure 1) to the Fiber Optic Cable (FOC), commonly deployed alongside pipelines for telecommunications purposes, we can turn the cable into a distributed acoustic/temperature/strain sensor with thousands of measurement points.



Figure 1 – Omnisens' DITEST and DAS Interrogators

Based on those accurate measurements and thanks to sophisticated algorithms, Lynx can identify and classify early pipeline threats, locate them within meters and raise warnings or alarms in real-time via screen, email or SCADA, so operators can take immediate action (Figure 2). Deploying various instruments in a network configuration, and thanks to the system's robustness, it is possible to continuously monitor thousands of kilometers of pipeline over multiple years without the need of recalibration.

For Leak Detection (LDS), Lynx relies on Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS) as the main source of information. The system measures small local temperature differences between the FOC and the surrounding soil, created by a leak (cold spot if gas; hot spot if oil). Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS) can also be applied to

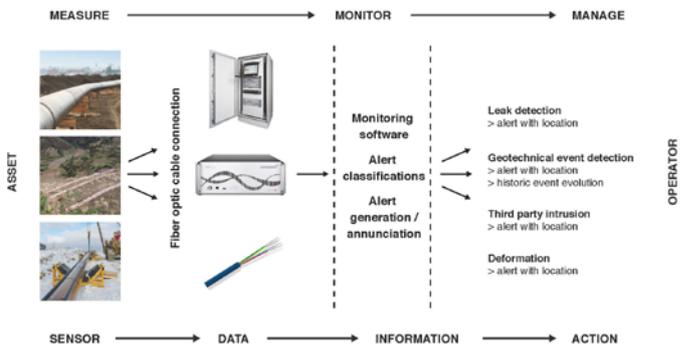


Figure 2 – Lynx Pipeline Monitoring Concept

complement DTS measurements, by analysing the acoustic signature generated by the leak. In the case of Third-Party Intrusion (TPI), the system uses cutting-edge DAS technology to analyse various parameters of the acoustic signals generated by intruders, permitting identification of manual digging and heavy machinery activity at 5m and 10m around the pipeline respectively.

For Geohazard Monitoring (GM) applications, a DITEST interrogator is connected to a geotechnical FOC. The extreme sensitivity of the instrument enables Lynx to detect micro-deformations on the fiber produced by small ground movements, so various geohazard patterns can be identified and action taken before the pipeline is affected.



Figure 3 - the Lynx Graphic User Interface (GUI) displaying a warning message over a pipeline asset represented on the Lynx GIS map.

Tesmec EVO Generation Machines

Marcello Manenti and Andrea Trivella, Trencher Division, Tesmec S.p.A., Italy

The Tesmec Group is a leader in designing, manufacturing and selling systems, technologies and integrated solutions for the construction, maintenance and efficiency of infrastructures related to the transport and distribution of energy and data.

Recent developments in trenchers machinery have led to a revolutionary concept and the launch of the new EVO series on Tesmec models 975, 1150, 1475 and 1675. Due to improved flywheels gearboxes, new hydraulic components and the latest release of the TrenchTronic 5.0 for full digital control of the automatic digging function, EVO series machines combine lower chain-speed and higher chain-pull in order to have higher break-out force of the teeth.

In case of abrasive rock, teeth consumption is the main operating cost; the only way to increase the teeth life and get a real cost saving is to reduce the digging chain-speed. EVO machines can trench hard and abrasive



rock with unmatched productivity and cost efficiency, combined with a significant fuel consumption reduction. Tesmec EVO Chainsaw machines are already involved in most of Tesmec's pipeline (oil & gas) projects all around the world, resulting in substantial performance improvement even in the toughest conditions: hard solid rock and deep trenching. These models ensure minimal over-excavation with regular trench walls and floor. The excavated material is deposited in a continuous windrow alongside the trench.



All Tesmec trenchers can be equipped with a TrenchIntel 3D GPS system (to record data and position while trenching, realising a map built in real time) and with the new Remote Monitoring Control (Re.M), to monitor the machines' parameters in order to avoid breakages and stoppages. Finally, the most recently released TrenchTronic 5.0 electronic control system makes trenchers easier to use and less dependent on operator skills.

XR2 – the Next Evolution in Vacuum Excavation

Dan Sharpe, Vermeer Pipeline, Vermeer Corporation, U.S.A.

The Vermeer XR2 vacuum excavator is not just a hydro-excavator, it's an onsite recycling system.

This new concept in vacuum excavation allows contractors to carry 1500 gal (5678.1 L) of water to the job and can reduce hydro-excavator transport weights. It brings to the utility industry a new way to help solve disposal issues contractors face today. The XR2 also has an auto-leveling shaker deck that separates solids



from the liquid. Used water gets pumped into onboard holding tanks for later disposal, and the separated solid material can be offloaded to a truck or left onsite, depending on the material. By separating excavated solids from liquid on the jobsite, contractors can stay onsite longer, work efficiently and reduce disposal expenses. The remote control allows one-man operation of the boom, vac, conveyer, separation and dig pump. Whether you are utility potholing, stitch boring or slot trenching, the XR2 vacuum excavator will help you be Equipped To Do More®.



Sister Associations and Allied Institutions

Reciprocal Agreement

Did you know there is a reciprocal agreement between Sister Associations ?

Members of Sister Associations are allowed to register to attend the IPLOCA Annual Convention. In turn, IPLOCA members can register for Sister Association events based on availability.

IPLOCA's Sister Associations are listed below:



Australian Pipelines and Gas Association (APGA) www.apga.org.au



Distribution Contractors Association (DCA) www.dcaweb.org



International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) www.imca-int.com



Pipe Line Contractors Association (PLCA) www.plca.org



Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada (PLCAC) www.pipeline.ca



Pipeline Industries Guild (PIG) www.pipeguild.com



Russian Oil & Gas Contractors Union www.rosngs.ru

Those who are interested in taking up this opportunity should contact juan.arzuaga@iploca.com so he can request a registration code for the event you are interested in attending.

SSI Partners with Texo to Provide Coronavirus Screening Stations

Specialist medical support company, SSI Energy, has forged a strategic partnership with Texo Accommodation, part of Texo Group of companies, to deliver modular coronavirus screening stations in the U.K.

The partnership will combine SSI Energy's range of COVID-19 screening and testing services with Texo Accommodation's range of flexible, modular buildings which offer high-quality, rapidly deployed welfare facilities. The SSI Energy/Texo modular coronavirus screening stations will be targeted at sites of Critical National Infrastructure such as ports, airports and heliports, logistics centres and major construction sites where people are required to go to work to deliver essential services in the U.K. The modular concept is designed and manufactured by Texo Accommodation partner, ELA Container, the German modular building specialist. ELA has delivered a number of placements of modular systems in the U.K. and Europe to support customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Obituaries



In Remembrance of David Freeman

David W. Freeman, 50, of South Windsor, CT, U.S.A. died unexpectedly in Warsaw, Poland on 14 February, while away on business.

David was born and grew up in England. He started his career as an electrician working on aircraft circuit boards. He worked for Mania Technology, and went to live in the U.S.A. in 2000, settling in Texas. David was transferred to Connecticut and moved to South Windsor in 2004. Shortly after that he began working for AMK Welding in South Windsor, before taking a job with Lincoln Electric.

Latterly he was working as a Global Business Segment Director – Pipeline, with Lincoln Electric. David attended the last seven IPLOCA Annual Conventions and took over responsibility for Lincoln Electric’s long-term, sponsorship at the Convention in 2016.

David married the love of his life and his high school sweetheart, Melanie Brown in June 2000 after being together since 1989. Together they enjoyed raising their family, boating on the Connecticut River and spending time at home. David loved mountain biking, Formula 1 racing, rooting for the Dallas Cowboys and travelling around the world.

He was a generous man who would help anyone, anytime. David was the “life of the party”. A kind, caring, loving, and devoted son, husband, father, grandfather and friend to many. He will be dearly missed.



Remembering Mike Thiele

With sadness we announce the passing of Michael Lee Thiele, aged 79, on 28 February.

Mike was a member of the IPLOCA Board of Directors from 1988 to 1992 and served as its President from 1990 to 1991. He was elected an Honorary Member of the Pipe Line Contractors Association (PLCA) in 2006 and of IPLOCA in 2009.

Prior to joining Bechtel Corporation in 1964, Mike worked for C.F. Braun for a year in Los Angeles after graduation. He began his career with Bechtel living in Libya for a four-year period and then transferred back to Bechtel’s San Francisco office where he met and married Elaine in 1969.

After a short while, he was back in Libya, this time as Resident Manager over Bechtel’s construction operations. Abu Dhabi was to be their next home, where their son Michael was born. Then they moved on to Beirut, Lebanon and later Saudi Arabia. After many years in the Middle East, Mike and his family returned to the U.S.A. in 1978 to Houston, Texas.

It was out of the Bechtel Houston Office that Mike

was the Construction Manager for Pipeline Division’s worldwide projects with responsibility for business development and projects. From 1982 through 1983 he was Resident Manager on the LPG Pipeline System in Algeria. In 1986 he was named Vice President and Manager of Pipeline Operations for Bechtel.

In 1990 he was elected Senior Vice President of Bechtel Group, Inc. and President of the Pipeline Division and Director in 1997. He then became Executive Vice President of Bechtel Group in 2000 and was the manager of corporate wide functions of engineering, procurement, construction and remained on the Finance Committee and Co-Chairman of Project Risk Assessment until his retirement in 2005.

After retirement he stayed on as a consultant to Bechtel for a number of years while running a couple of other business ventures on his own. Although busy with his career, he managed to carve out time for his family. He built his home in the Royal Oaks Country Club community on the golf course, and upon retirement, finally got to play all the golf he wanted to, which was his passion.

Mike will be remembered for his positive outlook, sense of humour, straightforward approach to everything in life, generosity, and a big friendly grin for everyone he met. He will be greatly missed by his wife, his son, family and many of his dear friends - all who loved him.



In memory of Bob Westphal

Robert H. Westphal passed away on 31 March at the age of 75.

Bob served as the PLCA's President in 2005. Then, in recognition of his distinguished service to the pipeline industry, Bob was made a PLCA Honorary Member in 2018. He also served on the PLCA's Board of Directors for 13 years and for 9 years on the PLCA Labour Committee.

Bob began his pipeline career in 1965, when he was hired by Dale Michels as a labourer. Thereafter, he devoted 55 years of his life to Michels Corporation.

Pat Michels, President and CEO, Michels Corporation described Bob as selflessly devoted to improving the

abilities and skills of those who worked with him. He said that throughout the decades, he has had the privilege of calling Bob his boss, his mentor, his colleague and his friend and in each of these roles, Bob had a major impact on him.

In his career, Bob held many positions, including labourer, operator, foreman, superintendent, general superintendent, vice president, senior vice president and, at the time of his death, senior construction advisor. He helped guide Michels' development and execution of strategic business initiatives domestically and internationally.

A statesman in the construction industry, Bob was a valued member of many organisations, in addition to the PLCA. In 2019, he was inducted into the North American Society for Trenchless Technology (NASTT) Hall of Fame and was named NASTT's Trenchless Technology Person of the Year in 2011.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

In its fifth year, IPLOCA's Scholarship Programme only attracted 94 applications that fulfilled the eligibility requirements, of which 61 were from the America North Geographic Region. The low number of applicants and particularly the irregular geographic spread is disappointing.

Since its inception in 2016, a cumulative total of 106 scholarships will have been granted. The programme was developed as a benefit of membership, to assist children and grandchildren of employees of IPLOCA member companies worldwide, who plan to continue their education in college, university or vocational school programmes.

We encourage students from all disciplines across the globe to participate in this initiative. For more information on the programme, visit www.iploca.com/scholarship.

In order to preserve the international nature of the programme, Scholarship Management Services, a division of Scholarship America, who administers the programme on behalf of IPLOCA, ranks the applicants and then, as far as possible, two highest ranking

Feedback

To assist us in improving the programme and attracting students from more countries we would be interested to hear from those who encountered difficulties in completing the forms or fulfilling the eligibility requirements.

Your input will help us gain a better understanding of difficulties or obstacles that potential applicants may encounter. Please contact jacqueline.tempel@iploca.com with any feedback you may wish to share.

applicants are selected from Regular Members in each IPLOCA Geographic Region and four chosen from Associate Members. In 2019 the programme was opened up to company sponsors and three sponsored scholarships have now been added to the original annual total of 20 of a value of USD 4,500 each.

The IPLOCA Board of Directors would like to thank the following companies for their sponsorship in 2020:



The 2020 scholarship recipients will be published in the September edition of this Newsletter.



54th Annual Convention Prague, Czech Republic

Save the dates !

The 54th Annual Convention will be held in Prague from 13 to 17 September 2021.

Sadly, due to the repercussions from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors decided to cancel the 2020 IPLOCA Convention planned to take place in September in Prague.

We are, however, happy to confirm that this annual event is actually only postponed and will take place in the same venue, the Hilton Prague hotel, next September. As a reminder the theme for this event is “**Pipelines Powering a Sustainable Future.**”

IPLOCA Media Partners

Editorial opportunities are available for IPLOCA Members. Contact: jacqueline.tempel@iploca.com.

BENJAMIN MEDIA

Trenchless Technology
North American Oil & Gas Pipelines
10050 Brecksville Road
Brecksville, OH 44141
U.S.A.
T +1 330 467 7588
E info@benjaminmedia.com
www.trenchlessonline.com
www.napipelines.com

Rob Krzys
President & Publisher
E robk@benjaminmedia.com

Bernard P. Krzys
Chief Executive Officer & Publisher
E bkrzys@benjaminmedia.com

GREAT SOUTHERN PRESS

Pipelines International
Level 15/461 Bourke Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000
Australia
T +61 3 9248 5100
E query@pipelinesinternational.com
www.pipelinesinternational.com

Annie Ferguson
Publisher
E aferguson@gs-press.com.au

Nick Lovering
Business Development Manager
E nlovering@gs-press.com.au

GULF ENERGY INFORMATION

Pipeline & Gas Journal
Underground Construction
2 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1020
Houston, TX 77046
U.S.A.
T +1 713 520 4471

European Headquarters
14 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8HN
U.K.
www.pgjonline.com
www.ucononline.com

John Royall
President & CEO
E john.royall@gulfenergyinfo.com

Andy McDowell
Vice President, Upstream & Midstream
E andy.mcdowell@worldoil.com

PALLADIAN PUBLICATIONS

World Pipelines
15 South Street
Farnham GU9 7QU
Surrey
U.K.
T +44 1252 718 999
E mail@palladian-publications.com
www.worldpipelines.com

Rod Hardy
Director
E rod.hardy@worldpipelines.com

Chris Lethbridge
Advertisement Manager
E chris. lethbridge@worldpipelines.com

Elizabeth Corner
Editor
E elizabeth.corner@worldpipelines.com

Nominations

to the 2020-2021 IPLOCA Board of Directors

Every year, usually at our Annual Convention, the Board of Directors is renewed by incorporation of new members. As per the IPLOCA By-laws the term of office is up to two years for those seats that are not for appointed or “at-large” directors.

Annual Regular and Associate Member Meetings

After the recent strategic review it has been decided to enhance the content of the meetings for each region and for Associate Members by providing a set agenda that shall include, but is not limited to, selections or appointments of those candidates who have timely expressed their interest in joining the Board. In line with this review these meetings will now be called Regular and Associate Member Meetings (previously called “election meetings”) and the proposed agenda for each one-hour meeting, to be chaired by the incumbent director/s, will include the following discussion items: Review of the year by the relevant directors; Proposals from members to receive more value from

In accordance with the association’s current By-laws (effective as of 30 September 2017), the IPLOCA Board of Directors consists of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 25 directors as follows:

1. Up to sixteen directors representing Regular Members (up to two for each of the 8 geographic regions as per our current membership), elected by the Regular Members
2. Three directors elected by and representing the Associate Members of the association
3. Up to five Directors-at-Large, appointed each year by the Board of Directors at its first meeting, make up the remainder of the Board. The Directors-at-Large are nominated by the Executive Committee and appointed following the approval of the full Board. They are selected based on their active involvement and engagement in the work of the association, including in committee work, to capitalise on their knowledge and ensure continuity of leadership in certain areas.
4. Out of this group of 25 directors, five officers collectively form the Executive Committee. These are the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and the Immediate Past President. Officers shall be directors of the Board and shall be representatives of Regular Members.

IPLOCA; Potential new members, including Corresponding Members; Interest in becoming an IPLOCA Board member; Confirmation of incumbent directors (if any); Seat assignment/s to the Board; A.O.B.

Note: Since the Annual Convention has been cancelled this year, members will be invited in due time to attend their Regular or Associate Member meetings, to take place in September, via a video conferencing platform.

Vacant Seats

Beginning September 2020, a total of ten board seats become vacant:

1 seat in Middle East & Africa

www.iploca.com/middleeastandafrika

1 seat in America North

www.iploca.com/americanorth

2 seats in Europe Eastern

www.iploca.com/europeeastern

2 seats in Europe Central

www.iploca.com/europecentral

1 seat in Europe Northwest

www.iploca.com/europenorthwest

1 seat in Europe Mediterranean

www.iploca.com/europemediterranean

2 seats representing the Associate Members

www.iploca.com/associatemembers

If you represent a Regular Member or an Associate Member and you would like to run for one of the vacant seats on the Board of Directors, please review the Duties and Commitments of Board Directors and complete the application form to be returned to the IPLOCA Executive Secretary no later than Friday, **14 August 2020**. You will find the relevant documents and further details on www.iploca.com/vacantseats.

Voting

Each member company is entitled to one vote. If no-one from your company is able to attend the Regular or Associate Member Meeting in order to vote, one vote per member company may be made on a proxy form (also available on the website) and must be received by the Executive Secretary in the IPLOCA Secretariat, no later than Monday, **7 September 2020** in order to be counted.

Should you have any questions regarding the nomination process, please contact juan.arzuaga@iploca.com.

IPLOCA Board of Directors

2019-2020



Left to right front row: Adam Wynne Hughes, Oliviero Corvi (resigned), Isosif Panchak, Leon Richards, John Tikkanen, Juan Arzuaga. **Second row:** Doug Bailey, Yasar Giregiz, Albert Zakhem, Fatih Can, Najib Khoury, Sue Sljivic (resigned), Kelly Osborn Bruno Pomaré. **Third row:** Johan Van Wassenhove, Roger Spee, Daniel Fernandez, Adel Botros, Andrew Ball, Tim Zboya, Paul Andrews, Gonzalo Montenegro. **Inset:** Wilko Koop, Ebbo Laenge, Abdullah-Al-Mahmud, Gerben Wansink.

Officers

Isosif Panchak (J.S. Welding & Building Co.)

President
Director Europe Eastern

Leon Richards

(McConnell Dowell Corporation Ltd)

1st Vice President
Director, East & Far East

Gonzalo Montenegro* (SEPCON)

2nd Vice President
Director Latin America

John Tikkanen

Immediate Past President

Adam Wynne Hughes (Pipeline Induction Heat)

Treasurer
Director Europe Northwest

Directors

Doug Bailey (Caterpillar)

Director Associate Members

Adel Botros (Al-Qahtani Pipe Coating Ind.)

Director Middle East & Africa

Daniel Fernandez (Worldwide Group)

Director Associate Members

Yasar Giregiz (Fernas Construction Co.)

Director Europe Eastern

Khulud Halaby* (Petro-Force)

Director, Europe Mediterranean

Najib Khoury (CCC)

Director Middle East & Africa

Wilko Koop* (A.Hak Construction B.V.)

Director Europe Central

Ebbo Laenge (Conduto)

Director Latin America

Abdullah-Al-Mahmud (PEAL)

Director East & Far East

Kelly Osborn (U.S. Pipeline)

Director America North

Scholarship Project Lead

Bruno Pomaré (Spiecapag)

Director Europe Mediterranean

HSE & CSR Committee Chair

Bill Solomon* (Vacuworx)

Director Associate Members

Gerben Wansink* (Maats Pipeline Professionals)

Director Europe Central

Johan Van Wassenhove (DENYS)

Director Europe Northwest

Tim Zboya (Bechtel Pipeline)

Director America North

Directors-at-Large

Paul Andrews (Fluor)

Innovation Committee Chair

Andrew Ball (J. Murphy & Sons)

Membership & WFPIA Engagement

Committee Chair

Fatih Can (Tekfen)

Roger Spee (CRC-Evans)

Convention & Board Location Project Lead

Albert Zakhem (Zakhem International)

Executive Secretary

Juan Arzuaga

*appointed by the Board of Directors

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