



NUMBER

85

# THE IPLOCA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020



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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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### Cover Photo

Courtesy of

**PipeLine Machinery International**

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## Letter from the President

**In a remarkable and extraordinary year where we are now used to the daily phrase, 'You are on mute', I am honoured to be your President for 2020-2021. With the assistance of the other 23 board members and the Secretariat we will plot a path through these testing times for our association, aiming to remain as the pinnacle strength of the international pipeline construction scene.**

I would like to thank Iosif Panchak who has steered us through the challenging year of 2020. We welcome six new members to the 2020-2021 Board who will provide new energy and enthusiasm to supplement the existing board members. The commitment and forethought of previous boards prepared our association for this period of uncertainty. We maintain a solid financial position thanks to us ensuring IPLOCA would be "fit for the future". We still have, however, a lot of hard work ahead of us to maintain a sustainable association well into the coming decades. Our main priorities are to launch the revised RTS ("The Road to Success") application, ensure the Technology Catalogue is populated, and look for better ways to improve communication with you, our members, to make sure we deliver value for your membership.

I would particularly like to thank and pay recognition to the outgoing directors, some of whom have been loyal members of the IPLOCA Board of Directors for many years: Daniel Fernandez, Yasar Giregiz, Najib Khoury (Past President), Paul Andrews, Andrew Ball (Past President) and Fatih Can.

Normally this edition of the newsletter is full of pictorial memories of the Annual Convention; however, this year is an exception. As we all deal with the impacts that the global COVID-19 pandemic has thrown at us we are optimistic that we can all meet in Prague in 2021.

We do have a busy year ahead to ensure we remain relevant and continue to offer our members the benefits that they expect. We welcome your participation to assist the board and the committees in completing the numerous tasks and activities which make our association the success that has kept it active for the past 54 years.

Please feel free at any time to contact a director if you have suggestions or wish to provide feedback on where we can improve. We assure you that the current board will make every effort to maintain the value of our association.

I look forward to meeting and working with many of our members during this coming year.

With best regards,

**Leon Richards**

IPLOCA President 2020-2021



## Season's Greetings

IPLOCA's Board of Directors and the staff of the Secretariat would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the association during this past, particularly challenging, year. This period has highlighted even more our appreciation of your friendships and of course we are also grateful to you for hosting our events and for your expertise and the time you have shared with us. In 2021 we look forward to once again meeting up physically.

**Our very best wishes for a healthy, safe and revitalised new year!**

## News from Geneva

### IPLOCA Webinars Continue

After the summer break, IPLOCA started its second wave of webinars as the world rapidly fell into another pandemic related lock-down. The first of these webinars was to announce the much awaited IPLOCA Technology Catalogue portal that enables all IPLOCA member companies to connect and advertise their services at no extra cost to membership fees. Further details on this initiative are available overleaf.

On 9 November, Randy Robertson, General Manager at Cyntech U.S. Inc. explained the concept of pipeline anchoring, while giving a brief summary of the engineering, application, and installation. The direct and indirect (social) cost advantages were also presented.



On 19 November, as winner of the IPLOCA Health & Safety 2020 Award sponsored by Chevron, Gurcan Guven, Corporate HSE Manager at Tekfen Construction & Installation Co. Inc. shared with members the practical training named 'Hazard Hunting Headquarters' (3H). Further information is available on page 19 of this newsletter.

If you missed these webinars, recordings of the presentations are available on our website at [www.iploca.com/webinar](http://www.iploca.com/webinar).

Upcoming webinars include the other two 2020 award winners which are featured on page 19 of this newsletter:

- **Denys NV** – 2020 IPLOCA Excellence in Project Execution Award for the Bergsche Maas Project on **Thursday 3 December at 15:00 CET**
- **Spiecapag** – 2020 IPLOCA Environmental Award for their "Waste Management Solution" on **Thursday 17 December at 15:00 CET**

If you have a subject you would like to present during an IPLOCA webinar, please send a short description to [jacqueline.tempel@iploca.com](mailto:jacqueline.tempel@iploca.com).



## The IPLOCA Members Technology Platform

The IPLOCA Members Technology Platform is now available for all our members to promote their technologies and capabilities!

This online platform modernises the way IPLOCA helps to connect the innovative technologies of IPLOCA members to potential clients, and also facilitates knowledge sharing between members.

### Benefits of joining



GENERATE TRAFFIC AND INCREASE REVENUE



FACILITATED SYNERGIES BETWEEN TECHNOLOGIES AND CLIENTS



ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE SHARING AMONG IPLOCA MEMBERS



INTERACTION WITH QUALIFIED LEADS

The benefits of being listed on the platform are the following:

- It allows members to maximise awareness of their new technologies or capabilities and increase visibility to potential clients
- It enhances knowledge sharing among IPLOCA members
- It provides opportunities to interact and collaborate with qualified technology leaders
- It facilitates synergies between the technologies and clients

IPLOCA members can list their technologies and capabilities **FREE of charge** and, when deployed, they will be visible to all users of the IPLOCA Members Technology

Platform, and the users of the global Technology Catalogue. Each page provides a description of the technology, with all the relevant technical specifications, as well as a range of images and videos. We have already received technology descriptions from Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC), Cyntech Construction Ltd., Maats Pipeline Professionals, Rosen Group and Torcsill Foundations.

For questions regarding a technology or a capability, users can contact the technology leaders directly by sending them a message via their profile page.

### How to register your technology?

The process of registering your company's technology on the IPLOCA Platform is very easy. All you need to do is to go to <https://iploca.technologycatalogue.com> and to click on the "Add your technology" button.

You will then be asked to complete your personal and company details and enter information about your technology. Since it is free you do not have to select any payment method. Once you have finished entering the information, click on the "Request Now" button. The Technology Catalogue team will receive a notification and will be in contact with you in order to start drafting your company's page. When this draft has been approved, it will be published in the IPLOCA Technology Catalogue and the global Technology Catalogue: [www.technologycatalogue.com](http://www.technologycatalogue.com).

If you have any questions about the IPLOCA Members Technology Platform please contact Grégoire de Montmollin [gregoire.demontmollin@iploca.com](mailto:gregoire.demontmollin@iploca.com)

## 2021 Annual Convention

### "Pipelines Powering a Sustainable Future"



IPLOCA's 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will take place at the Hilton Prague hotel, Czech Republic from 13 to 17 September. Please note that registration will open on **Monday 3 May!**



# Board Meeting Update

**22 September and 22 October,  
via video conference**

The September board meeting was held via video conference due to continued restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic. For the October meeting most directors attended via video conference although a small number were physically present at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Geneva in attendance after the association's AGM.

## Treasurer's Report

Adam Wynne Hughes presented the quarterly Treasurer's Report at the September meeting. This report provides the financial transactions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020. The data is split into three categories:

1. Operations – covering income from the membership fees, sponsors etc., and expenses of the Secretariat, Regional Meetings and Board Meetings.
2. Initiatives – covering income from the company sponsored scholarships and expenses of the Innovation Committee, HSE & CSR Committee, Research & Development, IPLOCA Scholarships and the Strategic Plan.
3. Convention – covering income from the convention registration fees, convention sponsorship, expenses of the convention and research for future convention destinations.

Overall for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter there was a positive balance of CHF 6,151.00 compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly budget presented at the last board meeting.

Adam Wynne Hughes went on to present the forecast for the rest of the year. As of 22 September 2020, the following amounts were outstanding: CHF 40,000 of Regular Membership fees and CHF 16,000 of Associate Membership fees. This year, members had been granted additional time in order to pay. It was noted, therefore, that 92% of Regular Members' fees & 97% of Associate Members' fees had been received so far. The forecast for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter shows a deficit of CHF 344,400 which is in line with expectations considering the COVID-19 situation, and IPLOCA funds at the end of August were just over CHF 2.3 million compared to around CHF 3.1 million the previous year. It was noted that a portion of the Prague Convention costs, now rescheduled to 2021, have been paid this year.

Adam Wynne Hughes reminded the board that the bank account held in Swiss francs is used to receive membership fees and finance the Secretariat costs. The bank accounts

held in Euros and USD are to receive the convention registration fees depending on the destination. IPLOCA reports to the Swiss government in Swiss Francs. He confirmed that the IPLOCA 2019 Auditor's Report would be presented at the AGM.

## Membership Report

Jackie Tempel presented the September 2020 membership status. As to be expected, some resignations had been received:

- **Cross Country Infrastructure Services, Inc.,** U.S.A. (Associate Member)
- **Driver Group,** U.K. (Associate Member)

The companies whose membership has been terminated, due to non-payment of memberships fees, are:

- **JSW Steel (U.S.A.) Inc.** (Associate Member)
- **Punj Lloyd Limited,** India (Regular Member)

It is noteworthy that despite the current COVID-19 situation IPLOCA has received enquiries to join the association.

Andy Ball made some suggestions regarding the membership application form to make it more 'user-friendly' and simplify the joining procedure. Board directors are expected to consider these recommendations and provide comments at the next board meeting. Board directors were also requested to review the list of potential members on the membership map and were invited to make contact with these companies if they had not already done so. The Membership Manager would like to capture contact information in the membership report and work in collaboration with the board directors to send relevant information and email follow-ups to key representatives of potential members. The membership map will be updated quarterly.

## Future Convention & Board Meeting Location Planning

Roger Spee presented the convention & board meeting location planning. He reminded the board that IPLOCA plans to hold the Annual Convention in Prague in September 2021 and in Miami in October 2022 (to avoid the stormy season). IPLOCA will coordinate with APGA to ensure that the two conventions do not conflict in 2022. Three European destinations are under consideration for the 2023 Annual Convention and directors will be asked to cast their votes electronically to allow time to plan a board meeting at the preferred location.

## Corresponding Members Survey

External consultant, Ed Bond, presented his final conclusions of the IPLOCA Corresponding Members (CMs) survey.



IPLOCA Cocktail & Dinner at October Convention in Geneva. Left to right: Sébastien Goetschmann, IPLOCA Accounting Manager; Jackie Tempel, IPLOCA Membership Manager; Manuel Orlandi, O.R.A.T.; Roberto Castelli, Bonatti; Gonzalo Montenegro, SEPCON & IPLOCA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Juan Arzuaga, IPLOCA Executive Secretary; Stefano Protogene, Bonatti & IPLOCA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Caroline Green, IPLOCA Convention Manager; Jon Green; Luisa Rojas Gomez; Grégoire de Montmollin, IPLOCA Innovation & Convention Coordinator.

He stated that 17 interviews were held during the months of May and June. Twelve of the members completed the on-line survey in August and September. He said he was confident that the major themes have been identified. He noted, however, that the CMs who participated are already relatively highly involved with IPLOCA and therefore the findings may not be considered to entirely represent all CMs.

A summary of the findings can be found on page 11 of this newsletter under the Membership Centre section. The following recommendations were made as a result of this survey:

- Report back to the CMs to demonstrate that IPLOCA is responsive and open-minded
- Consider more Regional Meetings jointly sponsored by other entities
- Design specific events to engage the CMs
- Manage CM relationships differently than Regular or Associate Members

John Tikkanen thanked Ed Bond for the report and mentioned that despite the difficult circumstances the deadlines were met.

### Convening of the 2020-2021 Board

Juan Arzuaga opened the board meeting on the afternoon of 22 October and welcomed the board directors present in the room and those joining via video conference. He thanked Iosif Panchak for his contribution during the 2019-2020 presidential term and recognised the difficulties he had to

deal with. Retiring President, Iosif Panchak mentioned that it had been a very particular year but despite the pandemic he was proud to say that the association had continued to fulfil its obligations to the membership and achieved the priorities set for the year. He thanked the Board of Directors and the Secretariat for their work during this challenging period.

### Appointment of 2020-2021 Officers

Iosif Panchak tabled the officers' names and the board voted unanimously to appoint Leon Richards as President, Gonzalo Montenegro as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Stefano Protogene as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Adam Wynne Hughes as Treasurer.

### Appointment of Directors and Directors-at-Large

Leon Richards took the chair and presided over the first 2020-2021 board meeting. He thanked the Board of Directors for their work this past year and proceeded to list the appointed Director and the Directors-at-Large:

Appointed Director, Europe Central: Gerben Wansink (Maats Pipeline Professionals)

Director-at-Large: Leonardo Gravina (SICIM S.p.A.)

Director-at-Large: Kelly Osborn (U.S. Pipeline, Inc.)

Director-at-Large: Bill Solomon (Vacuworx)

Director-at-Large: Roger Spee (CRC-Evans Pipeline International, Inc.)

Director-at-Large: Johan Van Wassenhove (Denys)

The appointment of the above listed directors was approved. Leon Richards welcomed the directors who were continuing on the board and thanked the departing directors for their



contribution. Unfortunately it had not been possible to accommodate all requests for a Director-at-Large position as there are a limited number of seats.

## Nominations for the Committees

It was noted that board directors are assigned to one committee only and are requested to participate in all split meetings during board meetings. They are also invited to attend events and conference calls organised by their committee. It was mentioned that board directors may wish to have some of their company's specialists join the working groups.

The 2020-21 Board will run three committees and two projects as follows:

## HSE & CSR Committee

**Chair:** Bruno Pomaré

**Leadership:**

- Ebbo Laenge
- Robert Linder
- Levent Kafkasli
- Bobby Poteete

The HSE & CSR Steering Group meets three times a year and is comprised of ten HSE specialists from member companies. The role of the steering group is to implement the initiatives proposed by the HSE & CSR Committee Leadership.

## Innovation Committee

**Chair:** Gerben Wansink

**Leadership:**

- Doug Bailey
- Adel Botros
- Leonardo Gravina
- Wilko Koop
- Tim Zboya

There are eight steering groups which meet twice a year either in Geneva or different cities in Europe. In the past, the possibility of holding a meeting in North America had been discussed. Juan Arzuaga requested that the board directors propose specialists in their company to participate in these steering groups. One example of the work undertaken by the Innovation Committee is the update to version 5 of 'The Road to Success' app.

## Membership Committee

**Chair:** Bill Solomon

**Leadership:**

- Vladilen Ermolin
- Mintu (Abdullah Al-Mahmud)
- John Tikkanen
- Johan Van Wassenhove
- Albert Zakhem

The Membership Committee will need to be proactive during the 2020-2021 presidential year as there is a greater need to retain all current members and find ways to encourage new members to join. Leon Richards pointed out that during his presidential term, membership will be a priority and an additional board director has been added to the leadership of this committee.

## Convention & Board Meeting Location Project

**Project Lead:** Roger Spee

Roger Spee will continue in the role as Convention & Board Meeting Location Project Lead with the support of the Executive Committee. The Project Lead's role is to propose destinations for board meetings and future conventions. The board directors are then asked to vote on destinations.

## Scholarship Project

**Project Lead:** Kelly Osborn

Kelly Osborn will continue in the role as Scholarship Project Lead with the support of Scholarship America, which manages the applications and the selection process that are then approved by the Project Lead.

## Board Meeting Dates and Locations

For the moment, due to the pandemic, it is only possible to hold board meetings via video conference, but all directors are looking forward to being able to meet up again in person as soon as there is a return to normality.

Juan Arzuaga presented the current plans for board meetings:

- Zoom meeting 10-11 December 2020
- Malta: 24-27 March 2021
- Dublin, Ireland: 2-5 June 2021
- Prague, Czech Republic (Annual Convention): 12-17 September
- Baku, Azerbaijan: 16-20 March 2022 (Regional Meeting - Wednesday 16 March)

Leon Richards mentioned that there are 11 months until the next Annual Convention and a shorter time frame to achieve all objectives. Whilst travel restrictions are in place monthly Zoom board meetings of 2.5 hours will be scheduled. This will ensure momentum and make sure that plans and objectives are realigned regularly depending on the current economic and pandemic situation.

## Regional Meetings

The planning for Regional Meetings is as follows:

- Europe Eastern: Baku (Azerbaijan) 16 March 2022
- East & Far East: Hong Kong (tbd)
- Latin America: Argentina (tbd)
- Europe Mediterranean: Bordeaux, France (tbd)

# New Directors

## on the 2020-2021 IPLOCA Board

We warmly welcome the following directors, as a result of the 2020-2021 elections and nominations.



### **Vladilen Ermolin** **Director for Eastern Europe**

Vladilen Ermolin is Chairman of the Board of PTPS JSC based in Moscow. He graduated from the Moscow University of Transport Engineers in 1987 as an Electrical Engineer and also graduated in Economics from the Russian Academy of Foreign Trade in 1995.

Vladilen is experienced in underwater main pipeline construction, strategic development, planning and general management. Since 1989 he has worked in the oil & gas pipeline construction industry in Russia and abroad (Iraq, Yemen) and in 2002 he started to head and manage PTPS JSC, one of the leading Russian companies in underwater pipeline construction. Vladilen is married and has three children with his current wife, and a 22 year old daughter from a previous marriage. His interests include tennis, golf and skiing.



### **Leonardo Gravina** **Director-at-Large**

Leonardo is the General Manager of SICIM S.p.A. He holds a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering and has almost 40 years' experience in the pipeline industry. He started his career with SAIPEM in 1982 as a young engineer in Saudi Arabia and

rapidly moved through the company to become, in 1990, the first Managing Director of the newly established SAIPEM Contracting Nigeria Ltd. After seven years in Nigeria, he was appointed as Country Manager for onshore operations in Italy and then in Colombia and finally in Kazakhstan. Following 18 years of militancy in SAIPEM, Leonardo assumed the challenging role of General Manager of a regional pipeline company, as SICIM was at that time, to lead a process of extensive expansion and internationalisation of its operations and interests. SICIM is now one of the leading companies in the oil & gas industry worldwide, with offices and operations in almost 25 countries spread over 4 of the 5

continents. Leonardo is married to Mattia and has two sons and a daughter; the eldest son has just started his career with SICIM. Leonardo has already represented the Europe Mediterranean area as an IPLOCA Board Member in 2011 and 2012.



### **Levent Kafkaslı** **Director for Europe Eastern**

Levent is based in Turkey and in March 2019 was appointed Vice President of Tekfen Holding in charge of the Contracting Group, as well as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Board Member in various group companies, including Tekfen Construction,

Tekfen Manufacturing, Tekfen Engineering. He received his first degree from Istanbul Technical University (Construction Engineering) in 1987 and the following year, he completed postgraduate studies at Istanbul University (in the Construction Management Department). Levent joined Tekfen Construction and Installation Co. Inc. as a Field Engineer in 1990 and worked in several positions until 1999 when he was appointed Vice President of Azfen JV in Azerbaijan. From 2005 to 2013 he served as Vice President and from 2013 to 2019 as President of Tekfen Construction. Levent has been happily married to Ayna for almost 20 years and is the father of two boys. He loves painting, reading and spending time with his family.



### **Robert Linder** **Director for Associate Members**

Robert has been with Liebherr-Werk Telfs GmbH in Austria since 2014 as Head of Sales, Oil & Gas, and just recently was appointed to lead the whole sales team. He started his career in Product Marketing Management,

Trade and Building Industry at Tyrolit Swarovski in 2004, subsequently fulfilling various roles in the Marketing department. Six years later he became Head of Marketing at Bitbau Sika in Austria and later joined Prinoth S.p.A. in Vipteno, Italy. Robert has a Master of Science degree in Management, Psychology and Leadership and speaks English and Spanish, in addition to his native language German. He and his partner, Elisabeth have a 6-year old son together. As a result of living in the heart of the Alps, Robert enjoys a variety of out-door activities, such as skiing, ski touring, climbing and hiking.





### **Bobby Poteete** **Director for America North**

Bobby was appointed President of Precision Pipeline, LLC (PPL), U.S.A. in 2019, after 13 years as Senior Vice President and Vice President of Operations. He provides vision, strategy, and is engaged in oil and gas infrastructure projects at both federal and state levels. Earlier

in Bobby's career he was self-employed, spent ten years with Murphy Brothers Inc., and worked for various gas companies. As a 39-year veteran in the pipeline industry, he has worked on a long list of major pipeline projects, including: Millennium, Southern Lights, Alberta Clipper, Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), and Rover. Outside PPL, Bobby serves on the PLCA Labour Board and supports a variety of local non-profit organisations. He currently lives in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, U.S.A. with his wife Liz, and has three children. He is an avid Green Bay Packers fan and enjoys travelling.



### **Stefano Protogene** **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and** **Director for Europe** **Mediterranean**

Stefano started with Bonatti Group in 2002 as Director of the Multi-Utility Business Unit, then took on the role of Commercial Coordinator of the group and in 2019 became Chief Commercial

Officer. He also sits on the Board of several Bonatti subsidiaries around the world. After graduating in geotechnical engineering, he started his professional career in the HDD business with the Brugg Group and then worked in sales with FlowTex Technologie and later as Managing Director for Italy and Southern Europe. Stefano is a family man and lives in Parma, Italy with his wife Chiara and their four children: three boys and one girl. They love spending time in the mountains in all seasons. In his spare time he enjoys repairing and driving his classic car.

## **Membership Centre**

### **IPLOCA Membership Fees**

Membership fee invoices for 2021 were emailed mid-November and the payment due date is the first business day of 2021 (i.e. 4 January). Please note that paper copies of invoices will only be mailed upon request. Membership certificates will be sent out in January. If you have any questions please contact IPLOCA's Accounting Manager, [sebastien.goetschmann@iploca.com](mailto:sebastien.goetschmann@iploca.com).

### **Report on Corresponding Members' Interviews**

**During August and September IPLOCA conducted an online survey to obtain a unique follow-up tool from Corresponding Member (CM) respondents to the individual interviews held in May and June.**

These interviews – conducted by external consultant, Ed Bond - were the first of five action points proposed by the temporary Strategic Committee to support the Strategic Imperative of “educating members and event attendees on how to gain the most from their affiliation with IPLOCA”

The key findings can be summarised as follows:

- Participation in IPLOCA is influenced by CMs' plans for future pipeline development.

- HSE and Innovation are broadly valued by CMs, although many acknowledge their very limited use of the information stored on the IPLOCA HSE Shared Experiences Platform.
- CMs indicated a high interest in online platforms such as the IPLOCA Technology Catalogue.
- Regional Meetings are seen to be of interest if sensitively managed regarding the organisational level of participants.
- Joint sponsorship of meetings with other organisations may also be attractive.
- It is very challenging for IPLOCA to create value specifically for CMs as they differ so much from Regular and Associate members.

Each major theme that emerged from the interviews is identified below:

- 1. The principal justification for CMs to join IPLOCA is to build relationships with contractors and service providers in view of future pipeline development plans**
- 2. HSE and Innovation are strengths for which IPLOCA is well known**
  - Annual Statistics Reports, Awards, HSE Workshops and shared experiences are all highly valued by those CMs that are familiar with them.
  - CMs that are engaged in new projects were universally interested in innovation, spanning new



methods, processes, materials, equipment and novel ways to approach the variety of challenges of pipeline construction.

- Some CMs see RTS (“The Road to Success”) as a foundation from which a certification in minimum safety and reporting standards in specific areas (e.g., HSE) could be developed.
- Some CMs suggested including additional materials in the RTS, such as community relations and other non-technical challenges (HSE, CSR). Others suggested an expansion of RTS in offshore and pipelines to serve “new energies”.

### **3. CMs indicated high levels of interest in online platforms**

- Although many CMs were unfamiliar with the recently launched Technology Catalogue, several described the need for this type of tool that would connect them with experts in particular technologies.
- They recommended increasing promotion of this new tool. Restrictions on travel and the cost of in-person meetings fuels interest in on-line platforms.

### **4. The IPLOCA Annual Convention is interesting, but a difficult commitment for CMs**

- Presentations at the Open General Meetings: all CMs who attend the Convention and make presentations were universally positive about their experience. The majority of CMs that participated in B2B sessions found them useful, although they would not travel to a Convention only for this reason, while others saw no value in them.

- Several CMs indicated they would be interested if the Convention included (perhaps a 4-hour) element on issues such as collaborative contracting, creative cost reduction, innovation in pipeline construction, transition of pipelines to hydrogen, biofuels, etc.

### **5. Regional Meetings are a great idea, but must be delicately managed**

- Meetings dedicated to one specific country or region were attractive to some CMs since they were seen as opportunities to engage “doers” and technical people and highlight work in a specific area. Clearly identifying the audience is also very important, so as not to lose them along the way.
- These meetings are seen as a great way to allow people that are not very senior in their organisations to network and familiarise themselves with IPLOCA.

### **6. Other organisations**

- Several CMs think that IPLOCA could engage a broader audience by linking regional meetings to regional organisations.
- Links could go beyond regional meetings to include benchmarking standards like Environmental and Social Standards set by the World Bank and EBRD.

### **7. Relationship velocity**

- More people should be involved within the CM organisations, either through direct action on the part of the CM or action taken by IPLOCA. In many cases the CM’s commitment seems to reside in one person and it is difficult to steer their entire firm towards engagement with IPLOCA.

### **Additional recommendations to the IPLOCA Board**

As an example of challenges they may need to address, several CMs noted they are going to be dealing with pipeline end of life and repurposing (e.g., hydrogen, biomethane, syngas, carbon capture, etc.). CMs believe these activities are in line with IPLOCA’s focus on pipeline construction.

Many CMs view IPLOCA as providing a valuable forum for considering new materials such as flexible composite pipe. Many CMs voiced their concern about the challenges the industry is facing to attract and engage young people in general, and women in particular. Many wondered what role IPLOCA could play in supporting this process.

With careful planning and selection of participants a roundtable of CMs under IPLOCA’s flag could allow peers to discuss important concepts that could then be spun out in IPLOCA-sponsored events.



# Member News

## The Next Generation Cat® D7 Dozer



Users of the next generation Caterpillar D7 dozer gain a competitive edge with an unprecedented level of technology and performance. The new D7 moves up to 12% more material per hour with less fuel and reduces operator effort with a fully automatic transmission, class leading operator assist features and best-in-class steering. Available safety features like Cat command for dozing remote control, rear vision camera and operator ID help protect operators and everyone on the job site. In addition, the Cat high drive undercarriage and proven durability are standard equipment.

## Cyntech's Contribution to Carbon Footprint Reduction

This winter, Cyntech's innovative customers specified over 4,000 screw anchor sets to control buoyancy and mitigate stress in their pipelines. These anchor sets will be installed on portions of the 500+ km of NPS 36, 42, and 48 pipelines under construction in Canada. These projects are the three largest pipeline construction projects



in Canada for the next two years. By using Cyntech's anchor system instead of traditional concrete methods, they will be replacing roughly 80,000 tons of concrete, and eliminating approximately 4,000 truckloads heading to these projects. In addition to cost savings of over USD 10 million, significant social and GHG (greenhouse gas) reductions are also being realised. To further the operating companies' commitment to environmental stewardship, it is calculated that this switch to anchor sets from concrete weighting will massively reduce the carbon footprint of these projects by over 4,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> (approximately equal to removing 1,000 passenger cars off the road for one year).



## Goriziane Group S.p.A. Continues to Reorganise

Goriziane Group S.p.A. has decided to continue its reorganisation process, which started three years ago, with the birth of the two business divisions M.R.O. (maintenance, repair and overhaul) and E&C (engineering & construction), implementing a partial and proportional company spin-off operation. As of 1 October 2020, the Engineering & Construction Division (dedicated to the oil & gas, naval, industrial, wind farm and green sector) was transferred and incorporated into a new entity as Goriziane Engineering & Construction S.p.A., while the M.R.O., dedicated mainly to the defence sector, will remain as Goriziane Group S.p.A. The main objective of this company spin-off is to give each division its own identity by establishing itself in the market and providing the best support and service to its partners and customers worldwide. This is an important step along a growing path that has made the company strong and united. The reorganisation does not impact the ownership structure: the entire Goriziane Group remains owned by the Zanin Family, as it has been for over 70 years, together with its employees, collaborators and partners who continue to guide and manage the Group with passion and competence.



## ILF Consulting Engineers and PEXMAT Matrix Tool

Innovation can take many forms; it does not have to be a new technology, it can also be a change in the business process. ILF Consulting Engineers faces innovation every

day on various levels – technology, management and process. The PEXMAT matrix tool is a result of many years of experience with pipeline projects that involved multicultural collaboration, large teams, an interdisciplinary approach and parties with different roles and interests. PEXMAT elaborates how paramount a piece of information delivered on time and in a coherent format can prevent major complications and disputes during project execution. Given the example of supply chain management for pipeline projects, PEXMAT is designed to provide an overall understanding of how plans and procedures relate to project specifics, roles and responsibilities of the parties involved (contractor, owner and consultant), and allows straightforward project status expediting with relevant KPIs. By using the PEXMAT matrix, any redundant work related to discrepancies, double checking and extra effort managing workflows are avoided. Best practice has shown that the right project communication channels lead to higher efficiency, transparency and prevent non-compliance and budget overrun. These are exactly the pre-requirements covered by PEXMAT, and the essential project management activities utilised to execute a successful project to the client's full satisfaction. PEXMAT gives a project manager the right tool for the project team to deliver a quality job on time.

## Limak Construction and the Jubail-Riyadh Water Transmission Line



Limak Construction is committed to the construction project of one of the five different packages within the scope of the Jubail-Riyadh Water Transmission Line in

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and consists of a total of three pumping stations: one in Jubail, the other two between Jubail and Riyadh. It also includes 14 steel water tanks; seven of which are located in Jubail, and another seven located in Riyadh, each of which has a capacity of 170,000 m<sup>3</sup> and a total capacity of 2,380,000 m<sup>3</sup>. The scope of the project includes construction works, supply and installation of all equipment for pump stations, a tank farm, reservoir and connection stations and complete hydraulic design, a control and communication system, electrical power systems, tests and commissioning of the system for all the Jubail-Riyadh Water Transmission System, including the connection line. The project, started in September 2018, is planned to be completed at the end of 2021.



## Luco Energy Acquires Cypress Petroleum

IPLOCA Honorary Member, Andy Lukas and son David, through their company, AJ Lucas Services Pty Ltd, have partnered with investors, to form Luco Energy Pty Ltd to develop oil and gas production in Australia. Luco Energy

has acquired Cypress Petroleum Pty Ltd which has three tenements in Queensland: PL 17, ATP 2037 and ATP 2038. These assets potentially have vast volumes of tight gas and condensate and are strategically close to infrastructure and the east coast gas market. Until recently, tight gas and shale gas have been neglected in Australia. This is largely because of the focus by the Australian majors on delivering large scale commitments for their coal seam gas (CSG) programmes. Structural problems have resulted in an unnecessarily high cost of production for both conventional and unconventional gas on the east coast – leading to a lack of affordable supply. After a decade of rapid development of tight gas reserves in the U.S.A, Australia's time has arrived and Luco intends to lead this exciting development.

## Newest Innovation in Pipeline Protection for Extreme Conditions

PipeSak Pipeline Products and Services has developed the newest innovation in pipeline protection: PipeDefender™. Developed for extreme construction conditions, PipeDefender is engineered to be over ten times more effective than traditional rock shields. Tested for maximum protection in rocky terrain, on steep inclines and in areas with poor natural availability of sand or gravel, PipeDefender can withstand the repeated impact of rocks up to 20 lbs, dropped from a height of over 10 ft.





PipeDefender is lightweight and simple to install, with secure interlocking panels that can accommodate 12" to 48" OD pipe. Like all PipeSak products, PipeDefender has undergone rigorous third-party testing and has been shown to not impede cathodic protection. Tested in the rugged Rocky Mountains, PipeDefender™ is the only cost effective, permanent protection alternative to wood lagging, sand padding and concrete coating.

### ROWD: A Mobile Dewatering Sled for All Pipeline Projects

With safety, environment and efficiency in mind, the ROWD (Right-Of-Way Dewatering) sled provides the pipeline industry with a versatile and mobile dewatering structure that is capable of dewatering in difficult locations. ROWD uses the idea of straw bale (or filter sock) filtration but places it in a sturdy steel frame to increase the amount of water that can be run through without failure while also maintaining the mobility of the sled and environmental compliance. The unique design locks the filter material between the concentric rectangles to prevent shifting so that a ROWD sled can be safely transported to multiple dewatering locations as needed. This allows for faster filtration from site to



site with less disposal of partially-used filter material and filter bags. The sustainability of the ROWD sled eliminates multiple conventional structures, reduces filter material waste left for clean-up and minimises excess fuel used for transportation. Designed by Precision Dewatering, LLC, a division of Precision Pipeline, LLC, ROWD has made a significant impact on completing a difficult project with mountainous terrain, limited access and limited working space, and was able to cut total project dewatering costs by 80%. Major Project Director, Kris Evanto, confirmed that ROWD has proven its value. This project tested the performance of one ROWD sled and it became clear that its use needed to be increased in order to comply with strict environmental regulations and complete dewatering on time and within budget. ROWD® PAT. NO. 10,625,185. US and foreign patents pending.

### Seal for Life's STOPAQ Achieved Surprise Additional Benefit



A recent project for Seal for Life Industries' STOPAQ (Self Healing Corrosion Prevention and Sealant Technology) unveiled a new product feature with major benefits for the client: noise cancellation. Initially the client's challenge was application to a surface temperature of 90°C which was no issue for Seal for Life's approved Corrosion under Insulation (CUI) system: STOPAQ Wrappingband CZHT and STOPAQ Outerwrap HTPP. The client also ended up achieving additional time in the work area due to the reduction in noise produced by the pipes. Previously shifts only lasted 15 minutes without special hearing protection, and shifts now last 4 hours, thus extending working time and increasing safety.

### Serimax in the Thai Rice Fields

Serimax has won its first onshore contract for landlines in Thailand, covering welding operations on the PPT's 5TP2

project (5<sup>th</sup> Transmission Pipeline - Phase 2). IBC Industrial Co. Ltd. is the main contractor for the construction of the 42" diameter pipeline running over 200 km. The pipeline is intended to reinforce the network of Thailand's national gas company, PTT, in the country's eastern and central areas. In particular, it aims to improve the gas supply to power plants in the region to support the growing demand for electricity. It will transport liquefied natural gas (LNG) from PTT terminals. Two key elements have made the difference and ensured the project's success i.e. better productivity than that offered by other technologies, and a higher level of quality, not affected by the speed of the process, with very good repair rates.



The construction of the pipeline, passing through the rice fields, presents welding challenges due to extreme climatic conditions, combining heat and heavy rainfall, as well as the muddy natural environment of the rice fields. This project has witnessed the reliability of Serimax's complete solution of automatic welding including a strong bevelling machine, internal line-up clamps and the robust Saturnax system that offers the capacity to weld from "root" pass to the "cap" pass with one single piece of equipment. Compared to manual or semi-automatic welding processes, the reduction in the number of units of equipment and therefore the number of operators required on site, saves time and money for the client.

### **SICIM Expands its Business in North America**

With the launch of the construction of a section of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project (200 km oil pipeline, in British Columbia, Canada), SICIM actively pursues a strategic plan to engage with North America's leading infrastructure companies. Expansion in Canada is underpinned by the recent acquisition of the subsidiary SICIM Canada Ltd in association with Steel River Group. The new contract consists of a 20" urban pipeline replacement, associated to a gas link in Calgary. The "Northwest Calgary Connector" is owned by ATCO Group – Natural Gas Division (a



corporation which delivers and transports natural gas throughout the region of Alberta) and construction is scheduled to begin at the end of 2020. It is a challenging job, in an urban environment featuring special sections and highly complex trenchless works. The growth plans for SICIM Canada are ambitious, targeting opportunities with historic clients, such as TransCanada (now TC Energy), and new prospects, such as Fortis BC Energy and Pembina, that deliver natural gas and electricity to customers in British Columbia. In addition to extensively mobilising property construction equipment and their own welding system, SICIM is fostering partnerships with key Canadian players, aspiring to generate value through a genuine culture of team work and sustainability.

### **Consortium Including Max Streicher S.p.A. Builds Complex DN56" TAP Interconnection**

A connection line between the TAP (Trans Adriatic Pipeline) receiving terminal in Melendugno and the Matagiola node in Brindisi, southern Italy, will provide a link to the national network. SNAM Rete Gas (SRG) had entrusted the construction of this DN56" 43 km long pipeline to a consortium consisting of Max Streicher S.p.A., ICOP S.p.A. and Ediltunnel S.p.A. The pipeline,





designed for a pressure of 75 bar, was completed ahead of schedule in October this year, despite numerous challenges, such as the reduced width of RoW (16 m) due to the presence of large numbers of olive trees that could not be removed, the rocky subsoil, the salty groundwater and resistance to TAP and construction measures. The construction of the pipeline was carried out from north to south, and therefore in the opposite direction to the gas flow, due to the availability of the work areas. Streicher was involved in the project for all construction activities related to the pipeline and the three ball valve stations as well as the starting plant including the launching trap. The two consortium partners ICOP and Ediltunnel were involved in the execution of 38 trenchless crossings. In both lots, 27 borehole crossings, eight micro tunnels (up to 1.035 metres in length) and three Direct Pipe crossings were carried out.

### TDC International Takes Part in Baltic Pipe Project

The Baltic Pipe Project is a strategic gas infrastructure project with the goal of creating a new gas supply corridor in the European market. It consists of 5 major components, comprising both onshore and offshore sections in Denmark and Poland. TDC International (TDC) was first appointed in September 2019 by Energinet, the Danish gas and electricity transmissions system operator, to be the mechanical protection supplier in the onshore Denmark section of the project. Energinet specified a homogenous GRP mechanical protection system for both line pipe coating and field joint coating in their technical tender documents, particularly for all sections requiring trenchless installations. As part of the procurement structure on this project, Energinet requested that the steel pipe providers deliver fully coated pipes as their finished products, in accordance with the coating technical specifications. Hence, TDC cooperated and worked constructively with various steel pipe manufacturers tendering for the project. To date, TDC has coated over 7km



of sizes DN 750, DN 900 and DN 1000 pipes with its 5 mm pau wrap® TL GRP system, in the factory. TDC has also gone on site to Denmark for the coating of the field joints with its pau wrap® FJC GRP system.

### Techfem Designs Pipelines in Support of Climate-neutral Objectives



Following the presentation by the European Commission of the European Green Deal, Techfem has been entrusted by public and privately-owned clients to develop at varying degrees pipeline transmission systems designed to further the transition to clean energies.

In 2020 Techfem commenced design works for four pipeline projects developed by as many operators in southern Europe, all instrumental in the pursuit of climate-neutrality targets. The basic and detailed engineering of two hydrogen-compliant high-pressure pipeline systems in central and southern Italy, each longer than 100 km, inaugurates the transformation of the Italian national grid into an infrastructure ready for hydrogen distribution. A feasibility study of a dual use H<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> interconnector between Malta and Italy will help define the national energy and climate plan. A pre-FEED of a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline pilot project will shape a major CCUS programme in the Adriatic Sea. Lastly, Techfem was recently awarded, by a leading European TSO, a multi-year frame agreement for the design and construction supervision of high complexity, hydrogen-ready pipelines on Italian territory. From waste valorisation to energy recovery, Techfem is even more committed to the research and implementation of new technologies aimed at achieving the Green Deal targets.

### Project of the Year Award to TANAP

The TANAP (Trans Anatolian Pipeline Project) has been given the 'Project of the Year' award by the Project Management Institute (PMI) for its focus on quality, as



well as social, economic and cultural values. Tekfen Construction was the contractor of Lot 3 and the compressor and metering stations of the pipeline. As an organisation that has been operating in this field for more than 50 years, PMI creates

value for 2.9 million professionals around the world, while rewarding projects that apply high standards in their project management processes, achieve superior organisational results, and have positive results on society. This award recognises and promotes excellence in project standards, programme and portfolio management.



### Vacuworx Recognised as 2020 Manufacturer of the Year

The Oklahoma district of the U.S. Small Business Administration has named Vacuworx the 2020 Manufacturer of the Year as part of National Small Business Week (NSBW). For more than 50 years, the U.S. Small Business Administration has celebrated NSBW,



recognising the contributions and successes of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. Vacuworx, a global leader in vacuum lifting technology, has been engaged in manufacturing and exporting heavy-duty material handling systems since its establishment in 1999. The company, which celebrated 21 years of industry building accomplishments this year, was founded with the simple goal of engineering a better, safer way to handle pipe in the field for the oil and gas sector. After winning the Tulsa Regional Chamber's 2019 Manufacturer of the Year award, Vacuworx was eligible for consideration at the state level through the Oklahoma district of the U.S. Small Business Association. Nominees were evaluated based on several criteria including an increase in sales or profits, growth in employment and maintaining exportation to overseas markets. Businesses were also judged on effective solutions to overcome market-entry and logistical challenges, and for their support of small businesses entering the export arena.

### Zakhem and Nigeria's Longest Gas Pipeline



In line with the present administration's policy to deliver infrastructure to boost the economy and improve oil production capacity plus increase the supply of electricity, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has completed the construction of Escravos-Lagos pipeline project phase 2 (36'x342km), for immediate transmission of gas to power stations in the country. The project delivered to the NNPC by the contractor, Zakhem Construction Nigeria Limited, is a major gas pipeline that has the capacity to serve many power stations within the south west region that until now had lacked natural gas. The EPC contract executed by Zakhem will empower some of the major off-takers of gas routed through this line, like Egbin Power, Ikeja Industrial Area (with Gaslink as a major off-taker). Other beneficiaries include industries and factories located within the region and around Lagos and Ogun states, and Dangote Refinery and Petrochemicals.



# 2020 IPLOCA Awards

The IPLOCA awards are intended to reward those companies that are in the lead in their search for excellence. The winners and runners-up for three awards were announced at the Annual General Meeting held in Geneva on 22 October. The winners will be presented with their trophies at the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to be held in Prague in September 2021. The list of submissions received and further information on the entries is available on our website at: [www.iploca.com/awards](http://www.iploca.com/awards).



## Environmental Award

sponsored by Shell

The award is presented every second year in recognition of a significant contribution to reducing the impact of pipeline construction on the environment.

The Environmental Award Adjudication Committee nominated **Spiecapag** as the winner of this award for its “Waste Management Solution”, because it reduces waste that is difficult to dispose of; the solution can be adopted very widely; it can be used in camp management specifications; and it is a win-win solution.

Frédéric Le Masne de Clermont, TAP/Spiecapag Project Environment Manager stated, “I sincerely thank IPLOCA and the jury for this prize which honours Spiecapag. Our experience of working to reduce waste makes us believe that not only is it possible, it is also good for business. This non-hazardous waste (organic food) previously sent to landfill is now reused, recycled or recovered for reinstatement and bio restoration activities over the 215 km pipeline route in Albania. The composting process helps

to protect underground water from becoming polluted compared to the land filling method of waste disposal. Receiving this award is a huge achievement for everyone involved in the Trans Adriatic Pipeline Project in Albania, and for Spiecapag.”



One runner-up was named:

**SICIM S.p.A.**, for its “Oil & Lubricants Saving Distribution System”, an innovative tool that reduces oil spills and promotes a more accurate usage of oil. (see separate article for further details)

*Editor’s note: in the list of entries received for this award published in IPLOCA Newsletter no. 84, TANAP should have featured along with the six other joint entry member company names.*



## IPLOCA Health and Safety Award

sponsored by Chevron

The award recognises members’ initiatives aimed at improving health and safety in the pipeline industry.

The Adjudication Committee nominated **Tekfen Construction and Installation Co., Inc.** (Tekfen) as the winner of this year’s award, for its “Hazard Hunting Headquarters Practical Training (3H)”. The reasons for this nomination were that it puts the person in a

hazardous situation without exposing them to any danger; it is a major step forward from desktop training to a realistic situation; it is a fun way of giving training, and it is fast and efficient. Tekfen believes that effective on-site safety training is essential to increasing the awareness of employees and reinforcing safety behaviour. Studies have shown that practical training, where physical activities are carried out rather than listening to a lecture, helps employees to gain a better understanding of the safety hazards. Practical on-site training helps to create a sense of accomplishment, enforcing greater discipline, and



improving communication and critical thinking skills, which all have a positive effect on productivity.

A practical training site named 'Hazard Hunting Headquarters' was specially created in an area larger than 1000 m2 at one of the company's projects in Turkey. Tekfen allocated 100% of required resources to this HSE Best Practice after studying the required materials, tools, and budget. The value added by 3H was that all employees who received theoretical HSE induction training have consolidated their knowledge at the practical training area via hands-on training methods.

Hazards that are frequently seen at the site are presented at 3H. The risks posed by unsafe acts and conditions, and the measures to be taken against them are explained to the employees through practical exercises, such as hazard identification, working at height, scaffolding safety, confined spaces, excavation, lifting gear and accessories, electrical safety, grinding, hand tools, manual handling, correct use of PPE, etc.

The post 3H training exams resulted in an average success rate of 94/100 in HSE courses which is higher than in similar Tekfen projects (82/100). With the help of 3H, 5,000,000 working hours without Lost Time Incidents was also achieved on the project. In addition to this, since priority was given to the local community during the project's recruitment process, many local people who were involved in practical trainings gained a professional understanding of Occupational Health and Safety.

Task supervisors, as well as trainers, conducted hands-on training for their crew members about specific task related hazards. Efficiency of hazard identification training was seemingly increased by the contribution of supervisors, developing a teacher-student relationship between crew members and their supervisors. Tekfen's HSE Director, Mustafa Aslan, stated that "3H is

not only continuing to add value to Tekfen's construction projects, but it also gives our employees good news to share, such as Tekfen, a proud member of IPLOCA, receiving the 2020 IPLOCA Health and Safety Award sponsored by Chevron. Tekfen also appreciates the opportunity to share this best HSE practice in detail with other members of the association."

The runners-up were:

**SICIM S.p.A.**, for its "Flying Washing Basket", a safe approach to cleaning heavy and large equipment while reducing the hazards of having to climb. (see article on next page for further details)

**Spiecapag**, for its "Pipeline Safety Application" which is an innovative solution for risk assessment resulting in increased usage of JSA (Job Safety Analysis) and hazard reporting.

Tom Marks, Spiecapag's Australia QHSE Manager explained, "Over recent years Spiecapag has increased its safety focus by equipping each individual in our workforce with the necessary tools, empowering them to undertake every task in a safe and well planned manner. This started with providing individuals with the SLAM Report (Stop, Look, Assess and Manage), a means of doing a personal risk assessment and hazard report to communicate any risks seen on the job. The company wasn't happy with the lag time between the report being produced, being received and analysed and then actioned by the safety team; this lag was attributed to the linear nature of pipelines with crews spread over large distances."

He continued that Spiecapag had recently had success with digitising its quality reporting into its in-house Pipetracker and it was agreed to take the same approach to safety. The app was developed based on existing report templates with the flexibility to add focused questions relating to project specific risks. The app was then rolled out in Android and IOS versions. There was, however, some initial reluctance to change. This was expected and dealt with by ensuring issues were actioned immediately and with the safety team using the tool as a conversation point during site inspections. Since they can retrieve the log of actions for the crew on a tablet it allowed them to discuss issues and coach with real data.

Finally Tom concluded, "The pipeline app features will continue to evolve in line with our safety philosophy; the latest addition (2019) being a plant/vehicle specific pre-start inspection that requires barcodes to be scanned to demonstrate a full vehicle walk around has been completed."





## IPLOCA Excellence in Project Execution Award

This award is given in recognition of an outstanding project execution in onshore or offshore pipeline, or facilities construction.

The Adjudication Committee decided to present the award to **Denys NV** for its Bergsche Maas Project, for the following reasons:

- it proved to be a challenging project with many technical difficulties;

- it describes an innovative method that had to be put in place to provide negative buoyancy to large diameter pipe; and,
- it executed a very challenging push-pull operation to successfully install three high diameter pipes tied together.

One runner-up was selected:

**SICIM S.p.A.** for the Sur de Texas Project, Mexico. High safety standards and environmental control measures were put in place to successfully execute this project. (see below for further details)

## SICIM Named Runner-up For All Three 2020 IPLOCA Awards



Upon receiving these nominations SICIM's General Manager, Leonardo Gravina, stated "Our gratitude goes to our people, whose work and commitment allows SICIM to be at the highest levels in the world in terms of health, safety, quality and environmental performance."

The first nomination was for the **2020 IPLOCA Health and Safety Award**, for SICIM's "Flying Washing Basket". Regular cleaning of equipment is sometimes an undervalued chore even though it is of primary importance to ensuring equipment lasts longer. On the other hand, it is a source of multiple hazards. This is why SICIM developed and started to use the Flying Washing Basket to ensure safe washing operations of all the heavy machinery used for its activities. The basket allows the operator to easily reach every element of the main equipment used, performing a 360° flight all around it.

SICIM was runner-up for the **2020 IPLOCA Environmental Award** for its "Oil & Lubricants Saving Distribution

System". This interesting solution enables the operator to determine the exact quantities of oil and lubricant used for equipment maintenance. It ensures the optimal use of oils and lubricants and allows for clean workstations reducing leaks and spillages during refuelling and repairs. In addition to that, the system also has a positive impact on reduced manual handling and overall represents another step in SICIM's path towards eco-friendly pipeline construction.

Finally, SICIM was nominated as runner-up for the **2020 IPLOCA Excellence in Project Execution Award** for its contribution to the execution of the Sur de Texas Project (Mexico). The company stated that this project was very challenging for many reasons: logistics (limited access to the site due to morphological and regulatory factors), technology (unconventional pipe laying, extensive use of trenchless techniques, welding of heavy wall pipes, handling of pipe string and onshore/offshore interface) and environment (preservation, conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, lagoons, sensitive areas, mangrove ecosystem, seaside and other associated constraints).

### Submissions for 2020

Thank you to all those who participated in the 2020 awards. We encourage all members to prepare and submit entries for 2021, which, in addition to the IPLOCA Health & Safety Award sponsored by Chevron, will include the IPLOCA Corporate Social Responsibility Award sponsored by Total, and the IPLOCA New Technologies Award sponsored by BP.

Submissions are required by **May 2021** and further information will be available on [www.iploca.com](http://www.iploca.com).

# Health, Safety, the Environment & CSR

## Developing Safety Culture to Improve Safety Performance

During the IPLOCA Safety Leadership Training Session conducted on 20 October in Geneva, initiated by IPLOCA Executive Secretary, Juan Arzuaga, and approved by the IPLOCA HSE Committee, all participants interacted with quality discussions which in turn fostered a collaborative atmosphere throughout the day.

The themes covered were: how to better promote a safety culture with positive mindsets & behaviours; demonstrating leadership with exemplarity and visible commitments; reinforcing employees' safety rewards and recognition; focusing on employees' safety behaviour practices; ensuring managers understand their safety responsibilities with dedicated safety leadership training programmes; and regularly monitoring safety performance reviews.

Plenary, webinar/group exercises took place during the seminar led by Nicolas Brocherieux, Account Manager & Senior Consultant from DuPont Sustainable Solutions; with all participants openly and enthusiastically sharing their own experiences and convictions, as well as their concerns and improvements needed to reinforce a safety culture and obtain sustainable safety improvements.

New safety leadership initiatives and commitments were shared actively by the various companies' senior directors and managers, including important key success factors to reinforce safety culture and safety leadership capabilities:

- ✓ Performing **effective communication** with new ways to communicate to employees, providing employees **rewards & recognition**



## New Member of the HSE & CSR Committee

The HSE & CSR Committee has warmly welcomed its newest member, Giovanni Rivas from Bonatti S.p.A.



Stefano Protagene, Chief Commercial Officer, said, "We are glad to share Bonatti's experiences around the world with the IPLOCA's HSE & CSR Committee. Giovanni is a senior HSE manager. He joined Bonatti in 2016 after many years as HSE Country Manager for ENI in several countries; I am sure that his background and know-how will be useful for IPLOCA and all its members." Giovanni is currently responsible for HSE and special initiatives, covering behaviour based safety, leadership in safety programmes, safety & leadership coaching of supervisors, reporting and statistical analysis, audits and compliance, CSR: sustainable development, environmental management plans, biodiversity action plans and he is an alien invasive species specialist.

- ✓ Ensuring **monthly safety performance reviews** to drive continuous improvement, actively involving managers
- ✓ Implementing **safety leadership training** for all managers, ensuring managers are completely educated in their roles with clear safety expectations
- ✓ Launching **coaching programmes** for the line and business managers on their safety activities
- ✓ Ensuring management **safety tours and behavioural safety visits** are taking place regularly
- ✓ Taking time for **proper safety induction** in all projects, so that all employees can work safely
- ✓ Fostering further employees' involvement in **safety rituals, safety meetings**
- ✓ Rolling-out **consequence management** in the case of employees' violations of golden rules
- ✓ Focusing attention on closing the incident investigation, capturing **lessons learned** for improvement
- ✓ Including **safety culture initiatives** as key components in all companies' safety roadmaps

Special thanks go to the members of the HSE & CSR Committee who kindly sponsored this event: Mears Group Inc., Pipeline Induction Heat Ltd., RSK Group Plc, Serimax, SICIM S.p.A., Spiecapag, Max Streicher GmbH & Co. KG aA and Tekfen Construction & Installation Co.



# Innovation Committee

## Novel Construction Fall Session



The Fall Novel Construction meeting was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Geneva on Wednesday, 21 and Thursday, 22 October, as an integral part of the specially organised Convention programme.

Those attendees who were unable to travel to the event were able to participate online via video conference. The week also included the Safety Leadership Training Workshop, the IPLOCA Annual General Meeting and Board of Directors meeting. On Wednesday morning, presentations were made by IPLOCA members and invited speakers on their novel products and initiatives

with the aim of improving pipeline design and construction. These included the following topics and speakers:

- **SansOne – Not Just a New Pipelayer**, Marco Laurini and Paolo Garbi, Laurini Officine Meccaniche
- **Fibre Optic Leak Detection and Integrity Monitoring for Pipelines\***, Jose Maria Alvarez, Omnisens SA
- **Earthquakes, Geohazards, and Real-Time Remote Monitoring of Onshore and Offshore Gas Pipelines\***, Prodromos Psarropoulos, National Technical University of Athens
- **New Opportunities for Pipeline Contractors in the Energy Transition Era\*\*** Renzo Chirulli, Vermeer

\* Articles on these initiatives were published in the June 2020 edition of this newsletter.

\*\* An article on this subject follows this report

Copies of all the presentations are available on [www.iploca.com/novelsession](http://www.iploca.com/novelsession). On Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, group work sessions and presentations took place to review existing/new chapters to be completed and new subjects to be developed for “The Road to Success” app. We would like to thank all of those who participated. If you would like to take part in this initiative, please contact the appropriate group leader (see below) or [gregoire.demontmollin@iploca.com](mailto:gregoire.demontmollin@iploca.com).

We look forward to our next session which is planned for **14-15 April 2021** at the Crowne Plaza Athens City Centre, Greece.

Working Groups	Leader (Company)	Email
Health & Safety	Alain Gauthiez (Spiecapag)	<a href="mailto:alain.gauthiez@spiecapag.com">alain.gauthiez@spiecapag.com</a>
Earthworks & Crossings	Diana Rennkamp (Herrenknecht)	<a href="mailto:rennkamp.diana@herrenknecht.de">rennkamp.diana@herrenknecht.de</a>
Steep Slopes Installation	Matt Granger (Ledcor)	<a href="mailto:matt.granger@ledcor.com">matt.granger@ledcor.com</a>
New Trends & Innovation	Mustafa Abusalah (C.C.C.)	<a href="mailto:mabusalah@ccc.net">mabusalah@ccc.net</a>
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## Updates on The Road to Success

### New Collaborative Platform for Novel Working Groups

During the Fall Novel Construction Session, Grégoire de Montmollin announced the launch of the new Road to Success (RTS) Platform specially designed to facilitate updates and further developments of The Road to Success application (app).

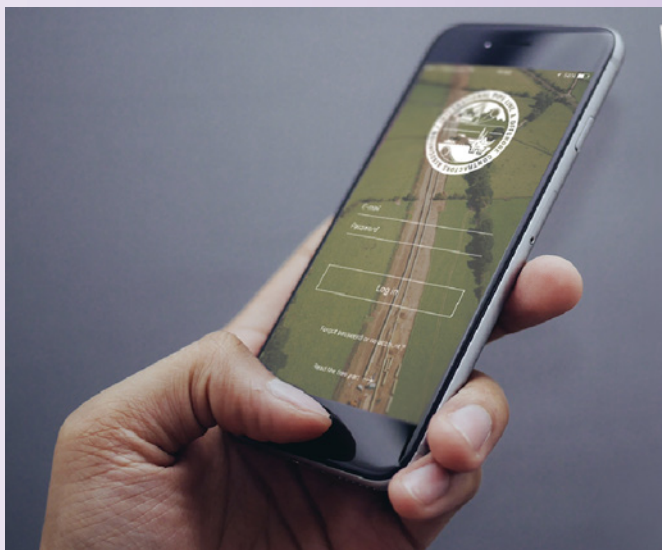
The platform is now available to all our Novel working group members. To log in to the platform please go to <https://rts-iploca.com> and use your IPLOCA member company email address with the password **rtsPWD2020**. The “ready to publish” chapters provided by the Novel working groups have been added to the platform and are now included in The Road to Success application. The chapters still “in edition” can be edited by the different working groups.

For those members who were used to working on the old wiki, these are the key advantages of the new RTS platform:

- When a chapter is published on the app, there are no more issues with the font of the text or the size of images – there is only one format for all elements
- The platform is very user-friendly – it is no longer necessary to write or edit a chapter in a Word document
- Publication of a chapter on the app is fast and efficient

- Chapters that have been published on the app can be edited at any time
- It is now possible to download a whole chapter as a pdf document directly from the platform

We strongly encourage all those involved in Novel working groups to log in to this platform in order to familiarise yourself with it and start using it.



### **The Road to Success App (Update)**

**If you have not done so yet, please download the Road to Success application from the App Store or Google Play Store.**

If you already have the app, the next time you connect you will receive a notification asking you to download the update to be able to view all the chapters which have recently been added. To connect to the app please use your IPLOCA member company email address and the password **RtS2017**. For more information regarding the platform or if you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact Grégoire de Montmollin, [gregoire.demontmollin@iploca.com](mailto:gregoire.demontmollin@iploca.com)

## **New Opportunities for Pipeline Contractors in the Energy Transition Era**

**Renzo Chirulli, Applications Specialist Pipeline, and René Albert, Senior Applications Engineer Specialty Excavation, Vermeer EMEA**

The world is changing. Actually, it never stopped changing. The pipeline construction industry is changing too, and the main driver is the transition process towards a climate-neutral human society. Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change and intelligence must drive strategies and actions to adapt to a changing world. The so-called clean energy transition is leading to a profound change in the way we transport and use energy. Decarbonisation, renewables, e-fuels, hydrogen, nuclear fusion and methanol economy are just some of the new keywords replacing fossil fuels, which has driven the worldwide economy and geopolitics for decades.

The COVID-19 pandemic is acting as a dramatic accelerator for this transition process. The official strategy of the European Union (EU)\*, to be climate neutral by 2050, offers

an interesting and detailed overview of the processes which are driving the change in Europe, making the European Union the leading block in the fight against climate change. The strongest statement in the EU strategy is, “The status quo is not an option,” which results in seven main strategic building blocks, where many opportunities for pipeline contractors can be identified.

EU import of fossil fuels will drop by 70% by 2050 (from EUR 266B to 80B); its dependency on energy imports will go from 55% in 2018 to 20% in 2050. Electricity production will increase by a factor of 2.5 and more than 80% of electricity will come from renewable energy sources. The deployment of renewables and the use of electricity to fully decarbonise Europe’s energy supply already calls for the installation of a massive quantity of high/medium voltage power cables. Pipeline contractors potentially have the technical capability and expertise to include this segment of activity in their portfolio - and Vermeer can be an ideal partner to make this process effective.





Another great opportunity arises from the need to develop an adequate smart network infrastructure and interconnections, and specifically pipelines for hydrogen (green and blue H). Biomass can directly supply heat. It can be transformed into biofuels and biogas and, when cleaned, can be transported through the gas grid substituting natural gas. This results in the need to keep the existing natural gas infrastructure and expand it. And finally, carbon capture and storage (CCS) is still necessary, especially in energy-intensive industries and in the transitional phase for the production of carbon-free hydrogen (blue hydrogen). CCS requires new infrastructure to transport and store carbon dioxide. As a leading machinery manufacturer, Vermeer offers a wide and optimised range of machines

that cover most of the applications related to the strategy to become climate neutral. Biomass production, right-of-way clearing, levelling, mechanised trenching and trenchless technologies are some of the applications where Vermeer machines can be effectively used, helping pipeline contractors to diversify their applications portfolio.

We are confident that the future is full of new opportunities!

*\* Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, The European Council, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee, The Committee of Regions and the European Investment Bank, Brussels, Nov. 28, 2018 - COM(2018) 773 final.*

## Regional Meetings

**Regional Meetings are organised biennially in each IPLOCA region. The regional approach allows participants to engage at the local level and discuss common issues and concerns, fulfilling the following purposes:**

- To give members a chance to express their ideas/needs for IPLOCA
- To meet and discuss common challenges
- To provide an update on IPLOCA's objectives
- To review new technologies
- To capitalise on success stories
- To review and discuss issues affecting the industry

During 2020 it was not possible to hold the Regional Meetings as originally planned and as such they have been reorganised as follows:

- **Europe Eastern:** Baku (Azerbaijan) 16 March 2022
- **East & Far East:** Hong Kong (date to be defined)
- **Latin America:** Argentina (date to be defined)
- **Europe Mediterranean:** Bordeaux, France (date to be defined)

For further information on these meetings as they are confirmed, please visit [www.iploca.com](http://www.iploca.com).

The IPLOCA Board of Directors is considering holding upcoming Regional Meetings online, enabling members and local companies to connect and discuss common objectives and upcoming projects. This would provide continuity until global pandemic travel restrictions are lifted. If you would like to host a Regional Meeting or have any suggestions or ideas you would like to share with IPLOCA, send an email to [jacqueline.tempel@iploca.com](mailto:jacqueline.tempel@iploca.com).

# Upcoming Events

2021

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

## DCA 60<sup>th</sup> Convention

2-6 March – Scottsdale, AZ, U.S.A.

[www.dcaweb.org](http://www.dcaweb.org)

## PIG

The Pipeline Industries Guild 64<sup>th</sup> Annual National Dinner

9 March – London, U.K.

[www.pipguild.com](http://www.pipguild.com)

## Pipeline Technology Conference

15-18 March – Berlin, Germany

[www.pipeline-conference.com](http://www.pipeline-conference.com)

## PLCA 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention

6-10 April – Nassau, Bahamas

[www.plca.org](http://www.plca.org)

## Hannover Messe

12-16 April – Hannover, Germany

[www.hannovermesse.de](http://www.hannovermesse.de)

## IPLOCA Novel Construction Spring Session

14-15 April – Athens, Greece

[www.iploca.com/novelsession](http://www.iploca.com/novelsession)



## PLCAC 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

16-20 May – Victoria, BC, Canada

[www.pipeline.ca](http://www.pipeline.ca)

## Offshore Technology Conference

16-19 August – Houston, TX, U.S.A.

[2021.otcnet.org](http://2021.otcnet.org)



IPLOCA 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
13-17 September  
Prague, Czech Republic

# In Remembrance



**Gian Pietro Riccardi, Founder and Chairman of SICIM S.p.A., passed away on 8 October at the age of 93.**

Born in 1927 in Parma, in the North of Italy, Gian Pietro moved to Busseto in the early 1940s. After studying accountancy (hence his nickname “Ragioniere”), he started working for a lot of companies involved in civil activities. While working on a number of sections of pipeline near Turin, Gian Pietro realised that it was the perfect time to set up a new company which was efficient, precise, competitive and dedicated exclusively to laying pipelines. It was in 1962 that he decided to give form to that insight and founded SICIM S.p.A., flanked by his wife Carla and his brother Luigi.

Initiative, determination and dynamic business sense set SICIM apart right from the very start and formed the basis of the choices made by its founder. It was in the 1980s that Gian Pietro led SICIM’s growth and market success in laying pipelines of increasingly wider diameters and longer lengths, first in Italy, then in Europe and all over the world, finally reaching new horizons through the development of EPC projects in the oil & gas sector. He was dedicated to his company his whole life. It was a normal occurrence to find him in the office even on Sundays; only the lockdown due to the 2020 pandemic prevented him from working right up to the last day of his life. Supporting Juventus FC was the only distraction he allowed himself. He will be remembered for his simplicity, his passion and his important role in the pipeline industry.

## Important IPLOCA Dates

### Member News for IPLOCA March Newsletter

29 January – Deadline for submissions

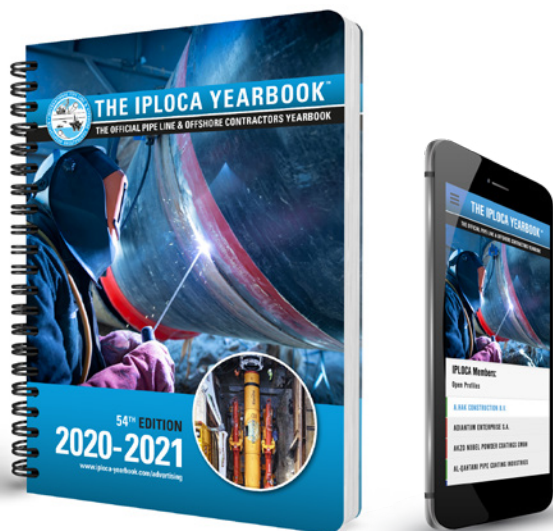
[newsletter@iploca.com](mailto:newsletter@iploca.com)

### Member News for IPLOCA June Newsletter

30 April – Deadline for submissions

[newsletter@iploca.com](mailto:newsletter@iploca.com)





The IPLOCA Yearbook is available in hardcopy and a quarterly updated version can also be accessed on your mobile phone at [mobile.iploca-yearbook.com](http://mobile.iploca-yearbook.com).

Do not hesitate to send us the addresses of the persons to whom you wish us to send a copy of the IPLOCA Yearbook. Additional printed copies can be obtained on request from [www.iploca-yearbook.com](http://www.iploca-yearbook.com).

We are confident this edition will meet your expectations again but we always welcome and appreciate your feedback and suggestions. Please continue to send any company updates to [listing@iploca-yearbook.com](mailto:listing@iploca-yearbook.com) and be sure to also send a copy to [sebastien.goetschmann@iploca.com](mailto:sebastien.goetschmann@iploca.com). In this way we will be able to update all our mailing lists and the membership database.

We wish all our readers a joyful, festive season with the prospect of a safe and healthy New Year.

Peter Schoonenberg  
**Publisher IPLOCA Yearbook**  
 Pedemex B.V.

## IPLOCA Yearbook 2020-2021

At the end of November the 54<sup>th</sup> edition of the IPLOCA Yearbook was distributed worldwide to the desks and in the field offices of pipeline companies.

### IPLOCA Media Partners

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2020-2021

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*This responsibility, demonstrated by all,* has allowed us to build a bridge towards the future and, thanks to everyone's contribution, we will succeed in the difficult endeavor **to overcome also this challenge.**







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