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September 2026

IPLOCA Newsletter



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IPLOCA Mission

IPLOCA's mission is to support the delivery of sustainable energy infrastructure, including pipeline construction, by providing a forum for sharing knowledge globally, facilitating business opportunities and innovation, and promoting the highest standards in business ethics, as well as in health, safety, the environment, and corporate social responsibility.

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IPLOCA Newsletter

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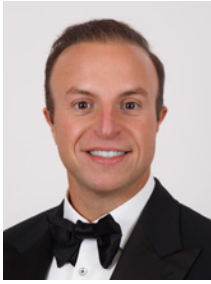
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Letter from the President



Dear IPLOCA Members and Friends,

As we approach our 58th Annual Convention in Athens and celebrate IPLOCA's 60th anniversary, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an active and rewarding year for our Association. The convention will also mark the conclusion of my term as President and the transition of leadership to Bill Solomon.

Over the past year, IPLOCA has continued to bring members together through a successful programme of events, including the North America Regional Meeting in Houston, the Europe Mediterranean Regional Meeting in Paris, and the Novel Construction Spring Session in Mallorca. Participation across our events has remained strong, highlighting the continued importance of collaboration, knowledge sharing and networking within our industry.

One of the highlights of the year for me was the inaugural NextGen Day in Mallorca, which brought together 16 young professionals from across our membership. The quality of engagement, discussion and interaction throughout the day exceeded expectations and reinforced the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for the next generation of industry leaders.

I would also like to congratulate the recipients of the 2026 IPLOCA Scholarships. The quality of applications received this year was exceptionally high, making the selection process a challenging one. The winners should be proud of their achievement, which reflects not only academic excellence but also leadership potential, commitment and determination.

Looking ahead, Athens promises to be a memorable gathering as we celebrate six decades of IPLOCA while focusing firmly on the future of our industry. Our business programme will explore some of the most important topics shaping the years ahead, including artificial intelligence and technological disruption, the evolving energy landscape, sustainability, hydrogen infrastructure, and the skills and workforce needed to meet future challenges.

Our activities will continue well beyond the convention. On **27 October 2026**, we will hold a dedicated **NextGen Day** in Vienna, building on the success of the inaugural event held in Mallorca earlier this year. This will be followed by the combined **HSE Workshop and Novel Construction Fall Session on 28-29 October 2026**, providing further opportunities for members to network and exchange knowledge.

As my presidency draws to a close, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported me throughout this journey. To our members, thank you for your engagement, ideas and friendship. To the Board of Directors, thank you for your guidance, trust and dedication. And to Georges Hage and the entire IPLOCA team, thank you for your professionalism, commitment and tireless work behind the scenes. Much of what IPLOCA achieves would simply not be possible without you.

In Athens, I will have the pleasure of passing the presidential chain to Bill Solomon. Bill brings extensive industry experience, sound judgement, and a genuine warmth that has earned him the respect and friendship of so many across our Association. I know IPLOCA will be in excellent hands, and I look forward to supporting him as he leads the Association into its next chapter.

It has been a great honour to serve as President of IPLOCA. As the youngest President in the Association's history, I have felt a strong responsibility to represent our members to the very best of my ability while encouraging greater involvement from the next generation of industry leaders. The role has given me a tremendous sense of pride and purpose, and I hope that I have lived up to the expectations of our membership while contributing positively to the continued growth and success of our Association.

People often ask what makes IPLOCA special. My answer is simple: it is an organisation where competitors become colleagues, colleagues become friends, and friendships often last a lifetime.

Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as your President and I look forward to welcoming you all in Athens.

Warm regards,



Saji Khoury

IPLOCA President 2025-2026

News from Geneva

2026 IPLOCA Europe Mediterranean Regional Meeting, Paris, 17 June 2026



This exceptional gathering was especially meaningful as it marked IPLOCA's 60th anniversary in Paris, the city where the Association was founded in June 1966.

The meeting proved to be a great success, bringing together leaders and experts in energy infrastructure from across Europe and beyond. Participants engaged in insightful discussions on industry challenges and opportunities, exchanged best practices, and strengthened valuable professional networks.

With 130 participants representing 91 companies, the event reflected strong international engagement and

excellent attendance. The 11 speakers were outstanding and delivered inspiring presentations. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with high levels of satisfaction reported regarding the quality of the programme, the relevance of the topics, and the overall organisation of the meeting.

Overall, the 2026 Europe Mediterranean Regional Meeting stood out as an outstanding edition, reinforcing IPLOCA's role as a key platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing within the industry.

We invite you to visit our website via the link below to access the presentations from the [IPLOCA Europe Mediterranean Regional Meeting](#)- IPLOCA and revisit the key insights shared during the event.



In Memoriam



Andy Lukas

**IPLOCA President 2006–2007,
Honorary Member 2019**

**IPLOCA and the pipeline industry
have lost one of its most respected
leaders with the passing of
Andy Lukas on 19 June 2026.**

A distinguished industry professional and former executive of A.J. Lucas Group, Andy dedicated much of his career to advancing pipeline construction and horizontal directional drilling technologies. His leadership, vision, and commitment to

excellence earned him the respect of colleagues across the globe. Andy served on the IPLOCA Board of Directors for eight years and led the Association as President in 2006–2007. In recognition of his exceptional contributions to IPLOCA and the pipeline industry, he was appointed an Honorary Member in 2019.

Andy will be remembered not only for his professional achievements but also for his friendship, generosity, and unwavering support of the IPLOCA community.

Our sincere condolences go to his family, friends, and colleagues. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of pipeline professionals.



Board Meeting Update

18-19 June 2026, Paris, France

The following summarises the key discussions and decisions from the meeting.

Opening Remarks by the President

Saji Khoury, ILOCA Board of Directors President, opened the meeting and thanked Georges Hage and Bruno Pomaré for organising the Paris Regional Meeting. He noted that the event had received very positive feedback, with attendance exceeding expectations, speakers being well received, and strong engagement from participants reflected through the many questions raised during the sessions.

Safety moment

Giovanni Muriana, HSE & CSR Committee Chair, delivered the safety moment, reminding all participants to stay safe while moving around Paris and to carry their passport, or at least a photo of it, during excursions.

Annual Convention - Athens Convention, 28 September – 2 October 2026

ILOCA Executive Director Georges Hage updated the Board on the convention registration, the number of attendees at the date of the meeting, the selections of the outstanding speakers, the sponsorship and the budget. G. Hage also presented the updated agenda for OGM & AGM.

Elections and Duties of the Board members

G. Hage informed the Board that a mass email regarding the call for candidatures has been sent on 11 June, with reminders to follow in mid-July and beginning of August. He reminded the Board that the deadline for candidatures is 15 August.

Status of the awards

G. Hage reminded the Board that this year six awards will be presented at the Athens Convention and announce the

number of the submissions per award:

- Health & Safety Award: 9 submissions
- Corporate Social Responsibility Award: 8 submissions
- Quality Award: 3 submissions
- Environmental Award: 7 submissions
- New Technologies Award: 9 submissions
- Excellent in Project Execution Award: 9 submissions

HSE & CSR Committee

Giovanni Muriana, Chair of the HSE & CSR Committee, updated the Board on the Committee's activities. He welcomed a new committee member from Techint and reported that, as of 6 June 2026, 10 of 73 Regular Members (14%) had not submitted their HSE statistics, with most non-compliance linked to member engagement rather than unpaid membership fees. He outlined the 2026 meeting schedule, highlighting the HSE & CSR Workshop on 28 October in Vienna, which will focus on the five key risks and critical controls to address before project start-up through interactive group sessions. He also presented several ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening HSE performance and member engagement, including an incentive scheme, improvements to the Shared Experiences Platform, a new procedure for HSE award categories, a near-miss reporting campaign, enhanced validation of HSE statistics, regular safety alert presentations, and quarterly sharing of safety lessons learned.

Scholarship Committee

Saji Khoury, Chair of the Scholarship Programme, thanked the committee members for their support in evaluating applications. He reported that 118 applications were received from seven global regions, with an almost equal gender split and an overall average score of 71.2. The highest number of applications came from the Middle East & Africa, North



IPLOCA Board of Directors and spouses visit Versailles

America, and Europe Mediterranean regions, while no applications were received from Latin America. Fourteen scholarships were awarded. S. Khoury also thanked Nesma & Partners for sponsoring two additional scholarships. The reviewers noted a significant improvement in the quality of applications, attributing this to the revised, more user-friendly application form.

Innovation Committee

Somaieh Salehpour, Chair of the Innovation Committee, presented updates on the Novel Construction Initiative and related activities. The Spring Session in Mallorca attracted 80 participants and included 12 presentations, despite initial concerns regarding the location. The next Novel Construction Session is scheduled for 28–29 October 2026 in Vienna. She highlighted that Group 3 (Standards & Compliance) in Novel, will act as a “mobile” group, supporting all other groups to facilitate collaboration and prevent duplication of efforts. Jason LaValley also provided an update on the “Pipeline Pioneers” comic book initiative, confirming that Chapter 2 has been released in multiple languages and that work is underway on Chapter 3. The objective is to publish one new chapter annually and include it in convention registration bags.

Energy Transition Committee

Alejandro Maluf, Chair of the Energy Transition Committee and Matthew Westphal, member of the Committee, presented the Energy Transition Committee report. The Committee’s role is to monitor energy transition developments and provide relevant market intelligence to IPLOCA members through regional working groups covering key areas such as e-Ammonia, e-Methanol, e-SAF, low-carbon hydrogen, renewable fuels, and carbon capture. The Committee is seeking new members, particularly for the US & Canada working group, and welcomes interested

Board members. They reported on ongoing activities, including the restructuring of the Committee and workstreams, the renewal of the committee webpage, regional Energy Transition News Briefings, and recent newsletter articles. To increase visibility and engagement, the Committee proposed a four-step approach to measure content performance, identify opportunities for wider promotion, amplify relevant content, and continuously improve communication efforts. Future actions include tracking readership statistics, involving NextGen members in working groups, exploring collaboration opportunities with INGAA, and gathering Board feedback on the Energy Transition webpage and NEST platform.

Membership Committee

Marcin Przywara, Chair of the Committee, presented an update on regional structure discussions. Following the Committee’s review on 8 May 2026, members agreed that a complete redefinition of regional boundaries requires further discussion. The preferred approach is to continue handling regional reassignment requests on a case-by-case basis, with the Board making decisions on individual cases as they arise. Michael Fakhoury presented the Ambassador Programme, highlighting the need to increase IPLOCA membership in the East, Middle East & Africa region, which currently represents only 14% of members. With 123 potential members identified in the region, recruitment efforts are needed, with support from Board members. The 2026 membership objective for the Middle East has been achieved, while further focus is required on Australia and China, where IPLOCA currently has limited representation.

NextGen Network

Saji Khoury, Chair of the NextGen Network, reported on the successful inaugural IPLOCA NextGen Day, held in Mallorca in April 2026 ahead of the Novel Construction Spring Session. The event brought together 16 participants for a programme focused on learning, networking, and leadership. Led by Dr. Mustafa Abusalah, the interactive workshop explored leadership, organisational awareness, emotional intelligence, stakeholder management, and teamwork through practical exercises. The day concluded with cultural activities in Palma, and participant feedback was very positive. Looking ahead, the NextGen Network will hold its next event in Vienna in October 2026, alongside the IPLOCA HSE Workshop and Novel Construction Fall Session. To encourage greater participation, first-time NextGen attendees at the Athens Annual Convention will receive a 50% discount on the registration fee.

Treasurer’s Report

Bruno Pomaré, IPLOCA Treasurer presented the 2025 final financial report, the 2025 Auditors report, the second quarter

2026 forecast report, IPLOCA fund and the membership fee status. He mentioned that the auditors' report contained no comments or observations, confirming that we are fully compliant with the applicable requirements and procedures. He also mentioned that 93% of the membership fees are paid as of end of May.

IPLOCA 59th Annual Convention in Washington D.C., USA - 10 to 15 October 2027.

Georges Hage informed the Board that three proposals have been received from Destination Management Companies which are currently under review. The selection

of the DMC will be made following the site visit scheduled for the end of July.

Other conventions

- IPLOCA 60th Annual Convention in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2028 was confirmed.
- IPLOCA 61st Annual Convention in Sydney, Australia in 2029 was confirmed

Regional Meeting

The IPLOCA East & Far East Regional Meeting is scheduled on 2 December in Sydney, Australia.

IPLOCA NextGen Day in Mallorca

A First Step Toward the Future



For the first time, IPLOCA hosted a dedicated NextGen Day, bringing together 16 NextGen members in Mallorca for a focused and inspiring experience designed to foster learning, connection, and forward-thinking leadership.

The day was guided by Dr. Mustafa Abusalah, Group Manager, Project Control Systems and Processes at CCC, who led an engaging and highly interactive workshop centered on leadership, organizational awareness, and the often unseen dynamics that shape decision-making within complex projects. His sessions challenged participants to look beyond formal structures and better understand the human and informal elements that influence outcomes. Among the key themes explored:

- **The "Shadow Organization";** what appears on an organizational chart represents only a fraction of reality; informal networks, alliances, and personal relationships often shape decisions more than formal authority structures
- **Formal vs. Informal Power;** participants examined how

influence flows through both official reporting lines and informal channels built on trust, shared history, and personal connections

- **The "Balcony vs. Dance Floor" Perspective;** effective leadership requires the ability to step back from day-to-day execution, the "dance floor", to observe broader patterns and dynamics, the "balcony", enabling better strategic decisions
- **Emotional Intelligence & Stakeholder Awareness;** understanding emotions, motivations, and unspoken concerns is critical to influencing stakeholders and navigating complex project environments
- **Teamwork & Adaptive Collaboration;** through practical exercises, participants explored trust, communication, agility, and iterative improvement as essential pillars of high-performing teams

Beyond the workshop, the day was equally about building relationships and strengthening the NextGen network.



In the afternoon, participants immersed themselves in the cultural richness of Mallorca with a guided visit to the iconic Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma, La Seu, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture overlooking the Mediterranean. Bathed in light from its magnificent rose window and shaped by centuries of history, the cathedral offered a moment of reflection and inspiration, perfectly complementing the themes of perspective and insight explored earlier in the day.

Building on this momentum, IPLOCA looks forward to hosting the **next NextGen Day in Vienna on 27 October 2026**, just ahead of the IPLOCA HSE Workshop and the Novel Construction Session, continuing to invest in the future of our industry and the leaders who will shape it.

This was followed by a stroll through the vibrant streets of Palma, where history, culture, and modern energy converge, before concluding with a dinner that allowed conversations to continue in a more relaxed and personal setting. It was in these moments, between discussions, shared experiences, and new connections, that the true spirit of NextGen came to life. Participants left the day energized, inspired, and aligned on the importance of continuing such initiatives. The overwhelmingly positive feedback reinforced the value of creating dedicated spaces for the next generation of industry leaders to connect, learn, and grow together.



NextGen Network Update

Saji Khoury, NextGen Network Project Lead, IPLOCA President

Following an active first half of the year, the NextGen Committee has paused its regular calls during the summer holiday period. We look forward to restarting our activities at the beginning of the autumn season and continuing to strengthen engagement across our growing global network.

the success of our inaugural NextGen Day in Mallorca, the Vienna event will once again combine practical leadership development activities, interactive discussions and networking opportunities designed to help participants build both professional and personal connections across the industry.

A major highlight of the upcoming programme will be the **NextGen Day in Vienna on 27 October 2026**, taking place immediately before the IPLOCA HSE Workshop and Novel Construction Fall Session on 28-29 October 2026. Following

The programme will also include a cultural component, providing an opportunity for attendees to experience the host city together and further strengthen the relationships that are at the heart of the NextGen community.

We look forward to welcoming both returning and new participants to Vienna and continuing to build a strong, engaged and internationally connected NextGen network.

IPLOCA 2026 Scholarships

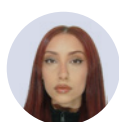
The Scholarship Programme has the goal to assist children and grandchildren of employees of Regular or Associate Members of IPLOCA. It provides financial assistance in order to continue their education in college, university or vocational school programmes in any course of study, based on demonstrated academic achievement & recommendations of instructors.

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 IPLOCA Scholarship Programme. This year, the programme attracted 118 applications from across seven global regions, reflecting the strong interest and high level of talent within the IPLOCA community.

Following a thorough and competitive evaluation process, 14 scholarships were awarded to the highest-ranked candidates in each region, as well as to the top-performing applicants overall. We are proud to continue supporting the academic ambitions of the next generation and contributing to the development of future industry professionals.

We would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Nesma & Partners for their generous support, sponsoring two of this year's scholarships as part of the total awards granted. We congratulate all recipients on their outstanding achievements and look forward to following their academic and professional journeys.

We are proud to present the recipients of the 2026 IPLOCA Scholarships:



Josephine Toscano
Sapienza University of Rome, Organization and Marketing for Corporate Communications
Bonatti S.p.A.



Tuma Daoud
Hanze University of Applied Science, Creative Media and Game Technologies
Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)



Sahana Gade
University of Texas at Austin, Human Development & Family Sciences
Gulf Interstate Engineering Company



Huseyin Emre Ozden
Durham University
Computer Science
ENKA İnşaat ve Sanayi A.Ş.



Chunmin Yu
Beihang University, Master of Science
CPP – China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Co., Ltd.



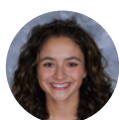
Jack Bendell
University of Southampton,
Maritime Engineering
RSK Group Plc



Zikra Nawaz
Aligarh Muslim University,
Electronics & Communication Engineering
Nesma & Partners Contracting Company



Carlo Bellingeri
Bocconi University,
International Management CEMS
SICIM S.p.A.



Angelina Camardo
Ohio University,
Mechanical Engineering
Lincoln Electric Company



Muhammad Daniyal Niazi
University of Engineering and Technology
Taxila BS Mechanical
The C.A.T. Group of Companies



Mason Fraley
Ferris State University,
Welding Engineering Technology
ITW Welding Products Group



Brendha Ballester Lopez
Florida State University
Political Science
Mears Group Inc.



Ethan Bhavinkumar Gandhi
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Computer Science
Precision Pipeline, LLC



Emily Ford
Florida Institute of Technology,
BS Chemical Engineering
Seal For Life (Henkel)

Membership Centre

New Regular Members



AVI PROD GRUP is a Romanian infrastructure and utility construction company, headquartered in Bucharest. The company specializes in the design and execution of natural gas, water and sewage pipelines, electrical, fiber optic, and road rehabilitation projects for public and private clients. Recognized for delivering reliable and sustainable infrastructure solutions, AVI PROD GRUP is committed to corporate social responsibility, including environmental protection, workplace safety, and community engagement, alongside compliance with internationally recognized quality, environmental, and sustainability standards. The company's key clients include ENGIE, DELGAZ GRID, APA NOVA BUCUREȘTI (Veolia). It also maintains an international presence in Germany and Canada, including through the acquisition of Lambert & Grenier in Québec, and is actively pursuing expansion opportunities in France and the United States infrastructure market.

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MecWide SA is an international engineering, construction and industrial group with Portuguese roots and a global presence. We are 1,500 people representing 35 nationalities, delivering complex multidisciplinary projects across Europe and Africa. We provide integrated solutions throughout the project lifecycle, from engineering and procurement to construction, commissioning and maintenance, serving sectors including energy and renewables, oil and gas, mining and cement, data centres and industry. Through specialised business units, we combine technical expertise with the strength of one group. Guided by safety, reliability and a commitment to people, we create lasting value and always deliver the right solution.

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Pumpco, Inc. has successfully completed a multitude of pipeline projects, including those surpassing 2,000 miles of 42" diameter pipes, alongside smaller-scale and gathering projects. Our customer-focused approach ensures that we customize our services to meet the distinct needs of each pipeline project. Prioritizing safety and environmental compliance, Pumpco is committed to executing projects safely with minimal impact on landowners and the environment. Since 1978, Pumpco has built pipelines that drive growth and ensure energy security across the nation. Our work has created jobs, supported communities, and provided reliable, cost-effective energy solutions. Our clients gain a partner in powering their success while keeping energy costs low for everyone.

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New Associate Members



Bendforce GmbH has developed an industrial technology capable of cold bending EN 253 steel pipes — either pre-insulated or bare steel pipes — from the inside with a radius of Dx40. This patented process represents a major advancement in pipe bending technology by enabling tight-radius bends without heat treatment while preserving pipe integrity and dimensional accuracy. Compared with conventional methods, it reduces ovality, minimizes the need for welded fittings, and simplifies pipeline installation. The technology enables faster, more efficient, and more cost-effective construction of district heating, oil, gas, hydrogen, and other pipeline systems, setting a new benchmark for innovative and sustainable pipeline infrastructure worldwide.

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BM Drilling Mexico SC story traces back to 1996 when the owner, Carsten Brueckner, started his career with Flowtex Germany. After his time with Flowtex, Carsten went on to work for other industry leaders such as Drilltec, Cherrington and Herrenknecht and would eventually become co-owner of JM Drilling in 1999. JM Drilling flourished and in 2018 was acquired by one of the largest Drilling companies in the United States. Even after the successful acquisition of JM drilling, new customers continued to increase and in order to meet market demand, BM drilling services was created. BM Drilling Services is a horizontal directional drilling (HDD) company with more than 30 years of experience, providing skilled manpower, technical expertise, and operational support for HDD projects worldwide.

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New Allied Association

The International Society For Trenchless Technology

Since its establishment in 1986, ISTT has served as the leading

international organization dedicated to the advancement of trenchless technology through education, research, innovation, and the exchange of technical knowledge. Representing a global network of 28 affiliated national trenchless societies serving 40 countries across six continents, ISTT promotes sustainable underground infrastructure solutions that minimize environmental impacts, reduce community disruption, and improve the safety and efficiency of utility and pipeline construction. Numerous IPLOCA members are currently members of their respective ISTT affiliated national societies.

The missions of ISTT and IPLOCA are highly complementary. As the global pipeline industry increasingly adopts trenchless construction methods—including horizontal directional drilling (HDD), microtunneling, pipe jacking, direct pipe, and other advanced installation technologies, the opportunities for collaboration between our organizations continue to grow. Together, we can promote technical excellence, foster innovation, and support the development of best practices that benefit pipeline owners, contractors, engineers, manufacturers, and the broader infrastructure community. ISTT has long recognized the important leadership role that IPLOCA plays in advancing the international pipeline industry through its commitment to safety, innovation, environmental stewardship, and professional development. We believe that closer collaboration between our organizations would strengthen both communities while providing additional value to our respective members.



News from the Membership Committee

Marcin Przywara, Committee Chair

New Challenges and Global Presence: Initiatives of the IPLOCA Membership Committee

In a dynamically changing economic environment, effective communication and flexibility are becoming key factors for the success of the transmission industry. To reach engineers and entrepreneurs from around the world effectively, the IPLOCA Association is currently placing strong emphasis on developing digital information channels. Intensifying activities in social media allows for constant contact with the industry and the efficient construction of an international network of relationships without geographical barriers.

However, industry integration encompasses not only presence in virtual space, but also strengthens cooperation

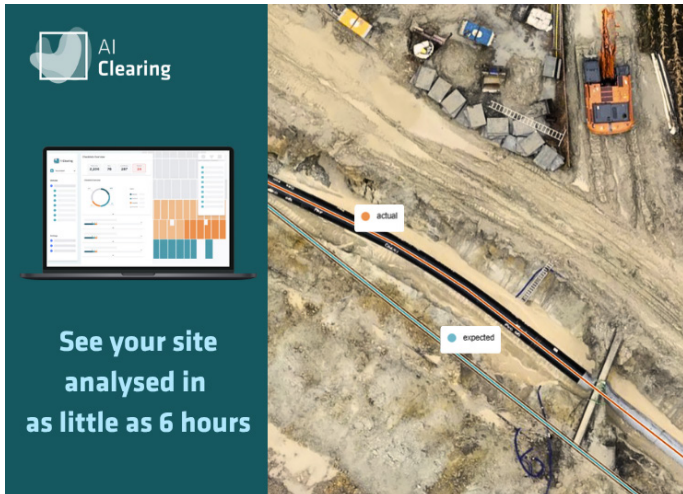
between the onshore and offshore sectors. Combining unique project experience from both areas brings new value to the entire transmission market. With the future of the sector in mind, the organization is also opening up to a new generation of leaders and new, dynamically growing companies. Direct industry contacts remain the steadfast foundation of building relationships.

These activities align with a broad plan to increase the association's presence in regions with high economic potential worldwide. Concurrently, efforts are underway to carry out a comprehensive reform of the internal territorial division. Reviewing existing structures - including the boundaries of European sub-regions shaped by past political developments - aims to better adapt the organization to current geopolitical realities and streamline international cooperation.

All these initiatives point toward a single goal: creating an open, modern business environment that fosters long-term cooperation and stimulates the development of innovative technologies in the global pipeline industry.

Member News

AI Clearing - Delivering Audited Progress Verification on Pipeline Projects



A single pipeline route can generate thousands of data points a week - grading, trenching, welding, backfill - and most of it never reaches the people who need it in time to act. AI Clearing closes that gap, working with pipeline contractors and owners to deliver independent, AI-powered progress verification on projects across Europe, the United States and Middle East. The platform analyzes high-resolution aerial imagery of the full pipeline right-of-way, captured at regular intervals, and compares it directly against the construction plan. It automatically quantifies corridor grading, trenching, soil stockpiling, open trench, and topsoil removal, transforming them into clear percentages of planned, started, and completed work for every activity. In addition to progress verification, the platform identifies construction deficiencies with centimeter-level precision, detects trespassing along the right-of-way, and flags Health, Safety, and Compliance (HSC) risks. This enables project teams to detect missing, incomplete, or safety-critical issues early and address them before they result in costly rework or delays. By providing contractors and owners with the same independently verified view of project progress, AI Clearing creates a single source of truth for assessing completed work, improving quality control, and reducing disputes over progress.

AMPO Arabia Signs Largest Single Order in its History with C.A.T. Group for Aramco's Zuluf Development Project

AMPO POYAM VALVES is proud to announce the signing of its AMPO Arabia manufacturing plant's largest single order to date, under which the company will locally manufacture up to 1,200 highly engineered valves of various types and sizes at its facility in Dammam 2nd Industrial City. This

landmark agreement was signed with C.A.T. Group, a leading international EPC contractor with a strong presence across the Middle East, which has contributed to some of the Kingdom's most significant energy infrastructure achievements. Through this agreement, C.A.T. Group has entrusted AMPO Arabia with the local procurement of these highly engineered valves in support of Aramco's strategic Zuluf development projects. AMPO Arabia is grateful for its customer's trust and confidence in its local manufacturing capabilities. The signing ceremony brought together key representatives from both organizations, including Mr. Ricardos Najm, Managing Director, and Mr. George Mitri, KSA Procurement & Supply Chain Manager, both of C.A.T. Group, alongside Mr. Salah Elkadiki, CEO of AMPO Arabia, Mr. Karthik Ramaraj, AMPO Regional Sales Manager for the Middle East, and the local management team of AMPO Arabia. Zuluf is one of the largest offshore oil fields in the Arabian Gulf, located approximately 40 kilometers off the north-eastern coast of Saudi Arabia. As part of Aramco's ongoing efforts to expand production capacity and strengthen the Kingdom's energy leadership, the Zuluf development program stands as one of the most ambitious offshore initiatives currently underway in the region, targeting a substantial increase in output through the expansion of processing facilities, platforms and associated infrastructure.



AMPO Arabia's role in locally manufacturing the valves required for this project underscores the company's contribution to a development of major strategic importance for both Aramco and the Kingdom. This significant order represents an important milestone in Aramco's In-Kingdom Total Value Add (IKTVA) Program and reinforces AMPO Arabia's continued commitment to the Kingdom's Vision 2030 strategy for local manufacturing and industrial diversification. AMPO Arabia remains dedicated to strengthening its local manufacturing footprint in Saudi Arabia and to supporting the Kingdom's ambitions for a robust, self-sufficient industrial base.

AVI PROD GRUP Expands International Infrastructure Operations

AVI PROD GRUP is strengthening its international presence through strategic growth in Europe and North America, while remaining committed to high-quality infrastructure projects and robust cross-border partnerships. In Germany, the company is expanding its fiber-optic infrastructure activities, with several projects underway in Bavaria and ongoing investments in equipment and operating capacity to support future growth. In Canada, AVI PROD GRUP has completed the merger of Lambert & Grenier, a Québec-based contractor with more than 60 years of experience in bridge construction and municipal infrastructure.



This milestone widens the Group's expertise and strengthens its position in the Canadian market. Current projects include bridge construction, underground utility works, and water infrastructure. The Group is also developing Infravie, its new French subsidiary, as part of its strategy to establish a long-term Western European presence. Alongside its international activities, AVI PROD GRUP continues to deliver gas, water and district heating infrastructure projects in Romania, maintaining a strong focus on safety, quality and operational excellence. These initiatives reflect the company's commitment to sustainable growth, its people, communities and responsible infrastructure development.

Bendforce Plays Key Role in EACOP Project

Bendforce GmbH played a key role in the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in Uganda and Tanzania, one of the largest pipeline infrastructure projects currently being executed in Africa. Bendforce's involvement was of particular importance, as the company is the only known provider worldwide capable of internally bending DN600 pipes made of X60 and X65 steel with wall thicknesses of up to 23.83 mm. This unique capability enabled the successful execution of critical pipeline sections that would have been extremely challenging to realize using conventional bending methods. Using two proprietary internal pipe bending machines,



Bendforce successfully bent more than 1,000 large-diameter pipes made of high-strength X60 and X65 steel grade over a period of approximately 14 months under demanding field conditions. The project involved a wide range of pipe dimensions and wall thicknesses from 10.54 mm up to 23.83 mm, demonstrating the versatility, reliability, and performance of the technology in a large-scale industrial environment. A particular focus of the project was international knowledge transfer. Bendforce trained personnel of the main contractor to independently operate the internal bending equipment, ensuring sustainable know-how transfer and long-term operational capability on site.

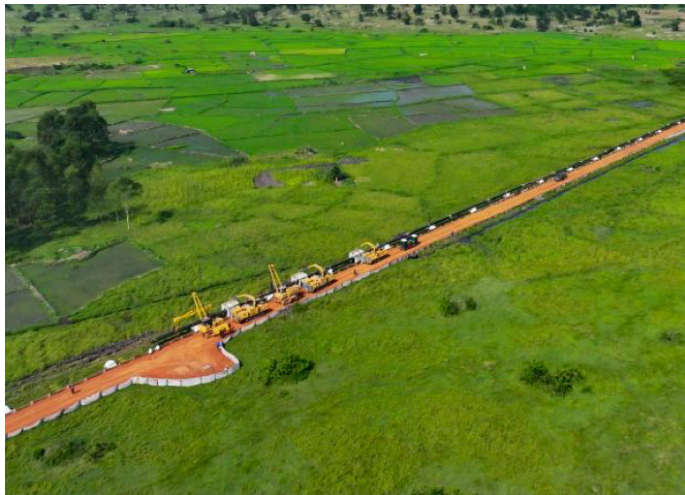
Bonatti-Pumpco Joint Venture awarded Argentina LNG pipeline EPC



Bonatti, in joint venture with Pumpco, has been awarded the Engineering, procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for the complete pipeline system of the Argentina LNG project. Argentina LNG is a large-scale integrated gas project that combines upstream and midstream infrastructure to unlock Vaca Muerta's resources and supply international markets. The project is expected to reach LNG exports of up to 12 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) by 2030, with the potential to scale up to 18 MTPA. The scope

of work includes the construction of a 48-inch natural gas pipeline and a parallel liquids pipeline, each extending approximately 527 kilometers from Meseta Buena Esperanza, in the Vaca Muerta basin, to Sierra Grande, in Río Negro Province, on Argentina's Atlantic coast. Pumpco, a leading U.S. pipeline contractor, brings extensive experience in the execution of large-diameter pipeline projects. The joint venture also includes Contreras Hermanos, a highly respected Argentine contractor with a longstanding track record in the country's energy infrastructure sector, providing valuable local expertise and execution capabilities. The award represents a major milestone in Bonatti's Latin American growth strategy, marking the company's entry into Argentina's rapidly expanding energy market. Bonatti already has a strong presence across the region, serving both the energy and mining sectors. To date, the company has successfully delivered more than 3,500 kilometers of large-diameter pipelines in the area, generating cumulative revenues exceeding USD 4 billion and employing a workforce of over 6,500 professionals. This contract further reinforces Bonatti's position as a leading EPC contractor for large-diameter pipeline projects and highlights its proven ability to deliver complex, strategically significant infrastructure developments. Bonatti sincerely thanks ENI, YPF and XRG for their confidence and trust.

CPP Launches EACOP Carbon Footprint Reduction Project



On 20 July, China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Co., Ltd. (CPP) started the Carbon Footprint Reduction (CFR) project for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) at Pump Station PS6. The project supports the pipeline's green development by improving energy efficiency at pump stations, reducing operational carbon emissions and supporting compliance with international green construction standards. As power demand is concentrated at pump stations, conventional power supply systems result in high energy consumption and increased

carbon management challenges. To support low-carbon development, the project introduces battery energy storage and green upgrades to optimize power use, improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. Covering five pump stations, the project includes Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), grid adaptation systems and water-quench environmental systems to improve operating conditions and help reduce pollutant emissions. Intelligent energy storage technology will enable dynamic load management and reduce unnecessary energy consumption. While building the EACOP pipeline, CPP project team implemented environmental protection measures, including ecological baseline surveys, route optimization, in-situ protection and translocation of rare plant species, and measures to minimize impacts on wildlife habitats. During the CFR project, CPP will continue to implement strict environmental, safety and quality management measures throughout construction.

CRC Evans' Welding Lessons for Hydrogen and CO₂ Pipelines



As the energy sector transitions toward hydrogen and carbon capture infrastructure, welding engineers are facing new challenges linked to material integrity and long-term performance. In his recent article, CRC Evans' Head of Welding Engineering, Calum MacLean, highlights how established sour service welding practices provide a strong foundation for these emerging applications. The paper outlines how risks such as hydrogen embrittlement, hydrogen-assisted cracking, and impurity-driven corrosion in dense-phase CO₂ systems can be effectively managed by evolving proven techniques. Key controls include minimising diffusible hydrogen, carefully managing heat input and cooling rates, and ensuring refined weld and heat-affected zone microstructures. In addition, drawing on recent project success, CRC Evans demonstrates how disciplined welding procedures, supported by qualification testing, can achieve high integrity even in demanding

environments. As well as that, it discusses the increasing role of standards such as IGEM, DNV and ASME B31.12 in shaping requirements for future fuel infrastructure. Rather than reinventing processes, the industry can accelerate delivery of safe, scalable H₂ and CO₂ pipelines by adapting established sour service methodologies, ensuring reliability while meeting evolving regulatory and environmental expectations. You can read the full article here: [White Paper Severe Sour Welding Lessons](#)

Gascontrol Polska Delivers Mobile LNG Backup Supply in Legnica



Recently, Gascontrol Polska executed a demanding, short-term LNG backup supply project for two reduction and metering stations belonging to the local distribution system operator in Legnica, Poland. The work was carried out as part of planned switching operations associated with a newly constructed high-pressure gas pipeline. Because both stations are responsible for supplying natural gas to critical points across the region, maintaining uninterrupted operation was paramount. This specialized operation relied on fully mobile systems for LNG transport, regasification, and physical parameter adjustment tailored to meet the exact inlet specifications of the receiving stations. Key components behind the operation included Mobile Regasification Units with capacities of 300 m³/h and 1500 m³/h, backed by seamless logistics and continuous cryogenic tanker deliveries. The entire process was conducted under round-the-clock, 24/7 supervision by Gascontrol Polska's experienced engineering and technical personnel. This achievement underscores the high potential of mobile LNG technology, supported by Gascontrol Polska's fleet of 18 mobile tanks, 10 stationary tanks, and auxiliary equipment capable of delivering gas flows from 0 to 5,000 m³/h at pressures ranging between 1 kPa and 1 MPa. Liquefied natural gas proves to be an ideal, reliable solution for emergency and temporary backup supplies, effectively safeguarding regional energy security.

Glavbolgarstroy Advances Bulgaria's Vertical Gas Corridor



The construction of LOT 1 from the Vertical Gas Corridor, where Glavbolgarstroy has been engaged as main contractor, is completed, while LOT 3 is being built in parallel. The joint ventures "HILL INTERNATIONAL – GBS 1" and "HILL INTERNATIONAL – GBS 3" in which Glavbolgarstroy is a leading partner, are responsible for the implementation of LOT 1 ("Looping from Kulata to Kresna") and LOT 3 ("Looping from Rupcha to Vetrino") of the Vertical Gas Corridor. The construction work on LOT 1 has been completed, and the facility is now in operation. Gas pipeline with a diameter of DN 700 and length of approximately 48 km has been constructed along with the associated facilities. Within a very short timeframe a total of 5 river crossings were completed using the Horizontal Directional Drilling method. The construction work on LOT 3 began just a few months after that on LOT 1 and is still ongoing. The pipeline is approximately 61 km long and has a diameter of DN 1200. The project also includes the construction of 5 technological sites and 3 HDD river crossings. The two projects are situated in different parts of the country, and their implementation requires careful planning and coordination of processes.

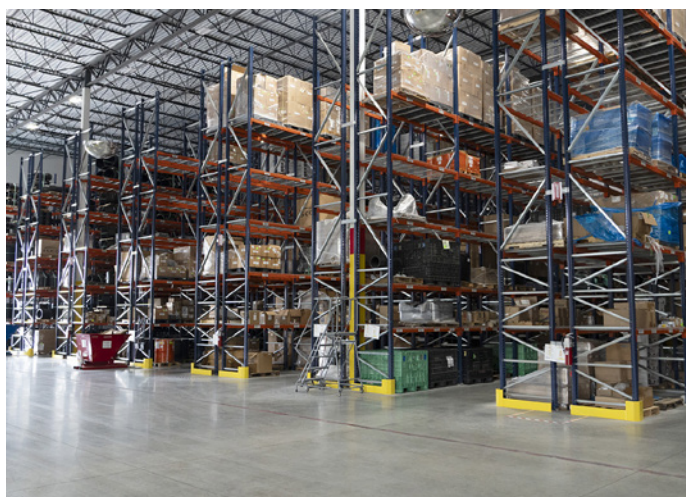
Goriziane - Next-Generation "High Force" Internal Line-Up Clamps for Pipeline Fabrication

Goriziane E&C is pleased to present its new generation of Pneumatic Internal Line Up Clamps, developed as part of a new project for a pipe mill Double Joint fabrication facility in the USA. Available in two dedicated machine ranges, 28"-38", 38"-48" and 46"-56", each clamp covers a 10 inch pipe range and has been designed to support pipe fit-up operations with significant re-rounding capability. The equipment combines pneumatic technology, controlled expansion and a modular architecture conceived to meet demanding wide range pipelines fabrication requirements. Its configuration supports accurate positioning, reliable



subsequent backreaming and pipeline pullback. The first drive was completed in less than 3 weeks' time, from pilot bore launch to pull-in completion. On the second drive, duration of the pilot bore was reduced to 7 days. Despite challenging ground conditions, including significant amounts of wood debris along the alignment, both installations were successfully completed. In New Zealand, a similar set of E-Power Pipe equipment is planned to be put into operation by the end of 2026.

ISCO Industries Opens New Riverport Distribution Center



Monday, 28 July marked the official ribbon-cutting ceremony at ISCO Industries' new Riverport Distribution Center. The 110,000 square foot facility is across the street from the previous expansion and doubles ISCO's footprint at the Riverport location in Louisville. "As ISCO strives to meet the rising customers' demands for HDPE piping products, we are thrilled that the Riverport expansion not only helps meet those needs, but it is another investment in our home of Louisville, Kentucky, and will help provide more opportunities for our people," said Mark Kirchdorfer, president of ISCO. "This new facility from ISCO Industries is a testament to not only our state's

resources and business-friendly environment, but also to the skilled workforce and dedicated partners collaborating at the local and state level," said Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear. The new building additionally features 16 loading bays and increased yard space to accommodate ISCO's continued growth. With the inventory from the previous distribution center transferred over, the existing space will be modified into an expanded rental and fabrication space. Additionally, ISCO is set to open a new location in Carlsbad, New Mexico and complete renovations and expansion at the facility in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Montanuniversität Leoben Launches a New MSc Study Track in Pipeline Engineering



The Technical University of Leoben (Montanuniversität Leoben) in Austria is expanding its educational portfolio with the introduction of a new Pipeline Engineering study track within the MSc in Geoenergy Engineering, starting in October 2026. The new study track has been developed in close cooperation with leading pipeline operators, engineering companies, and industry experts to meet the growing global demand for highly qualified pipeline engineers. The curriculum combines advanced Geoenergy Engineering education with specialized courses in pipeline design, construction, operation, integrity management, digitalization, and the transportation of natural gas, hydrogen, CO₂, and other energy carriers. Alongside the MSc programme, Montanuniversität Leoben will also offer a Professional Certification Program in Pipeline Engineering, providing flexible continuing education opportunities for engineers and industry professionals. The professional programme consists of 12 specialized modules, which can be taken individually as Micro-Credentials or completed as a full certification programme. Both programmes will commence together, creating a comprehensive educational pathway for students and professionals alike. Montanuniversität Leoben would like to express its sincere appreciation to IPLOCA for supporting this initiative as an academic partner. The university also

thanks its industry partners for their valuable contributions to the programme's development and looks forward to further strengthening collaboration between academia and the international pipeline industry. Learn more about the [MSc in Geoenergy Engineering](#) (Pipeline Engineering study track) [Professional Certification Program](#). Programme Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Riyaz Kharrat, riyaz.kharrat@unileoben.ac.at

MONTER Delivers Ajdovščina–Sežana H₂-ready Pipeline



The construction of the DN400 Ajdovščina–Sežana H₂-ready transmission gas pipeline in Slovenia, on demanding and very steep terrain, was completed ahead of schedule! After acquiring all required certificates and permits, the construction of the underground section of the M6 transmission pipeline route enables the transport of up to 100% hydrogen. Among other works, the project included calibrating the section of the M6 pipeline from Ajdovščina to Sežana (which will become part of the future hydrogen pipeline), executing pressure testing on an 8.5 km continuous section, and installing pipes on a 65-degree slope with cableway assistance. We also laid a 500 m section on a 45-degree slope, which was the final long section of the pipeline route. From the undercrossing of the lyre beneath the Zali Potok watercourse and the existing DN500 gas pipeline, to installation on steep terrain, every meter required maximum precision, safety, and team coordination. The challenging environment particularly highlighted the quality of the engineering solutions and the field endurance of the employees, of whom we are very proud.

Murphy Celebrates its 75th Anniversary with two Prestigious Construction Industry Awards

Murphy is proud to mark its 75th anniversary year with two significant industry accolades, recognising the strength of its performance across both its Energy and Infrastructure sectors. Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM)



Awards 2026, Murphy Energy was named Large Company of the Year. The award acknowledges the company's long-standing contribution in the gas sector, delivering critical projects across transmission and distribution networks that support national energy security while enabling the transition to a lower-carbon future. The recognition also reflects Murphy's strong performance in safety, sustainability, and strategic growth. These achievements are underpinned by the expertise, commitment and collaborative approach of its people, who continue to deliver complex infrastructure projects to the highest standards. Judges praised Murphy's performance across these areas, highlighting the company's role as a leading infrastructure delivery partner within the energy sector. Murphy also received the prestigious Contractor of the Year award at the Construction News Awards 2026. Judges commended the business for its consistently strong performance and commitment to its people, sustainability and collaborative delivery with supply chain partners, describing Murphy as "a well-rounded business leading by example." These awards represent a fitting milestone in Murphy's 75-year history and recognise the dedication of its teams, whose expertise and commitment continue to deliver exceptional outcomes for clients, communities and the wider industry.

Qapqa Awarded Contract for Automatic Welding Services on ADNOC P5 Habshan Sour Service Pipeline Project

Qapqa has been awarded the automatic welding scope as a specialized subcontractor to CAT International for the ADNOC Gas P5 Habshan Development Project in the United Arab Emirates. The project forms part of ADNOC's strategic investment in expanding critical sour service gas infrastructure, supporting the UAE's long-term energy security and production objectives. The welding scope includes approximately 20 km of 48-inch carbon steel pipeline (WT 23.83 mm) utilizing Qapqa PWT Auto XCS welding stations; and 36-inch CRA-clad pipeline (API 5L



X52 + Alloy 825, WT 9.7 + 3 mm) utilizing Qapqa Q-Arc automatic GTAW system. The project involves stringent technical requirements associated with sour service applications and corrosion-resistant alloy materials. Safety remains a key priority throughout project execution, with a strong focus on qualified personnel, preventive equipment maintenance, continuous process monitoring and safe working practices. These measures contribute to safe, reliable, and efficient pipeline construction in one of the region's most demanding operating environments. This award further strengthens Qapqa's position as a trusted provider of automatic welding services for both small- and large-diameter transmission pipelines and complex energy infrastructure projects across the Middle East.

SICIM Awarded Dedicated Gas Pipeline EPC – FLNG Project in Argentina

SICIM has secured its first project in Argentina, following the award of the Dedicated Gas Pipeline EPC – FLNG Project by Southern Energy (SESA), a consortium led by Pan American Energy and supported by YPF, Pampa Energía, Harbour Energy and Golar LNG. The contract has been awarded to UT SICIM VICTOR, a joint venture between SICIM and Argentinian contractor Victor Contreras S.A.,



with SICIM acting as lead partner. The scope includes the engineering, procurement and construction of a 472 km, 36-inch gas pipeline connecting Tratayén, in Neuquén, to the San Matías Gulf on Argentina's Atlantic coast, in Rio Negro Región. The pipeline will feed a new floating LNG facility dedicated to exporting natural gas to international markets. Once operational, the project will support the export of up to 6 million tonnes of LNG per year, with Europe expected to be one of the main destination markets. In addition to pipeline construction, the contract covers associated facilities and support during commissioning and start-up activities. Completion is scheduled for the first quarter of 2028. The award represents a significant milestone for SICIM and further strengthens the company's presence in South America, where it has been active since 2011. The project is the first experience of Sicim in Argentina and reinforces SICIM's position in the growing LNG sector, supporting the development of large-scale energy infrastructure projects that connect emerging gas resources with global markets.

Spiecapag Secures Strategic Infrastructure Contract for Epic Energy in Australia



Spiecapag has been awarded the Pelican Point Lateral Pipeline Relocation Project by Epic Energy, reinforcing the company's strong position in delivering complex pipeline infrastructure across Australia. The project will see the delivery of a new 3.9-kilometre DN450 gas pipeline on South Australia's Lefevre Peninsula, approximately 19 kilometres northwest of Adelaide. Alongside the installation of the new buried pipeline, Spiecapag's full scope includes a 660-metre horizontal directional drill (HDD) beneath the Port Adelaide River, construction of associated facilities, and decommissioning of the existing Pelican Point Lateral. Awarded under an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract, the project forms part of Epic Energy's Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline System (MAPS). The relocation has been initiated by Australian Naval Infrastructure (ANI) to maintain reliable gas supply while

enabling the continued development of the Osborne Naval Shipyard, a key component of Australia's national defence infrastructure program. The project will be delivered in accordance with AS/NZS 2885 standards and stringent environmental, safety and cultural heritage requirements. "Securing this project is a testament to the confidence our clients place in Spiecapag's engineering expertise and delivery capability," said John Walsh, Managing Director of Spiecapag Australia. "The Pelican Point Lateral relocation combines complex pipeline construction, major HDD works and critical infrastructure outcomes. We are proud to support Epic Energy and contribute to a project that will help enable one of Australia's most significant defence developments." Mobilisation is expected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2026, with completion scheduled for late 2027 or early 2028. The project will also create opportunities for both local and interstate workers, supporting employment and capability development across the sector.

Techint Engineering & Construction Completes VMOS Project as Duplicar Norte Construction Moves Forward in Vaca Muerta



Techint E&C, together with Sacde, completed the construction of the 437-kilometer Vaca Muerta Oil Sur (VMOS) pipeline in Río Negro, Argentina, after 15 months of work, delivering the project on schedule. At peak activity, the project mobilized more than 2,000 people. Once operational, VMOS will enable the export of more than 550,000 barrels of crude oil per day from the Neuquén Basin. Meanwhile, the company continues developing Duplicar Norte, a 207-kilometer, 24-inch pipeline being built for Oleoductos del Valle (Oldelval) across the provinces of Neuquén and Río Negro. Approximately 114 of the nearly 160 planned special crossings have already been completed, while semi-automatic welding continues along the route toward a total of approximately 17,500 welded joints. The first phase of the project is expected to become operational by the end of 2026, with a transport capacity of 220,000 barrels per day. Once completed, Duplicar Norte

will connect with VMOS, creating an integrated corridor to transport crude oil from Vaca Muerta to the Atlantic coast and further strengthening Argentina's export infrastructure.

Tesmec Continues to supply Large Trenchers on Saudi Arabia's Master Gas System Expansion Phase III



Following the delivery of two 1875XL EVO trenchers for Package 4 and Package 5, Tesmec is currently commissioning an additional unit on Package 5. The 1875XL EVO is a 176,900 kg-class chain trencher capable of excavating trenches up to 213 cm wide, meeting the requirements for 56-inch pipelines, the largest diameters currently used in pipeline construction. No other trencher available on the market offers comparable trenching capacity. This application requires a 213 cm-wide trench to be excavated through rock within an active corridor containing operational pipelines. In such conditions, large trenchers deliver high productivity, rapid execution, and excavated material ideally suited for the on-site production of bedding and padding sand. Furthermore, the trenching process eliminates the ground vibrations associated with blasting or hydraulic hammering, significantly reducing the risk of damage to adjacent infrastructure. Tesmec has supplied 1875XL EVO chain trenchers and other smaller trenchers to contractors involved in the Master Gas System Expansion project in Saudi Arabia, one of the Kingdom's largest gas infrastructure programmes, developed in accordance with Saudi Aramco specifications. Since the start of operations on these packages, where the trenchers have been working predominantly in rocky ground conditions, they have achieved an average production rate of 64 linear metres per hour of specification-compliant trench while maintaining 97% availability, demonstrating outstanding productivity and reliability in challenging environments and hard rock formations. The results achieved on these major projects further confirm the key role of Tesmec trenching technology in supporting the construction of large-diameter pipelines across the region.



Athens Convention Preview

Celebrating 60 Years of IPLOCA in Athens

In less than one month, from 28 September to 2 October, the InterContinental Athenaeum Athens will host our 58th Annual Convention — a very special edition, as we celebrate 60 years of IPLOCA. Here is what you can expect, together with some practical information to help you prepare.

A Business Programme focused on the future

The Annual General Meeting, taking place on Friday, 2 October, will provide an overview of IPLOCA's latest developments, including the Association's activities, financial report, strategic priorities for the coming year, and the results of the Board elections. The Open General Meetings, on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 October, will explore the major topics shaping our industry today: the role of people in a world of artificial intelligence, the geopolitics of Europe's energy transition, the development of national hydrogen pipeline networks, the growing carbon capture and

storage (CCS) market, and the rise of AI data centres. During the coffee breaks of the Open General Meetings, our Poster Sessions will give companies the opportunity to present their latest technical developments and best practices.

On Thursday afternoon, the B2B Meetings will offer pre-scheduled ten-minute one-to-one meetings with operators, contractors and suppliers, hosted this year by: Bonatti S.p.A., FASTRA s. r. o., Gascontrol Polska sp. z o.o., Herrenknecht AG, Murphy, Nesma & Partners, Sicim S.p.A., Spiecapag, Steeltrade S.r.l., United Pipeline Systems. And at the Election Meetings, Regular and Associate Member representatives will vote to appoint the 2026–2027 IPLOCA Board of Directors.

Time to celebrate, explore and meet old friends

Our conventions are also, above all, about people: they are a unique occasion to build your network, make new contacts





and reconnect with old friends and colleagues from all over the world. Delegates can look forward to a full and very festive social programme, including the Welcome Dinner, the CCC Lunch, the famous PLM Cocktail & Caterpillar party and the Final Banquet.

Participants who registered for the tours will discover the highlights of the region: the Acropolis, the Acropolis Museum, the National Archaeological Museum, the Ancient Agora, the historical district of Plaka, Ancient Corinth with wine tasting, and a cruise to the island of Aegina. And good news for golf players: the traditional Maats Golf Tournament is back this year, on Wednesday at the Glyfada Golf Club of Athens.

On Friday, while delegates attend the business meetings, accompanying partners are invited to a special day in Glyfada, on the coast of Athens. The programme includes a guided visit to a Cultural Centre of Art and Letters and a lunch in a restaurant by the sea.

Prepare your trip to Athens

Late September is a wonderful time to visit Athens, with sunny days of 23 to 28°C and mild evenings of around 17–19°C. Pack light, comfortable clothing for the daytime, a light jacket for

the evenings, and sunglasses and sunscreen for the tours. Please also check the Dress Code section on page 6 of your convention brochure for the formal events. If you arrive during the weekend, you can collect your badge early at the IPLOCA Registration Desk in the Banquet Lobby (Level -1) of the InterContinental Athenaeum Athens. The desk will be open:

- Saturday 26 September: 13:00–18:00
- Sunday 27 September: 09:00–19:00

From Monday 28 September to Friday 2 October inclusive, the Registration Desk will be open daily from 08:00 to 18:00.

Finally, we recommend downloading the IPLOCA Convention App before you travel: meeting programmes, social events, dress codes, tour details and coach departure times, all updated in real time. Download instructions were sent to all fully registered delegates in August — if you have not received your access link, please contact convention@iploca.com.

A week to remember

With a rich business programme, wonderful tours and the pleasure of meeting colleagues from all over the world, everything is in place for a memorable week as we celebrate 60 years of our association. We look forward to welcoming you to Athens!



Thank you to our 2026 Convention Sponsors

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Convention Speakers

at the Open General Meetings on 1 and 2 October 2026



Christian Kromme

Keynote Speaker

Christian Kromme holds a position in the global speaking world that no one else occupies. His work draws on a parallel the industry has not seen before: technology and biological life follow the same developmental patterns. His Humanification Model uses that insight to show leaders how to read the AI wave with the same clarity a biologist brings to a living system. His 2026 book *The Human Spark: Beyond AI* carries that model into the question every senior leader is now

asking: what remains irreplaceably human when machines can think? It is the follow-up to his number one Amazon bestseller *Humanification: Go Digital, Stay Human*. He has spoken in 50 countries, reached more than 500,000 executives, and taken the stage for Google, Siemens, Philips, Deloitte, and TEDx. He is Senior AI Research Fellow at The Conference Board. His keynotes are built from lived experience as much as from research. Audiences describe them as unlike anything they've encountered at a conference. Not because of the visuals or the production, but because of what shifts in the room. Leaders leave differently oriented toward their future, not just better briefed on it. Christian speaks in English and Dutch.



Dr. Prof. Kostas Andriosopoulos

Aff. Professor, Finance & Energy Management; Director, HELLENiQ ENERGY Center for Sustainability and Energy @ Alba Graduate Business School; CEO, Akuo Energy Greece; President, Energy Committee, AmCham Greece

Dr. Prof. Kostas Andriosopoulos is Academic Director of the HELLENiQ Energy Center for Sustainability and Energy at Alba Graduate Business School, The American College of Greece, the first research center formally named by a leading energy group within an American academic institution. He also serves as Affiliate Professor of Finance and Energy Management at Alba and Academic Director of its Executive Program in Energy Business. Previously, he was Full Professor in Finance and Energy Economics

at Audencia Business School, where he founded the Energy Transition & Sustainability Center, and Professor at ESCP Business School, leading its MSc and Executive Master in Energy Management and establishing the Energy Management Centre. Dr. Andriosopoulos is Chairman of the Energy Committee at the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Board Member of the Global Gas Center of the World Energy Council. He is Founding Chairman of the Hellenic Association for Energy Economics (HAEE). He has twice served as Vice Chairman of DEPA and advised Greece's Ministry of Environment and Energy, contributing to e-mobility legislation, the Decarbonization Fund of the Greek Islands, and preparations for COP28 and COP29. He is CEO and Chairman of Akuo Energy Greece and Co-founder & CEO of Deerrunner.ai, an AI company advancing agentic enterprise platforms.



Maria Sferruzza

CEO of DESFA

Maria Sferruzza joined the energy industry in 1995 and began her career in the Oil & Gas Division of General Electric as a compressors application engineer and subsequently assumed roles of increasing responsibility in sales, commercial, and operational functions in both the United States and Italy. In 2011, she became Global Sales General Manager for GE Oil & Gas Services and in 2017 she was appointed GE Officer.

Following the 2017 merger between General Electric's Oil & Gas Division and Baker Hughes, Mrs. Sferruzza took responsibility for the Global Service Business Unit and LNG segment strategy, reporting directly to the CEO of the Turbomachinery and Process Solutions division. In 2018, she moved to Asia as Senior Vice President for Asia Pacific within Baker Hughes' Global Operations structure, before returning to Italy in 2021 to join the Snam Group. She has also served as a non-Executive Director on the Board of Italgas, Italy's main gas distribution system operator, and as Chairwoman of Stogit, Snam subsidiary managing gas storages across Italy.



Harry Kamping

Manager Asset & Operations

Waterstoftransport, Gasunie

Harry Kamping is Manager Asset & Operations for the Dutch Hydrogen Network at N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie, where he is responsible for asset development and performance in the emerging hydrogen transport system. He studied Materials Science at Delft University of Technology, with a focus on electrochemistry and corrosion technology. He also completed professional education in welding engineering, including International Welding Engineer qualifications at University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. In addition, he studied change management at AOG School of Management, strengthening his ability to lead organisational development and transformation.

Harry started his career at A.Hak as a Welding Engineer and Quality Manager, working on above-ground installations and underground infrastructure projects in several countries, including the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Since joining Gasunie in 2005, he has held specialist and management positions in inspection, integrity, safety, operations technology and asset management strategy. Before his current role, he led Gasunie's Asset Management Policy and Strategy department, translating strategic objectives into risk-based asset management and guiding technical specialists across the organisation. Alongside his work at Gasunie, Harry is active in external professional bodies and committees related to pipelines, safety, standards and gas infrastructure. Through these roles, he contributes to the development of safe, reliable and future-oriented energy transport infrastructure in the Netherlands and internationally.



Elizabeth Corner

Senior Editor of World Pipelines

Elizabeth Corner is Senior Editor of World Pipelines, where she commissions and edits technical content covering the oil and gas pipeline sector. For over 20 years, she has worked closely with operators, contractors,

technology providers, and industry organisations across the global pipeline industry. Elizabeth offers an editor's perspective: as a moderator, interviewer, and podcast host, she has conducted hundreds of conversations with pipeliners and energy experts. Elizabeth also hosts the annual World Pipelines CCS Forum, bringing together industry leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities surrounding carbon transport and storage.



Abhay Chand

CEO of Petro IT

Abhay Chand began his career in the early 2000s building data centre products — years before the industry called it the cloud. In 2004 he co-founded Petro IT, a software company built specifically for oil and gas facility infrastructure and pipeline construction. Its products are today deployed on some of the world's largest and

most technically demanding pipeline projects, across five continents and more than a hundred active pipeline project deployments. As CEO, Abhay sets and executes Petro IT's strategic roadmap, with direct responsibility for product development and its alignment to contractor and operator requirements in every market the company serves. He served as Chief Operating Officer from 2008 to 2016, leading the company's expansion globally. Abhay received his technical education in India and holds an MBA from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business.

2026 IPLOCA Awards

to be presented in Athens



The laureates of the IPLOCA Awards for Health & Safety, Corporate Social Responsibility, Quality, Environmental, New Technologies and Excellence in Project Execution Award will be announced during the 58th Annual Convention in Athens, Greece.

These awards are intended to recognise those leading companies that are always in search of excellence, while being a source for sharing new ideas.

We extend our sincere thanks to all our members who submitted entries. The list of submissions received:

- Health & Safety Award: 9 submissions
- Corporate Social Responsibility Award: 8 submissions
- Quality Award: 3 submissions
- Environmental Award: 7 submissions
- New Technologies Award: 9 submissions
- Excellence in Project Execution Award: 9 submissions



2026 IPLOCA Health & Safety Award
sponsored by OGE

- **Bonatti S.p.A.**
Safe-T-Raptor
- **Horizontal Drilling International (HDI)**
Engineering a Spreader Beam for Drill Pipe Rack Handling
- **M.AL-Barghash Trading & Contracting Company**
The Guardian Eye - AI Dash Camera System (ADCS)
- **Michels Corporation**
One Approach, Global Impact Advancing Energy-Based Safety in Pipeline Construction
- **SEPCON**
Immediate Response Workflow for High Potential (HIPO) Risks
- **SICIM**
Steep Slope Operator Training

- **SPIECAPAG**
ActiveCulture - A Culture of Energy, Health, Safety & Performance
- **SPIECAPAG**
Sideboom Counterweight Installation and Removal Tool
- **Techint Engineering & Construction**
AI-Powered Close-Proximity Detection for Pipeline Safety Vaca Muerta Oil Project, Argentina



2026 IPLOCA Corporate Social Responsibility Award
sponsored by TotalEnergies

- **Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)**
Capacity Building of Vulnerable Youth of Cairo's Manshyet Nasser Informal Settlement

- **M.AL-Barghash Trading & Contracting Company**
Transforming Communities- MBTC CSR Program
- **Nesma & Partners**
Saudi Contracting Pioneers Initiative
- **SICIM**
Healthcare on wheels. Care that comes to you - Clinica Mobile Initiative
- **SPIECAPAG**
Circular and inclusive approaches in pipeline projects
- **Techint Engineering & Construction**
Improving Public Education Infrastructure through Voluntary Corporate Action in Vulnerable Communities
- **Tekfen Foundation**
Art as a Catalyst for Social Impact and Ecosystem Sustainability- The Tekfen Philharmonic Case
- **Tekfen Foundation**
Empowering Women in Agriculture- Women Farmers' Entrepreneurial Loan Project



2026 IPLOCA Quality Award sponsored by SOCAR

- **Bonatti S.p.A.**
Real-Time Digital Quality Control in Pipeline Construction
- **M.AL-Barghash Trading & Contracting Company**
Quality system Enhancement for Optimizing Project Quality Index (PQI)
- **SICIM**
Use of the AI to develop a modern training format



2026 IPLOCA Environmental Award sponsored by Shell

- **M.AL-Barghash Trading & Contracting Company**
Project Avian – Bird Sanctuary Programme in Industrial Facilities
- **Nesma & Partners**
Water Usage and Preservation
- **NMDC Energy**
Project Green Shield- Sea Turtle Protection Initiative
- **SEPCON**
"Yok Tiri Organic Waste Recovery For Composting"
- **SICIM**
Electrifying the core of Pipeline construction
- **SPIECAPAG**
Low Carbon Transformation Program
- **Techint Engineering & Construction**
Adaptive Environmental Management in Large-Scale Pipeline Construction-Desalinated water supply, Chile



2026 IPLOCA New Technologies Award sponsored by BP

- **AI Clearing**
Autonomous quality control & progress tracking for pipeline construction
- **Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)**
AI-Driven Digital Transformation & Industry 5.0
- **ISCO Industries**
Live Isolation of 24" Heavy-Wall HDPE Pipelines- Eliminating System Shutdowns
- **LAURINI Officine Meccaniche Srl**
Settanta Pipeliner
- **MAX STREICHER GmbH & Co. KG aA**
Technological innovation in pipeline construction- cutting product pipes whilst preserving the casings
- **Nesma & Partners**
AI-Enabled Safety Command Center (SCC) for energy projects
- **NMDC Energy**
Blind Spot Detection System Enhanced With AI Dashcam Analytics
- **SICIM**
Electric Pipe Bending Machine
- **Vacuworx**
CC-MP Computer Advancements Reduce Dropped Pipes and Advance Pipeline Construction



2026 IPLOCA Excellence in Project Execution Award sponsored by IPLOCA

- **Bonatti S.p.A.**
Coirón Tunnel Pipeline Installation
- **Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)**
Fadhili Major Gas Facilities Expansion
- **Glavbolgarstroy**
Looping from Kulata to Kresna
- **McConnell Dowell**
Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline (FGP)
- **Michels Corporation**
Nation's largest wind farm made possible by record-setting trenchless operations
- **Michels Corporation**
Preparing Portland's Power Supply for River Cleanup
- **Nesma & Partners**
First Underground Gas Storage Facility in Saudi Arabia
- **SPIECAPAG**
Kurri Kurri Pipeline Project
- **Transportadora Asociada De Gás**
Ground Surface Mapping

Health, Safety, the Environment & CSR



↓ Download the latest HSE Statistics Report

2025 HSE Statistics Report

IPLOCA is dedicated to fostering health and safety across all areas of its influence, embracing the belief that every accident is preventable.

This HSE Statistics Report consolidates the health, safety and environmental data submitted by IPLOCA members for 2025, with 89% of Regular Members contributing their HSE Statistics Forms. We encourage all members to review the report thoroughly and use its findings to take informed and proactive steps towards further improving HSE performance.

Fatalities

Despite continued efforts, the 2025 target of zero fatalities has not been reached, with three fatal incidents reported for the year 2025. As in the previous year, the Total Recordable

Incident Rate (TRIR) remained above 2 but still remains low compared to the historical average of 4.5.

HSE Shared Experiences Platform

Greater attention must be given to health and safety training. Performance in this area remains significantly below the 2025 target, at 66% below the target level. The Committee strongly encourages members to prioritise health and safety training and to continue implementing effective Behavioural Safety Programmes. Members are also encouraged to strengthen their training efforts and to actively share best practices and case studies through the IPLOCA Shared Experiences Platform: www.iploca.com/hseplatform.

Environmental Incidents

Environmental incident frequency decreased by 12% in 2025 compared with the previous year. Furthermore, the vast majority of reported environmental incidents (96%) were classified as minor, resulting in limited environmental impact. The Health & Safety Training Frequency Rate remained at the same level as in the previous year and continues to be significantly below the target level. Sustained leadership commitment and continued focus on training are essential to drive further progress in this area.

Collaborative Efforts to Minimize Risks

The Committee aims to help companies adopt best practices by fostering collaboration, offering training, and providing networking opportunities to minimize risks in the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of pipeline projects.



News from the HSE & CSR Committee

Giovanni Muriana, Committee Chair

Driving Continuous Improvement Through Innovation, Recognition and Collaboration

The HSE & CSR Committee met on 10 June to review and assess submissions for the 2025 Health & Safety, Corporate Social Responsibility, Environmental and Quality Awards. Once again, the quality of the entries demonstrated the strong commitment of IPLOCA members to continuous improvement and operational excellence. Participating companies presented innovative ideas, practical solutions and outstanding achievements across a range of fields, highlighting initiatives

that create tangible value for the industry, strengthen management commitment and deliver benefits to both companies and their workforce. The diversity and quality of the submissions reflected the industry's determination to raise standards and share best practices. The Committee would like to extend its sincere thanks to all participating companies for their valuable contributions and to the Committee members for their dedicated efforts in reviewing and evaluating the entries. Award winners will be announced during the Annual Convention in Athens this September-October.

The Committee also reviewed the latest HSE-CSR Statistics submissions. Participation increased from 76% of Regular Members in April to 86% in June, reinforcing the importance of maintaining robust industry benchmarking data that will be published ahead of the Annual Convention.

Looking ahead, the Committee will reconvene by video conference in September and meet in person in Vienna in October. A major highlight will be the HSE & CSR Workshop on 28 October, which for the first time will be combined with the Novel Construction Session. This new format aims to foster greater collaboration and cross-functional learning by bringing together health, safety and construction innovation perspectives. The workshop will focus on the top five project risks and the critical controls that must be implemented before work begins. Through interactive group discussions, participants will analyze real challenges, exchange experiences and develop

practical recommendations to improve health and safety performance across all working environments. More than a traditional presentation session, the workshop is designed to actively engage attendees and encourage the collective development of solutions that can be applied throughout the industry, supporting IPLOCA's ongoing commitment to safer and more sustainable project delivery.

Finally, the Committee discussed strengthening the HSE & CSR Shared Experience Platform, which now hosts over 800 documents. To further enhance its value, summaries of newly uploaded content will be issued twice a year.

Innovation



News from the Innovation Committee

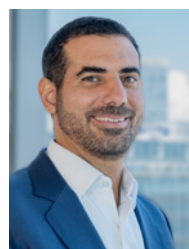
Somaieh Salehpour, Committee Chair

The IPLOCA Innovation Committee continues to build momentum through IPLOCA NEST, our knowledge hub that enables members to collaborate year-round beyond the biannual Novel Construction Sessions. Following recent updates, NEST now features five active working groups:

AI Transformation, Skills & Resources, Standards & Compliance Regulatory, Industry Influences, and Net Zero Construction.

The working groups remain actively engaged in developing practical industry resources and preparing content for our next Novel Construction Fall Session, which will take place on 28–29 October 2026 in Vienna, Austria, where members will reconvene to share progress, collaborate on new initiatives, and advance innovation across the pipeline industry.

Energy Transition



News from the Energy Transition Committee

Alejandro Maluf, Committee Chair

Over the past quarter, the IPLOCA Energy Transition Committee has continued to develop its role as a practical source of market intelligence and industry dialogue for IPLOCA members. The Committee's purpose remains focused on monitoring relevant news and researching different marketplaces for the benefit of the membership.

The Committee has also advanced its communication and visibility agenda. Regional contributors remain engaged across the different regions, with the goal of identifying trends that are relevant to IPLOCA members and translating them into concise, practical briefings. Internal Committee material is available on the IPLOCA website. The Energy Transition

webpage has been refreshed, and specific articles are being regularly shared through the newsletter. The intention is to move from simple news collection toward curated interpretation, helping members understand where energy transition developments may create risks, opportunities, or practical infrastructure implications. Readers may find the article "Beyond Molecules" later in this edition.

From a market perspective, the external landscape confirms the importance of a balanced and factual approach. The IEA Global Hydrogen Review 2026 reports that low-emissions hydrogen production reached almost 1 Mt in 2025 and is expected to exceed 1% of global hydrogen production in 2026 for the first time, while also noting slower investment momentum, project delays, cancellations, and regulatory barriers. This reinforces one of the Committee's central observations: the energy transition is moving forward, but execution risk, demand certainty, infrastructure readiness, and policy stability remain decisive factors.

Regionally, the Committee's briefings continue to highlight how the energy transition is increasingly shaped by infrastructure readiness, project execution, and energy security considerations. In Europe, large-scale hydrogen, carbon capture, and e-fuels projects are progressing, but cost competitiveness, regulatory complexity, and infrastructure deployment remain critical challenges. In Latin America, the focus is increasingly shifting toward permitting, bankability, and the development of integrated hydrogen, CO₂, and synthetic fuel corridors. Oceania continues to advance integrated low-carbon fuel systems, with growing momentum in hydrogen derivatives, carbon capture, and export-oriented projects. Meanwhile, North America is experiencing strong growth in electricity demand driven by AI, alongside increased investment in grid modernization, storage, LNG, and energy resilience. In the Middle East and Africa, energy

security, carbon management, hydrogen exports, and fuel diversification remain key drivers of investment, despite continued geopolitical uncertainty. Together, these regional developments reinforce the growing importance of practical, scalable infrastructure solutions as the energy transition moves from ambition to implementation.

Looking ahead, the Committee will continue to strengthen its quarterly briefing rhythm, refine the way regional content is captured, and focus on the practical implications for IPLOCA members.

Meanwhile, we look forward to receiving member feedback on the Energy Transition webpage publications, with the goal in mind of offering clear, factual, and useful insights rather than competing with real-time market news providers.

Beyond Molecules

Multi-Vector Energy Corridors and Coastal Energy Hubs in Latin America's Energy Transition

Luis Alberto de Benito, LDB PIPELINES Consulting
www.ldb-pipelines.com



For much of the last decade, energy transition discussions have focused on individual molecule: Natural gas, Hydrogen, Ammonia, Synthetic fuels. Each has been presented at different moments as the future dominant energy carrier. Recent developments suggest a different conclusion.

The latest DNV Hydrogen Forecast 2026 significantly revised previous hydrogen deployment expectations, while simultaneously reaffirming the importance of hydrogen

for sectors that remain difficult to electrify. The message is clear: hydrogen matters, but it will coexist with other energy vectors for decades. The challenge facing the energy industry is therefore evolving. The key question is no longer: "Which molecule will dominate?" The emerging question is: "Which infrastructure systems will be capable of supporting multiple molecules simultaneously?"

A Shift from Energy Transition to Infrastructure Transition

The discussions held during ARPEL 2026 highlighted a notable evolution in strategic priorities across the region. Energy security has returned to the center of the conversation. The geopolitical disruptions of recent years, from the European energy crisis to tensions affecting global maritime trade routes, have demonstrated that decarbonization alone is not sufficient. Future energy systems must also be: Secure, Flexible, Resilient, Economically competitive. This evolution naturally shifts attention from energy carriers toward infrastructure systems. Pipelines, power transmission networks, storage facilities, ports and industrial clusters increasingly become the critical assets enabling long-term adaptation.

Europe's Lesson: Hydrogen Is Driving Infrastructure Development

Europe offers a compelling example. Projects such as H2Med are often presented as hydrogen initiatives. In reality, they are large-scale infrastructure programs. Spain is leveraging existing LNG terminals, industrial ports,

transmission networks and rights-of-way to position itself as a future hydrogen gateway to Europe. The strategic value lies not only in hydrogen production itself, but in the ability to repurpose and expand existing energy infrastructure. Similarly, in the Netherlands, Hynetwork and Porthos are developing hydrogen and CO₂ pipelines in parallel inside a shared energy corridor. The significance of these projects extends beyond the molecules being transported. They demonstrate a new infrastructure planning philosophy: Multiple energy vectors sharing common corridors and industrial platforms.

Latin America: A Different Starting Point

Latin America enters the energy transition from a fundamentally different position. The region combines: World-class renewable resources, Large natural gas reserves, Expanding industrial demand, Strategic export locations, Significant agricultural and biomass resources. Among these opportunities, Argentina stands out. Vaca Muerta represents one of the largest unconventional gas resources globally. Current developments include: VMOS oil export infrastructure, Argentina LNG, Southern Energy LNG, TGS liquids export projects and Expansion of regional gas integration.

Unlike Europe, Argentina does not face an immediate scarcity of primary energy resources. Recent announcements regarding the expansion of the VMOS oil export system to potentially exceed 700,000 barrels per day reinforce this trend. Oil, gas, LNG and NGL infrastructure are no longer evolving as isolated projects, but increasingly as components of an integrated export system connecting Vaca Muerta with global markets. Its challenge is different: How to maximize the long-term value of those resources while maintaining future flexibility.

Beyond Single-Vector Infrastructure

Historically, energy corridors were designed around individual products. A gas pipeline transported gas. An oil pipeline transported oil. Future infrastructure may no longer operate under this model. The emergence of: Hydrogen, CO₂ transportation, Renewable electricity, Biogas and biomethane, Ammonia and Synthetic fuels. Suggests a different approach, infrastructure corridors may increasingly evolve into multi-vector systems capable of supporting several energy pathways simultaneously. This concept is not entirely new. As early as the 1990s and early 2000s, major hydrocarbon corridors in countries such as Venezuela already concentrated multiple trunk pipelines, power infrastructure and industrial assets within common rights-of-way. What is changing today is not the corridor concept itself. What is changing are the energy vectors sharing it.

The Rise of Coastal Energy Hubs

An important lesson emerging from current developments is that value creation may increasingly occur at coastal industrial hubs rather than at production sites. For example, natural gas produced in Vaca Muerta can be: Exported as LNG, Converted into ammonia, Used for synthetic fuel production, Utilized for hydrogen production and Integrated into future carbon management systems. Rather than deciding today which pathway will dominate, infrastructure planners may benefit from preserving optionality. In this context, coastal hubs become strategic platforms where future energy products can be selected according to evolving market conditions. The corridor transports energy. The hub transforms it.

Hydrogen: One Piece of a Larger System

Recent discussions surrounding green, blue and turquoise hydrogen often focus on production technologies. From an infrastructure perspective, however, hydrogen is only one component of a much larger system. Regardless of production pathway, large-scale deployment requires: Gathering systems, Transmission infrastructure, Storage facilities, Port infrastructure, Industrial demand centers and Export logistics. Hydrogen therefore reinforces a broader lesson. The future is unlikely to be defined by a single energy vector. Instead, natural gas, hydrogen, CO₂, renewable electricity, ammonia and synthetic fuels will likely coexist within increasingly integrated energy systems.

The Emerging Role of Biogas and Circular Carbon Systems

Another important development is the growing role of biogas and biomethane. Projects in Europe are demonstrating how organic waste streams can be transformed into dispatchable renewable energy while supporting circular economy objectives. The emergence of digitally enabled "Biogas 4.0" systems further enhances this opportunity through: Artificial Intelligence, Industrial IoT, Real-time optimization and Grid balancing capabilities. For Latin America, with its extensive agricultural resources and biomass availability, this may become a highly relevant complement to both natural gas and renewable electricity.

News from Chile

The recent Chilean proposal to make Pacific port infrastructure available for Vaca Muerta exports highlights an additional dimension of future energy planning. Beyond multi-vector corridors, future infrastructure systems may also require access to multiple export routes and ocean basins. Whether such initiatives ultimately materialize or not, they illustrate a broader trend: energy infrastructure is increasingly being conceived not only as a transportation system, but as a platform providing optionality, resilience and market diversification. [Read more.](#)

Emerging Evidence from Argentina

The recent reactivation of the Tratayén–La Carlota pipeline project provides a practical example of how infrastructure planning is beginning to evolve beyond isolated assets. Originally conceived as a gas transportation project, the corridor has the potential to become a strategic regional backbone connecting Vaca Muerta with domestic demand centers, industrial clusters and future export markets across South America. When viewed alongside LNG developments, liquids infrastructure and regional interconnections, the project illustrates a broader trend: energy corridors are increasingly being planned as long-term platforms capable of supporting multiple future energy pathways rather than a single commodity. [Read more.](#)

YPF and VMOS CAPACITY

Recent announcements regarding the expansion of the VMOS oil export system beyond 700,000 barrels per day provide further evidence that Vaca Muerta is evolving beyond a collection of individual projects. Oil pipelines, LNG developments, NGL processing facilities and future export hubs are progressively forming an integrated infrastructure system connecting resource basins with global markets. This evolution illustrates a broader lesson for the energy transition: long-term value may be created not only by the resource itself, but by the infrastructure network that enables multiple future commercialization pathways. [Read more.](#)

Expanding the Energy Corridor Concept

A recent development further reinforces the Energy Corridor concept beyond the traditional energy transition narrative. The Panama Canal Authority has launched the Interoceanic Energy Corridor Project, a 76-km pipeline connecting the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to transport propane, butane and ethane, integrated with new port infrastructure and logistics platforms. Rather than focusing solely on decarbonization, the project demonstrates how strategic pipeline infrastructure continues to evolve as a key enabler of global energy trade, supply chain resilience and multimodal logistics. This initiative illustrates that the future of energy corridors is not limited to hydrogen or CO₂ networks, but encompasses flexible, multi-product infrastructure designed to optimize the movement of energy between production basins and international markets. The Panama initiative confirms that future energy corridors will be defined not only by the energy vector they transport, but also by the strategic value they create through the integration of pipelines, ports, storage facilities and global logistics networks. Energy Corridors are no longer simply pipeline routes. They are strategic infrastructure ecosystems where pipelines, ports, storage, power networks and logistics converge to enhance energy security, market integration and global competitiveness.

What This Means for IPLOCA

From an IPLOCA perspective, the strategic opportunity is not to predict which energy vector will dominate the future. It is to participate in the planning, engineering and construction of the infrastructure systems that will support multiple future scenarios. This evolution also expands the role of pipeline contractors and engineering companies. Future projects will require multidisciplinary capabilities extending beyond pipeline construction to encompass integrated corridor planning, port interfaces, industrial integration and multi-vector infrastructure design. The common denominator remains infrastructure.

Conclusions

- The energy transition is entering a new phase.
- The debate is gradually moving beyond individual molecules toward integrated energy systems.
- Natural gas, hydrogen, CO₂, renewable electricity, biogas and synthetic fuels are likely to coexist for decades.
- Under these conditions, flexibility becomes more valuable than certainty.
- The infrastructure being developed today will determine the options available tomorrow.
- The most valuable corridor of the future may not be the one that transports a specific molecule, but the one that connects the largest number of energy resources, transformation hubs and global markets.
- For Latin America, this creates a unique opportunity.
- Not only to participate in the energy transition, but to design and build the multi-vector corridors and coastal energy hubs that may ultimately define it.
- The emergence of floating LNG solutions introduces an additional layer of flexibility to future energy corridors. Rather than requiring immediate investment in large-scale fixed liquefaction facilities, modular floating infrastructure may allow production basins to access multiple export routes and markets with lower capital exposure and greater adaptability.
- In this context, the value of future energy corridors may be measured not only by the volume they transport, but by the number of market options they enable.
- The DNV Hydrogen Forecast 2026 suggests that the energy transition will likely evolve more gradually and through a broader mix of energy vectors than previously expected. Under these conditions, infrastructure flexibility may become more valuable than infrastructure specialization.

History shows that energy vectors evolve over time. Infrastructure endures much longer. Designing corridors capable of adapting to successive generations of energy systems may therefore become one of the defining engineering challenges of the twenty-first century.



IPLOCA Fall meetings 2026

HSE Workshop and Novel Construction Session 28 and 29 October 2026 in Vienna, Austria

This year, IPLOCA is bringing together two of its flagship initiatives—the HSE Workshop and the Fall Novel Construction Session—into a single two-day event. Taking place in Vienna on 28–29 October 2026, the combined programme will offer members and industry professionals an engaging mix of technical presentations, collaborative workshops, and innovation-focused discussions.

Programme Overview

Wednesday, 28 October

The event will begin with a series of technical presentations during the morning, covering a range of industry-relevant topics. In the afternoon, participants will take part in the IPLOCA HSE Workshop, focusing on health, safety, environmental and CSR best practices.

Thursday, 29 October

Technical presentations will continue throughout the morning. The afternoon will be dedicated to the Novel Construction Group Workshop, where participants will collaborate in groups before presenting their ideas and concepts to the audience.

Agenda

The detailed agenda for the combined event will be published at the end of September. Over the course of the two days, attendees can expect presentations and discussions on a wide range of topics, including safety, emerging technologies, the energy transition, carbon footprint reduction, and other key issues shaping the pipeline industry. The event has

been designed to encourage both knowledge sharing and collaboration, combining expert presentations with interactive workshop sessions that promote innovation and practical problem-solving.

Call for Speakers

Members interested in contributing to the technical programme are invited to submit a presentation proposal for either Wednesday or Thursday. Please send the presentation title together with a brief outline to IPLOCA Executive Director Georges Hage at georges.hage@iploca.com by 20 September at the latest.

Registration and Accommodation

To ensure a prompt start on Wednesday morning, participants are encouraged to arrive in Vienna on Tuesday, 27 October, and book their accommodation accordingly. The link to the hotel will be published on IPLOCA website and will be sent to all our members by email.

Attendance at the Fall Meetings is free of charge for both IPLOCA members and non-member companies. Registration is required. The registration form will be published on the IPLOCA website, and an invitation will be sent to all members by email. Registration for the HSE Workshop and Novel Construction Session is already available here: www.iploca.com/event/hse-csr-workshop-2026/

We look forward to welcoming you to Vienna for two inspiring days of learning, collaboration and innovation.

Moving BIM from Compliance to Decision-Making

Geraud Meyer, Vice President-Engineering, Nesma & Partners

Across the construction industry, Building Information Modeling (BIM) has become a standard contractual requirement. Execution plans are written, models are submitted, and compliance requirements are met. Over the past decade, this has significantly improved coordination, consistency, and digital delivery across the industry. As BIM continues to mature, the next opportunity is ensuring that it not only fulfills contractual requirements but also improves how decisions are made.

Saudi Arabia has become one of the world's leading catalysts for digital engineering transformation. Through Vision 2030 and PIF's portfolio of mega and giga projects, the Kingdom has accelerated the adoption of BIM at an unprecedented scale, setting new benchmarks for engineering excellence and digital delivery. That distinction, between BIM as a submission and BIM as a way of working, remains one of the industry's most significant challenges. On large and complex projects, it is not simply a matter of efficiency. It directly affects project performance, delivery outcomes, and long-term asset value.

The Compliance Ceiling

BIM maturity and BIM value are not the same thing. A project can score well on every maturity indicator, including model coverage, coordination protocols, clash detection, and information management, and still leave the asset owner with a digital handover that offers further opportunities to strengthen operational readiness and long-term value. This remains one of the industry's next areas of focus as organizations continue to advance their digital delivery capabilities. The reason is that BIM was framed, from the outset, as a documentation requirement. Models must be produced, information must meet defined standards, and deliverables must be submitted at prescribed stages.

Compliance establishes consistency

However, compliance should be viewed as the foundation rather than the destination. The next stage of maturity is ensuring that compliance also delivers measurable business value. The more important question is not whether a model was produced, but whether it changed how decisions were made. Did the model shape decisions, or simply record them after the fact? Were project teams able to rely on a single trusted source of information? Did field teams have timely access to the latest project information to support informed decisions? Ultimately, BIM delivers its greatest value when it moves beyond demonstrating compliance and becomes an integral part of how projects are planned, delivered, and managed.

From Design Output to Delivery Platform

The next stage of BIM maturity is treating information as a project control asset rather than a design output. This means using BIM to improve predictability, strengthen decision-making, and enhance delivery performance throughout the project lifecycle. Ultimately, owners do not invest in BIM for its own sake. They invest because better information reduces uncertainty, improves predictability, strengthens project controls, and enables better investment decisions throughout the asset lifecycle. In that sense, BIM is not simply a digital engineering capability. It is an engineering and business enabler. This includes testing construction sequencing through 4D planning before execution begins. It includes linking progress monitoring to field-verified information that updates schedules and forecasts in near real time. It also includes managing interfaces, risks, and construction constraints through a connected digital environment rather than disconnected workflows. This is the principle behind Virtual Design and Construction (VDC). BIM no longer serves only as a representation of the project; it becomes an active platform for planning, coordination, monitoring, and control. When effectively implemented, BIM supports better schedule certainty, improved productivity, stronger risk management, and greater visibility across the project lifecycle.

The Foundation Is Data Governance

Achieving this level of integration requires more than a software investment. The foundation for achieving this vision is trusted information through effective data governance. Classification systems, naming conventions, common data environments, information ownership, and quality assurance processes determine whether project information can be trusted and used effectively. These fundamentals enable digital environments to remain connected, consistent, and trusted throughout project delivery and into operations. Reliable information is what transforms BIM from a coordination tool into a business enabler. It provides decision-makers with greater visibility, supports executive reporting, improves project controls, and creates the confidence needed to support future digital capabilities across the asset lifecycle.

The Handover Challenge

Even on projects where BIM is actively used during construction, handover represents one of the greatest opportunities to maximize the long-term value of digital information. As projects become increasingly complex, ensuring that handover information is fully structured, validated, and readily usable within operational systems has become an important focus for industry. For asset owners,

the true value of BIM is realized when project information seamlessly supports operations from day one. For them, handover is not the end of a project. It is the beginning of an asset's operational life. This is particularly important on mega and giga projects, where assets are expected to operate for decades and support entire communities, industries, and economies. The quality of information delivered at handover directly influences operational readiness, lifecycle performance, maintenance efficiency, and future investment decisions. The industry has made significant progress in digital delivery. The next step is to ensure that this information continues to deliver value throughout the operational life of the asset.

Why This Matters for Saudi Arabia

Through Vision 2030 and PIF's portfolio of mega and giga projects, Saudi Arabia is delivering some of the world's most ambitious and technologically advanced construction programs. The scale, complexity, and long-term impact of these projects make the conversation around BIM increasingly important. The industry has already demonstrated the value of BIM adoption. The next opportunity is to build that foundation by unlocking greater intelligence, operational insight, and long-term value from project information. The path from BIM to digital twins, connected assets, and AI-enabled operations is becoming increasingly clear. However, these capabilities depend on one critical prerequisite: trusted data. Artificial intelligence, predictive analytics, and digital twins will continue to unlock new opportunities as organizations strengthen the quality and governance of their information foundations. Information quality is the foundation upon which successful

digital transformation is built. As Saudi Arabia continues to shape the next generation of infrastructure, cities, and industrial assets, the ability to create trusted digital foundations will become a defining factor in long-term success.

Beyond Better Models

At Nesma & Partners, we see Building Information Modeling (BIM) as a strategic engineering capability that supports delivery excellence across the entire asset lifecycle. Realizing that vision requires more than digital tools. It requires trusted information, disciplined governance, and engineers with the capability to transform data into better decisions. That belief shapes not only how we deliver projects, but also how we develop future engineering capability. Through our Early Graduate Program, we are investing in the next generation of Saudi engineers, equipping them with digital engineering, BIM, and integrated project delivery capabilities so they can contribute to increasingly complex projects from the outset of their careers and help advance the Kingdom's long-term infrastructure ambitions. Our focus is not on BIM maturity for its own sake. It is about ensuring that information continues to create measurable value through stronger project controls, improved delivery performance, and better outcomes for our clients and asset owners.

The measure of success is not whether a model was submitted. It is whether the information behind it improved decisions, strengthened project outcomes, and left owners with a foundation they can continue to build upon long after construction is complete. The future of BIM is not about better models. It is about better decisions.

IPLOCA Yearbook 2026-2027

We are pleased to announce the planned publication of the 60th edition of the IPLOCA Yearbook in December 2026.

To make publication of the Yearbook possible we ask for your support and participation. You can reserve your advertising space by using the online reservation form. Advertising rates and specifications are published at www.iploca-yearbook.com. The closing date for reservations and sending in materials is **15 October 2026**.

Calling IPLOCA Representatives to update their company information

We encourage all Key Representatives of IPLOCA member companies to take advantage of the Members Dashboard. It allows you to edit your company profile, published on the IPLOCA website and the IPLOCA Yearbook, update your

company's contact persons' information and add IPLOCA Newsletter recipients. To do so, simply log in via the link at the top right-hand corner of our website. Should you need any assistance please contact support@iploca.com.



Elections

to the 2026-2027 IPLOCA Board of Directors

Thursday, 1 October - Athens, Greece from 14:00 to 14:30 EEST (UTC +3)



Elections to the IPLOCA Board of Directors will take place at the 58th Annual Convention in Athens, Greece on Thursday, 1 October 2026 during the Election Meetings. Elected Board members serve for two years with their second year also requiring confirmation during the Election Meetings.

Designated member representatives (one from each member company) should attend the 30-minute Election Meeting of their appropriate geographic region (Regular Members) or the Associate Member Meeting. If no-one from a company is able to attend the meeting in order to vote, one vote per member company may be made on a **proxy form** and must

be received no later than **Wednesday, 23 September 2026** by Georges Hage, IPLOCA Executive Director, at georges.hage@iploca.com in order to be counted. The names of the candidates for vacant seats are posted here: [Candidates for elections to the 2026-2027 IPLOCA Board of Directors](#). The Directors shall be approved and confirmed by a simple majority vote of the Regular Members, and any Associate Member serving as an Officer of the Board, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Athens on **Friday, 2 October 2026**. Appointment of Directors-at-Large and Directors to seats that still remain vacant after the Election Meetings will be made by the newly elected 2026-2027 Board during the Board Meeting held on 2 October 2026 in the afternoon.

Responsibilities of Board Membership

By running for election to the IPLOCA Board of Directors candidates agree to fully support the organisation and its mission through regular attendance and active participation in meetings and events, including four Board Meetings a year that require international travel with their spouse. Please note that an absence from any two consecutive meetings, or a total of three meetings during the two-year Board membership term, results in automatic dismissal from the Board of Directors. A full list of the duties and commitments of directors is available on our website.

Vacant Seats and Candidates for the 2026-2027 IPLOCA Board

Region	Director	Status for 2026-2027	Candidates
America North	Dale Mykyte	2 nd year confirmation	
	Matthew Westphal	2 nd year confirmation	
East & Far East	Matthew O’Connell*	Vacant seat	Matthew O’Connell
	Jichang Zhang	2 nd year confirmation	
Europe Central	Roberto Castelli*	Vacant seat	Giovanni Muriana Tribero
	Gian Marco Dondi*	Vacant seat	Stjepan Novak
Europe Eastern	Zara Kiziryan	2 nd year confirmation	
	Hakan Kozan	2 nd year confirmation	
Europe Mediterranean	Guido Cagnani	2 nd year confirmation	
	Bruno Pomaré	Officer	
Europe Northwest	Wilko Koop	Vacant seat	Andrew Ball
	Vacant seat	Vacant seat	Blagoja Stavrov
Latin America	Alejandro Maluf	Officer	
	Gonzalo Montenegro	2 nd year confirmation	
Middle East & Africa	Saji Khoury	Vacant seat	
	Michael Fakhoury	Vacant seat	
Associate Members	Andre DeCastro	Vacant seat	Douglas Bailey, Roby Luca Botteri
	Jason LaValley	Vacant seat	Gian Marco Dondi, Simon Herrenknecht
	Bill Solomon	Officer	Marco Laurini, Somaieh Salehpour

* Directors appointed for 2025-2026

IPLOCA Board of Directors 2025-2026



Back row left to right: Matthew O'Connell, Hakan Kozan, Gian Marco Dondi, Guido Cagnani, Andre DeCastro. **Second row:** Roberto Castelli, Wilko Koop, Kent Wilfur, Matthew Westphal, Benet Chan. **Third row:** Zara Kiziryan, Jichang Zhang, Michael Fakhoury, Giovanni Muriana, Somaieh Salehpour, Marcin Przywara. **Front row:** Yaşar Giregiz, Bill Solomon, Saji Khoury, Bruno Pomaré, Georges Hage.

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Nesma & Partners Contracting
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Jichang Zhang

CPP - China Petroleum
Pipeline Engineering Co., Ltd.
[Director, East & Far East](#)

* appointed by the Board of Directors

Upcoming Events



28 September - 2 October 2026
Athens, Greece
IPLOCA 58th Annual Convention



28-29 October - Vienna, Austria
**HSE & CSR Workshop &
Novel Construction Sessions**



2 December 2026 - Sydney, Australia
**IPLOCA East & Far East Regional
meeting**

Other Events

APGA Convention and Exhibition

5-8 September 2026 - Darwin, Australia
www.apga.org.au

Gastech Exhibition & Conference

15-18 September 2026 - Bangkok, Thailand
www.gastechevent.com

13th Annual Global EPC Project Management Summit

24-26 September - London, UK
www.opexgrp.com/upcoming-events.aspx

ADIPEC

2-5 November - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.
www.adipec.com

Offshore Energy Exhibition & Conference 2026

24-25 November - Amsterdam, The Netherlands
oeec.biz/oeec2026/

30 October 2026 - Deadline for submissions

Member News for IPLOCA December Newsletter
newsletter@iploca.com

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

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