THE IPLOCA NEWSLETTER
MAY 2005 - SPRING EDITION

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WITH NEWS FROM: THE INDUSTRY, MEMBERSHIP, ALLIED & SISTER ASSOCIATIONS
**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Our new office is now open in Geneva and Luc Henriod and our new Geneva Office Manager Caroline Green are now in residence. We have excellent meeting facilities there and I trust that any of you wishing to use them for your own meeting when passing through Geneva will take the opportunity to do so.

Now with Luc Henriod in Geneva and with Roberto Pirani working out of London we hope to give you the membership an even better service than you have had in the past and be able to service the committees more effectively.

Luc and Roberto continue to excel in their new positions in supporting this Association and bringing new ideas to the Board.

We have done very well in meeting our task list for implementation of the Three Year Strategic Business Plan but we can’t rest on our laurels. This is a rolling plan and it requires successive Boards to seek new goals and set new tasks so that we can continue to be a strong International Association not only serving the membership but also in having a say as to where our industry is headed as we move further into this 21st century.

You the membership have an important part to play; we need your dialogue, support and input in order to be sure that we are representing your needs, desires and concerns in the very cyclical industry in which we work.

Hopefully by now you will have received the Reservation Package for our Convention in September, if you have not received it be sure to contact Luc in Geneva. It should be a great Convention and we are doing all we can to make it something you will remember for a long time. I was there in March for the Sponsors Meeting and even though I have been there several times before I am always amazed at its natural beauty, I look forward to seeing you there.

Scott Summers  
President

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**THE MARCH BOARD MEETING - SAN FRANCISCO**

The Board Meeting was held at the Fairmont San Francisco Hotel on Nob Hill with a fantastic panoramic view stretching from the Golden Gate Bridge past the infamous island of Alcatraz to the Oakland Bay Bridge.

Despite the fact that several Board Members had to cancel at the last minute, the Board Meeting was very productive. It was preceded by a full morning of Committee Meetings, whose reports are covered elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Everyone had the chance to ride on the cable cars and in the programme that Scott and Sherry had mapped out was a trip across the bay to Sausalito. This was followed the day after by a day-long visit to Napa Valley with the chance to taste some of the excellent wines from some of the best vineyards in California.

On Friday night Scott and Sherry entertained the Board to dinner in the famous Canelian Room on the 72nd floor of the Bank of America building with its super 360° view of San Francisco. Then on Saturday morning before everyone left Scott and Sherry took everyone to Buena Vista for breakfast where you get an excellent breakfast with, wait for it, Irish Coffee. It must have magical qualities as both Sherry and Jennifer Phillips took...
off and walked there and back across the Golden Gate Bridge, whilst others went shopping or rode the cable cars.

San Francisco must be the only place in the world with a cable car system of this type, it is fascinating and equally fascinating is the cable car museum showing just exactly how it all works.

The Board certainly marked San Francisco down as an ideal venue for a future Convention and deservedly so.

In view of the situation in Beirut the Board decided to hold the June Board Meeting in Madeira at the Reid’s Palace Hotel. Isaam Shammas and Ibrahim Zakhem are bitterly disappointed but recognised that it was a necessary change of venue considering the ongoing trouble in Lebanon. It was a great pity especially as Beirut really was beginning to get back on its feet again with new buildings and hotels and repairs to the infrastructure all well under way following the ravages of war.

IPLOCA SECRETARIAT - GENEVA

 Luc Henriod is now firmly established in the new IPLOCA office in Geneva that was opened on the 4th of April. Those who have already held meetings in the new office have all been suitably impressed by its location and facilities!

Luc & Caroline working hard in Geneva

You will find full details of the address, telephone, fax numbers and e-mail addresses of the Secretariat in Geneva and Roberto Pirani in London on the last page of this Newsletter.

“LIGHTER THAN AIR”

IPLOCA is cooperating with BP and other oil companies on Research and Development projects aimed at reducing the cost of implementing major gas pipeline projects in remote regions of the world.

This will not be achieved by reducing contractors’ margins! On the contrary, the development of new techniques will make some of these major schemes economically viable, and therefore more work will be generated for our members!

One of these R&D projects has the objective of facilitating the creation of a capability to address logistics problems by the use
of Airship Technology. Together with BP we found an excellent partner in the US Department of Defence (DoD). The DoD has already undertaken a lot of work in this area, and is keen to collaborate with non-government organisations to further develop this technology. IPLOCA’s intention to cooperate with the DoD in “Lighter than Air” technology was confirmed during the San Francisco Board Meeting with the approval by the Board of a “Statement of Intent” which was signed by the President. The Statement of Intent is included below.

STATEMENT OF INTENT
Collaboration to Develop a Transport Airship Capability

Believing that a transport airship capability offers significant value to onshore pipeline construction, IPLOCA intends to play a key role in the creation of this capability. Such a capability should be broadly based in the commercial sector and should be developed rapidly and efficiently, and therefore IPLOCA intends to work towards a collaborative development process teaming with relevant government parties. IPLOCA has conducted initial workshops and research that strongly indicates such a developmental approach is feasible.

IPLOCA is aware that the US Army Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) and Center for Army Analysis (CAA) are already working on the Mobilus Initiative - a collaborative approach with the same goal.

IPLOCA agrees with the basic premise and approach of the Mobilus Initiative that there is a need for a new aerospace industry segment to serve unmet commercial needs. A balanced, cost sharing (money and “in kind” contributions) collaborative developmental approach is the best way to coalesce a fragmented “industry” and facilitate the development of multiple robust supply chains on the pipeline industry needs. This new transport airship capability must be fully certifiable to operate commercially worldwide. This collaborative approach seeks to rapidly develop a broad capability, multiple suppliers, and most of all encourage new entrants of many types into this industry.

IPLOCA intends to join with the US Army SDDC and CAA in this effort. This most wisely brings resources to bear for the greatest value to IPLOCA members and associates. It is envisaged that this cooperation would be extended to EU institutions.

IPLOCA has established a Steering Group with representatives of various companies engaged in the construction of oil and gas pipelines. IPLOCA and the Steering Group will conduct detailed investigations on specific applications for Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) platforms for pipeline projects - primarily for transportation - and coordinate the results with the ongoing Mobilus Initiative of the US Army. Initially, IPLOCA, together with the members of the Steering Group, will identify key activities which can benefit from the use of transport airships in reducing cost, improving HSE, and reducing the environmental impact of pipeline construction. IPLOCA will then work closely with SDDC in matching these needs with technically viable airship designs, conduct cost analyses, and continue to refine these studies and report these findings back to members and to the industry at large.

To ensure the development proceeds efficiently, if and when the analysis substantially proves significant value to IPLOCA members, IPLOCA shall report to its members and coordinate budgetary decisions and allocations of effort, including assistance in obtaining the necessary financial support, to help the US Army SDDC to proceed on the joint effort within the Mobilus Initiative. It is anticipated that subject to an appropriate evaluation this collaboration should continue to fully move this new capability to the full prototype stage.

IPLOCA shall play a key role in identifying user needs to guide technical development and in communicating the value and needs of the final collaborative structure between the public and private sectors to the IPLOCA membership and all other relevant participants in a fully open and impartial manner. IPLOCA, in its ongoing collaborative examination and communication with the US Army, will examine the final role necessary at the strategic and other levels to guide the Mobilus Initiative and work to bring in all those participants necessary to ensure the successful development of a transport airship capability through this collaborative effort.

Such a collaborative approach embodies the best practices of the commercial sector, leverages the unique and critical capabilities of government organisations, and will help create a capability that can be applied not only to pipeline construction, but also to humanitarian operations/disaster relief and other aid to international communities.

For and on Behalf of the International Pipeline and Offshore Contractors Association (IPLOCA)

Scott Summers
President
SAN FRANCISCO COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Each of the IPLOCA Committees met prior to the Board Meeting in San Francisco and a summary report on their deliberations is set out hereafter.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The legal requirements for establishing IPLOCA in Switzerland have been met and the By Laws have been structured to meet Swiss Law. They will be sent to all members prior to the Convention so that they can be formally approved at the AGM in September.

The office in Geneva has been established and is currently being furnished and equipped. By the time this Newsletter reaches you it will be in full operation.

After many interviews we believe we have found the right Assistant for Luc and Roberto in Caroline Green. Caroline started on 1st April and at the request of the President she is now the IPLOCA Geneva “Office Manager”.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE
Arrangements for the 2005 Convention to be held at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver are well in hand and the Reservation Package has already been sent out giving full details of the programme and the tours that are being arranged. This Newsletter, gives elsewhere, up to date information on the plans that are being put into place.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
The finances of the association remain sound and now that a bank account has been established with Credit Suisse in Geneva the balance of the funds that IPLOCA hold in Gent will be transferred to Geneva.

The aim is to close the IPLOCA Office in Gent by the end of June.

LEGAL COMMITTEE
The Legal Committee reviewed the work done by the lawyers in the UK, Belgium and Switzerland in relation to the move of IPLOCA from Gent to Geneva and went over the new By Laws that have been amended to take account of Swiss Law.

IPLOCA wish to have additional clauses added to make clear certain requirements agreed by the Board.

The modified By Laws will be formally approved at the June Board Meeting and then sent to each Member so that they can be formally ratified by the Membership at the AGM in Vancouver in September. At the same time the Aide Memoire is being updated and will be presented to the Board for approval in June.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
The situation of our membership was discussed in detail. The committee will be putting proposals to the Board in June with respect to:
- Suggested changes in the Geographical Areas
- The question of Directors at Large
- Companies who should belong to the Association either as Members or Associate Members.

A questionnaire to be sent to the membership was approved and the committee looks forward to receiving your input.

PROMOTION COMMITTEE
The Newsletter is well received, although it is still difficult to get people to contribute.

The website is fine except that now a concerted effort needs to be made to have it kept up to date. Safety Alerts are now being entered and it is hoped that by being current then members and others will have more interest in accessing the site.

Consideration is to be given to producing an updated IPLOCA Brochure which will reflect our move to Geneva and the new direction that the association is taking in moving with the times and being in tune with the 21st century.

R&D COMMITTEE
In addition to the “Lighter than Air” technology development, which is addressed elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Board discussed the various development activities currently taking place, such as automated tie-ins, pipeline modular systems for pipeline construction, welding technology, etc.

This work requires participation in various workshops and conferences. Our relation with BP is excellent and we aim to extend it to Shell, Total, ENI and Ruhrgas. After that we will pursue Exxon Mobil, Conoco Phillips and Chevron Texaco. We intend to use these contacts to achieve better relationships between Clients and Contractors on actual projects, based on a fair approach on risk sharing.

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
The main point of concern was to ensure that this year we improved upon the 80% Safety Return we achieved last year. It was agreed that the notes would be clarified to achieve consistency of reporting.

Members are also to be canvasses to report Safety Alerts on the clear understanding that any information given will be published in the Newsletter completely anonymously.

Every effort will be made to publicise the World Federation Environmental Guidelines to IPLOCA Members and encourage
them to fulfil the environmental requirements as it reflects their work both on the pipeline and at the spread camp and storage yards, recognising that we can not and should not take on these responsibilities for our clients.

WORLD FEDERATION
It was recognised that the forthcoming April Meeting in London which is being sponsored by BP will be very critical in determining the way forward and attracting the Associations of our clients. So far PLCAC, APIA and PIG will be attending in addition of course to IPLOCA.

We expect to have an observer from EPRG, the European Pipelines Research Group, an international organisation we have invited to become a member of the World Federation.

3 YEAR STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN
The President recognised that a great deal had been achieved but there was still a long way to go. At the June Board Meeting a paper will have been prepared outlining the plan for the next three years so that it can be reviewed and handed over to the new Board in September to continue its implementation.

MEMBERSHIP
Currently the membership of the Association is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Members</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Members</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Members</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Membership</strong></td>
<td><strong>236</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Hak Industrial Services BV of the Netherlands and Salzgitter Mannesmann were accepted as Associate Members.

SAS Gouda BV resigned.

Suedrohrbau International GmbH have changed their name to Suedrohrbau Saudi Arabia Ltd.

Lukoil-Nephtegazstroy has changed its name to Globalstroy-Engineering.

Ballast Ham Dredging has changed its name to Van Oord Offshore BV.

Mannesmann Boru Endustrisi has changed its name to Borusan Mannesmann Boru.

THE VANCOUVER CONVENTION 2005
By now you will have received the Reservation Package for this year’s Convention which is to be held at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. The Reservation Package contains details of the programme together with information on the Cultural Programme that is being arranged. September is the best month of the year in Vancouver and we are looking forward to some pleasantly warm weather.

The President’s Dinner is being held at the prestigious Terminal City Club and the Directors & Wives luncheon will be on board a yacht provided by Ritchie Brothers who are kindly sponsoring the entire event. The Caterpillar Evening is going to be a fun evening, a logging show with a superb barbecue so bring your jeans, a check shirt and some sensible shoes or boots. Greg Miller has yet to decide on his venue but you can be sure the Ladies Luncheon, will as usual be something special.

Yes we will have a Mountie on hand with whom to have your photograph taken at the President’s Dinner, just as we did in Toronto.

The functions in the hotel will be no less exciting as the grandeur of the ballrooms lend themselves to elegant evenings.

We are keeping the Final Banquet under wraps for the time being but it will be different to the Final Banquets of the past, no set speeches, no awards but a great band, entertainment and an auction conducted by Butch Graham of Ritchie Brothers, he is a Director on the Board and it is only fair that we should put him to work. By the time you receive this Newsletter we will have gone out to Members, Associate Members and Members of the Press to solicit sponsorship for the Tours and for various
items that are still available for sponsorship, so if you would like to sponsor something don’t hesitate to contact Luc Henriod in Geneva.

The Tours are a special feature of this year’s Convention and President Scott Summers is quite excited that within 20 minutes of being outside downtown Vancouver you can be in parklands and mountains amidst unbelievable scenery and within another 30 minutes you can be in the wilderness bear country with all types of natural wildlife.

We have not mentioned it in the Reservation Package but on Tour 10 we are making provision for 32 people to go out whale watching instead of going to the Buchart Gardens, we say 32 because we have two 16 passenger Zodiac’s available to go out and see the whales which come quite close inshore around Victoria. If you wish to go on Tour 10 and would like to go whale watching then make a note on your reservation form.

We hope that many of you are planning to combine the Convention with a vacation in Canada this year as with the current rate of exchange there isn’t a better time to go for value for money. We know several of you are planning to do the 7 day cruise to Alaska and others are going to take the Rocky Mountaineer through the Rockies but time is running out as the places on the block booking Uniquely Northwest made will have expired by 1st May possibly sooner if others want them.

We are keeping to a maximum of 600 again this year so send in your Reservation Form and Convention fee early this year as we are sure with the excellent exchange rate Vancouver is going to be popular.

We shall, in our Summer/Convention Newsletter, be giving you last minute details as to the arrangements for the Convention, the slate of speakers and any changes to the programme together with a list of who will be attending. The Newsletter is due to be published late July early August.

The first registration form for the Vancouver Convention was received on the 23rd of April. It came from Pascal Guillemain of Bergerat Monnoyeur France. Bravo Pascal!

ANYONE FOR TENNIS??

Worldwide Machinery is pleased to announce that they are, again, sponsoring the tennis tournament held each year in conjunction with our annual convention.

This year the tournament will be held at the beautiful Hollyburn Country Club located high in the hills of West Vancouver. The views of downtown Vancouver and the surrounding areas from the vantage point of the Club are worth the “price of admission” alone.

We will start at approximately 9 a.m. As always, we will have an ample amount of breakfast items for you to enjoy while we get things under way.

The format is always “user friendly.” Players will be matched up according to their ability, thus giving every one a fair chance to win at their level and, of course, have an enjoyable tennis experience.

We urge all of you who play tennis to participate and to give Worldwide Machinery the opportunity to show you a good time on the courts.

Following the tennis, a luncheon will be served, along with the awarding of some very interesting prizes. We will have you back at the Hotel in time for the afternoon tours should you be planning on taking one.
Time waits for no man and although we are very busy planning this year’s Convention, we are also currently finalising a contract with the Ritz Carlton Hotel Arts in Barcelona, the host of next year’s IPLOCA Convention.

The Convention will take place 25th - 30th September 2006. This 5 Star hotel was originally built to house the Olympic Committee Officials during the Barcelona Olympics. The bedrooms are superb, close to the standard of those you enjoyed in Dubai! The hotel is right on the sea just 20 minutes from the airport, and has all the Meeting and Function space we require.

We will have an interesting cultural programme the outlines of which are already being put in place by Claudia who did such a great job for us in Berlin.

Put the dates in your diary! Meanwhile we will all be concentrating on making sure this year’s Convention in Vancouver goes according to plan and leaving Barcelona in the good hands of Luc and Caroline for 2006.

SPONSORS MEETING - VANCOUVER

Scott Summers, John Phillips and Luc Henriod met with representatives of some of the major function sponsors in Vancouver, the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver and our Ground Agent Uniquely Northwest to finalise many of the arrangements for the Convention.

It was a successful meeting and the venues for the President’s Dinner, the Directors & Wives Luncheon and the Caterpillar evening were finalised and a possible location for the Ladies Luncheon checked out for Greg Miller to make a final decision in the near future. Linda Carter finalised arrangements for the PIH Golf Tournament which is to be held at Furry Creek, a truly fantastic course and Alan Greenburg confirmed that the Tennis Tournament will be held at Holyburn Tennis Club.

The meetings with Fairmont Hotel Vancouver went very well, we were able to agree on a number of arrangements and there is no doubt that our excellent relationship with the Fairmont Hotel Group is really paying dividends.

By now you will have received the Reservation Package giving details of the Convention as it is planned at the present time. We trust that many of you will take the opportunity to combine the attendance at the Convention with a holiday in Canada either before or after the Convention and we know that many of you are keen to do the seven day cruise to Alaska or take the train through the Rockies, full details of which are on our website. The tours that are being arranged are different this year, no old churches, palaces or monuments, instead you will see fantastic scenery and see nature as you have never seen it before. British Columbia is one of the most beautiful parts of the world and during Convention week your sponsors are doing their very best to show you as much as is possible. We have long passed the deadline date for booking these tours but as we have had a sudden last minute surge from people wanting to book, all we can promise is that if there is space available we will secure it for you but you need to respond the minute you see this notice to ascertain whether there are any cancellations.

The major function sponsors are going out of their way to make their events really special and what is great is that the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver has ample space for our events, two ballrooms and other function rooms all of which we shall be utilising.

We have not forgotten the business side of the Convention and we are looking to having some great speakers talking and discussing about the major projects coming up in Canada and other issues of interest to you.
Scott and Sherry Summers are determined to make this a Convention to remember and are arranging a programme that is different. The Final Banquet will not have any set speeches as it will be dedicated to our sponsors and will be a great evening with a show and culminating with a really fun auction and an excellent dance band.

ANNUAL CONVENTION IPLOCA QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to better meet your requirements and desires regarding future Conventions we have sent the following questionnaire to all our members. If you have not done so, please take a few minutes of your time to complete it and send it to our Geneva office.

1. Please tick the categories (3) that most relate to you when deciding to attend the IPLOCA Convention.
   - Location
   - Networking
   - Cost
   - Social purposes
   - Cultural & Sports Programme
   - Open meetings

Out of the following tick (3) three areas from the list that concerns you most with your business in the coming years (2006 onwards)

   - Business opportunity
   - Competition
   - Contract and risk conditions
   - Travel
   - Political instability
   - Insurance
   - Payment
   - Currency (exchange rates)
   - Inflation

Additional comments:

THE 2007 CONVENTION

The venue for the 2007 Convention will be discussed at the June Board meeting. A strong favourite is Eastern Asia, a region of great economic development where major pipelines are being built and planned.

The People’s Republic of China would be of great interest to our members, both from a business and a cultural viewpoint. Chinese companies are becoming more and more active internationally and this is further confirmed by the news that PetroChina has agreed to cooperate with Enbridge Inc., Calgary on the development of a CAD 2.5 billion crude oil pipeline to transport 400,000 barrels per day of Alberta oil tar sand production to Canada’s West Coast, where it would be shipped by tanker to China, elsewhere in Asia and California.

IPLOCA SAFETY STATISTICS
1ST JUNE DEADLINE!!!

The 1st June deadline for submission of the 2004 Safety Statistics is approaching faster than we think, and although we are receiving a good flow of responses, a lot are presumably still in preparation.

Unfortunately many of the completed forms we have received do not include any additional information. True, the forms are essential to enable IPLOCA to calculate the overall statistics of accidents in our industry, but our ambition is more than that! It is not enough to know how many accidents occurred, we want to actually reduce the number of accidents!

It is very important that we try to investigate the circumstances leading to accidents or “near misses” in more detail and that is why we have asked our members to describe these events by
submitting completed Safety Alerts from actual accidents or from “near misses” in the format attached to the Safety Letter and Questionnaire.

We will publish a selection of these Safety Alerts on our website in order to share the relevant knowledge with all our members and therefore try to avoid the repetition of certain accidents.

We wish to clarify again that all safety related information will be treated with the maximum of confidentiality. Your response is a confidential document and will not be shown or passed on to any third party, other than the Board’s Safety Committee working within the IPLOCA Office.

If you have not yet sent your response and relevant information, we would like to remind you that they should be sent in either electronic or printed form no later than 1st June 2005 to the following address:

Mr Roberto Pirani
Consultant to the IPLOCA Board
26/28 Hammersmith Grove
London W6 7BA U.K.
Fax +44 (0) 20 8834 1100
E-mail roberto.pirani@iploca.com

However, all companies involved in a project, including their personnel, have environmental accountability.

All players in the industry share a responsibility to ensure the strictest environmental requirements are met, particularly when crossing environmentally sensitive areas. This is very well reflected in the World Federation Guidelines for Onshore Pipeline Construction, available on IPLOCA’s website: www.iploca.com.

The Pipeline Industry’s excellent environmental management record has been achieved through the implementation of project specific environmental management plans and procedures. IPLOCA gives great importance to the protection of the environment, and our members play a proactive and key role in cooperating with their clients in this important area!

TECHNICAL INNOVATION IN PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

Oil and gas field development projects are in more and more remote regions of the world, thousands of kilometres away from the more industrial and inhabited areas of the world. They will require very long and large diameter pipelines, costing several billion US dollars.

Pipelines are therefore becoming a major element in the overall cost of field development, to the point that many field development projects may become economically non viable unless the cost of the export pipeline is reduced as much as possible. Reducing the cost of implementing pipeline projects does not mean reducing the margins of manufacturers and contractors. Our clients require a large and thriving industry with the capacity of undertaking these world scale projects!

It is in this context that IPLOCA is cooperating with BP in their proposed Pipeline Cost Reduction Initiative, which addresses all aspects of pipeline implementation, from process design, with the use of very high gas pressures and low temperatures, to high grade materials (to X100 and beyond!), and novel construction techniques.

The objective is to reduce the cost of pipelines by technical innovation which can only be achieved through the cooperation between all parties, from oil companies (initially BP, to be followed by Total, Shell, Ruhrgas, ENI, and others), engineering contractors, manufacturers and construction contractors. The European Pipeline Research Group (EPRG) is also involved in the initiative, particularly with regard to high grade steels and material specifications.
IPLOCA is fully committed to cooperating with the above organisations and contributing with the extensive experience and expertise available from IPLOCA members.

Various meetings have been held in the IPLOCA offices in Geneva, at Shell in The Hague, Amec Spie in Cergy Pontoise, and in BP London. During our latest meeting hosted by Amec Spie at the end of March it was agreed to address Automated Tie-ins and the “Land Train” Concept.

The Land Train concept modified and expanded to other tasks of the main pipeline construction spread would provide the basis for enhanced efficiency of construction and increased overall production rates, particularly if the daily production could be extended from one 12-hour shift to two shifts. The conventional one shift average daily production rate (48” pipe) of approximately 2000 m/d of double jointed pipe can be extended to a stretch target of an average of 5000 m/d for 36” – 48” pipelines.

The reduction of staff through automation and HSE friendly enclosures for extreme weather areas (such as Alaska) may facilitate the necessary steps to allow work during the hours of darkness, hence achieving a potential production rate of 10,000 m/d with two 12-hour shifts.

As the workshops progressed during 2004/05 and other studies were completed, we have arrived at a point of consensus in that the Land-Train concept could revolutionise the way major remote pipeline construction is practised today.

THE 2005 BP AWARD

As we have described elsewhere in this Newsletter, IPLOCA wishes to encourage technical innovation in pipeline construction to reduce the time required to build major onshore pipelines and to reduce the construction costs by technical innovation, i.e. without reducing contractors’ margins, which as we all know, cannot be further reduced!

All our members should have received by now the application forms for the 2005 BP Award which will be presented at the Vancouver Convention in September.

New ways of spread operation are being investigated and we invite any member with innovative applications in this area to submit their ideas.

The winner will receive the BP Trophy to hold for a year, a crystal decanter, a framed certificate and a cheque for EUR 1,000, whilst the runner-up receives a framed certificate. The entries and winners will be published in the IPLOCA Newsletter and on our website. Please make sure that the entry form and any attachments are received in Geneva no later than the 1st of July 2005 at our Headquarters address:

IPLOCA
Chemin de Blandonnet 2
P.O. Box 649
1214 Vernier/Geneva
Switzerland

They say that if you remember the Sixties you did not live them! Some of us still remember the X52 pipelines with technology moving towards X60!

In the Seventies we started talking about X70 pipes and now, in what some people call the “Naughties”, we are moving rapidly towards the extensive use of high pressure X100 pipelines for long distance high pressure gas pipelines.

The economic advantages of adopting high strength steels in pipeline gas transportation consists in a balance of several beneficial factors. The main ones are the following:

- Reduction of overall material weight (reduced wall thickness and pipeline diameter)
- Increased transportation rate by increasing gas pressure
- Reduced number of compression stations

Roberto Pirani attended a major seminar in April organised by EPRG (European Pipeline Research Group), the Centro Sviluppo Materiali and Salzgitter Mannesman Forschung. The seminar

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- Reduced number of compression stations

Roberto Pirani attended a major seminar in April organised by EPRG (European Pipeline Research Group), the Centro Sviluppo Materiali and Salzgitter Mannesman Forschung. The seminar
was held in Duisburg, Germany, and was attended by approximately 70 experts from Europe, the US and Canada. Some final research and development is still required in specific areas, such as defect tolerance, field cold bending and crack propagation (crack arrestors need to be seriously considered in order to guarantee against an uncontrolled fracture propagation event), but we are now getting closer and closer to witnessing the first major gas pipeline using X100 steel.

**What next? X120 in 2010?**
The seminar was preceded by a very interesting visit to the Europipe pipe mill for large diameter pipes (very impressive!) and by a workshop which IPLOCA and EPRG members attended. It was good to feel so warmly welcomed by an important association like EPRG, as a continuation of a long lasting cooperation between IPLOCA and EPRG!

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**THE PAPERLESS OFFICE - FANTASY OR REALITY?**

In this computer and IT world that we live in we all have to strive for a less paper oriented office for a number of reasons including efficiency, cost and protection of the environment but if anyone tells you in our industry that they operate a completely paperless office then they are neither efficient nor realistic. To work in a completely paperless environment, apart from a few specialised cases, is a myth.

For the foreseeable future paper is here to stay, paper still plays an important, psychological, aesthetic and legal function in today’s business world.

Hard copies continue to have many advantages over electronic documents, including better reading comprehension, less eye strain, greater mobility, superior flexibility and an enhanced comfort level amongst office personnel in general. In addition, countries vary with regard to the legality of electronic documents and signatures.

Ever been in a meeting when a question is asked and someone down the table says, “hang on a second I have it here,” and having opened his “Notebook” spends precious minutes trying to locate where he filed it, finally to say “felt sure I had it, sorry, I guess I didn’t download it from the office server.”

Paper will continue to play an important role in office life. Rather than with “blinkers” pursuing the ideal of a paperless office, we should work towards a future in which paper and electronic document tools work in concert and organisational processes make optimal use of both.

There is no way at present that IPLOCA could work on the basis of a “paperless office,” so don’t worry we will continue to maximise the utilisation of IT and the computer but provide the paper when needed. You will still receive a hard copy of the Newsletter even it is also on the website.

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**WORLD FEDERATION**

A very important meeting of the World Federation was held at the end of April, hosted by BP in their Sunbury offices, near London. The main objective of the meeting was to define the future role of the Federation in an ever changing business environment.

The World Federation has been successful in establishing closer links between the main pipeline associations in the world, and this has enabled us to publish important documents, particularly in the areas of safety and protection of the environment, which are available on the website.

The Federation has also attempted to invite clients’ associations to join the Federation, in consideration of the fact that if our industry is to continue to prosper it is essential that clients and contractors work more closely together to their mutual benefit.

Although we have been able to create a closer relationship with the European Pipeline Research Group (EPRG) which includes oil and gas companies and steel manufacturers, our ambition is to have a much closer relationship with the major oil companies as such, in order to discuss with them the challenges faced by the industry, some of which are described elsewhere in this Newsletter. What we are talking about is a “forum” where clients and IPLOCA representatives of both Members and
Associate Members can sit together and work towards common objectives to the benefit of our industry.

This new approach will be further developed from now until the next meeting of the World Federation which will be held during the Vancouver Convention.

GLOBAL UPDATE

NEW PIPELINE SAFETY OFFICE IN THE U.S.
The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has been created to replace the Research and Special Programs Administration, which was eliminated by Congress last year. The PHMSA is located in the U.S. Department of Transportation office and will focus on pipeline safety issues.

ENBRIDGE COOPERATES WITH PETROCHINA
China has taken a step towards its first big involvement in Canada’s booming oil sands industry by agreeing to a preliminary deal with Enbridge Inc. to take as much as half the crude from the proposed CAD 2.5 billion Gateway pipeline from Alberta to the West Coast.

Calgary-based Enbridge has been in talks with PetroChina International Co. Ltd. for a year to achieve a Memorandum of Understanding announced recently, and a possible firm deal later this year. No commercial terms have been agreed to, but Enbridge said it would help connect PetroChina with oil sands producers so that PetroChina could buy crude supplies of up to 200,000 barrels a day.

That’s roughly 10 percent of the oil sands’ total predicted output in 2010, when the Gateway line is supposed to be in operation. “We’ve made progress but we still have a lot of work to do,” said Richard Bird, an Enbridge Vice-President. “I wouldn’t say this is a done deal right now. It’s a step in the right direction.”

GADWALL DELIVERS FIRST OIL
Venture Production and Dana Petroleum, joint operators, produced first oil from the Gadwall field in the UK Central North Sea. Gadwall is being developed as a sub-sea tieback to the Kittiwake platform via one production well, a re-completion of the 1996 discovery well 21/19-6, using the semi-submersible Sedco 704. This fall, a water injector will probably be drilled to provide reservoir pressure support from 2006 onwards.

INDIA: THE NEXT NORTH SEA
Over 80% of India’s basins remain unexplored. More and more operators are considering investing in India, and the Indian Government is working hard towards making doing business in India attractive by opening the door wide to foreign investors. According to VK Sibal, Director General of India’s Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, “Only 18% of India’s total area of 3.14 million sq km has been explored, which leaves 82% of the sedimentary basins still unexplored.” That leaves a lot of prospective acreage and India is campaigning to reduce this number through competitive bidding.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

The Trans Territory Pipeline (TTP) will provide significant economic, environmental and social advantages to the Northern Territory and play a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the Alcan Gove refinery.

The TTP will transport gas from the Blacktip gas field in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf to the Gove Peninsula - supplying natural gas to the Gove refinery and the North East Arnhem region, improving energy options and infrastructure for Gove and providing opportunities for new and existing businesses in the region and along the pipeline route.

A comprehensive stakeholder engagement programme has been conducted throughout the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the pipeline.

The TTP sponsors worked with the Federal and Northern Territory Governments and local stakeholders, including local indigenous communities, to ensure issues such as infrastructure and land tenure for the TTP were addressed ahead of final approval.

A wide range of consultation methods have been adopted and continue to be used. In each case the approach selected was based on the interests and geographical location of the group involved. Consultation methods include project workshops, project briefings, direct consultation, and the establishment of a project website.

Construction is scheduled to begin later this year, with gas delivery to Alcan scheduled for December 2007.

> GEORGE ZAKHEM
We received the following anonymous snippet of news.

“As someone privileged to have read the draft of the first 8 chapters of George Zakhem’s memoirs, one cannot help but be very impressed and humbled by what he has achieved and what he has done in his lifetime. When the book finally comes to be...
published it will be a pipeliner’s “bestseller” for sure and quite frankly it could make a great documentary.”

> CATERPILLAR

Caterpillar has recently announced significant enhancements to their distribution network to support the global needs of the mainline pipeline construction customers who specialize in large diameter interstate and cross-country limited duration pipeline construction projects around the world.

The new strategy will leverage the distribution capabilities of our industry leading Caterpillar Dealer Network, augmented by the focus of a newly created, dedicated pipeline segment dealer - “PipeLine Machinery International” (PLM), to provide a higher level of service to meet the customer needs in this unique market segment.

PLM will combine the expertise of a number of existing dealers, very well known in the pipeline business: Fabick (USA), Finning (Canada), Mustang (USA) and RingPower (USA), and Bergerat Monnoyeur (France) and CGT (Italy) as local representatives in their respective countries. Fabick, Finning Canada, Mustang and RingPower will commit their pipeline assets, personnel, capital, and governance structure into this new independent dealership.

To provide global focus and direction for Caterpillar in this unique market segment, a new division has also been created - “Caterpillar Global Pipeline”. This new division will provide commercial support to PLM and assure alignment with the Caterpillar worldwide marketing regions and districts, as well as ensuring full cooperation and support from all the Caterpillar dealers in whose territories the pipeline projects may take place.

These changes will provide consistency between selling and servicing dealers, ensure specialty pipeline products are available for short-term rentals globally and leverage business processes in place to address the cyclical needs of this segment – in fulfillment of Caterpillar’s Critical Success Factor on Best Distribution while maintaining their philosophy of independent dealers.

> NEW OFFICERS AT MIDWESTERN MANUFACTURING

Midwestern Manufacturing has changed corporate officer designations. Former President Jim Bost will assume the position of Chairman of the Board held by his father and company founder Armon Bost. Tom Golden, Executive Vice President becomes President of the 59-year old company.

The company’s state-of-the-art engineering and equipment manufacturing expertise provides hydraulic pipelayers and sideboom kits for a wide range of Caterpillar, Deere, Case, Ford and Komatsu tractors for both the domestic and export markets. Since 1956, Midwestern has converted over 4,500 tractors to hydraulic pipelayers. Conversions of OEM chassis provide equipment owners with extended equipment value by prolonging the useful life of used machinery thereby creating significant cost savings to customers.

Currently the company is focused on developing heavy range pipelayers in anticipation of the pipeline construction industry’s five-year projection of a worldwide increase in large diameter (36” to 50”) pipeline projects. Building on a tradition of quality engineering and product innovation, Midwestern Manufacturing looks forward to celebrating its 60th anniversary by continuing the company culture of quality manufacturing established by industry pioneer, Armon Bost, by providing a new generation of safe, hardworking and reliable heavy range pipelayers.

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**NEWS FROM OUR SISTER ASSOCIATIONS**

We are pleased to report here the latest news we have received from our Sister Associations, members of the World Federation. We also report information we have received from the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA).

> APIA

The Australian Pipeline Industry Association will hold its 37th Annual Convention in Adelaide, South Australia, from the 29th October to the 1st November 2005. The Convention will focus on “Pipelines – Bridging our Energy Needs”.

The Convention will highlight the crucial role played by pipelines in meeting Australia’s essential energy and material delivery requirements. In particular it will examine the role of pipelines as a safe and efficient delivery system and the anticipated growing role for pipelines in delivering energy as part of bridging arrangements to a more sustainable energy future.

The APIA Convention will continue to attract a very wide range of pipeline industry leaders both from Australia and overseas. The APIA Convention has become very highly regarded as an excellent forum which brings together owners, developers, contractors and operators, engineering companies and suppliers of products and services. A large number of APIA’s 200 plus corporate members are can also be expected to attend.

> DCA

Returning to the beautiful land north of the U.S. border, the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis will once again be host to DCA’s 17th Annual Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting, 9-13 July, 2005.
Calgary is an exciting city and the host of the world famous Calgary Stampede. The Stampede will be a highlight of the 2005 Mid-Year Meeting.

In addition to an informative business programme, a fun social schedule is also being planned for delegates including: white water rafting, night golf, hiking, cycling, and tours of this extremely beautiful area.

The Delta Lodge at Kananaskis is an exclusive year round mountain resort, nestled in the Canadian Rockies and the Kananaskis Valley of Adventure is located one hour west of Calgary. The Delta Lodge is renowned for providing the best in value, a safe location, first class meeting facilities and unparalleled one-on-one hospitality.

Each year, millions of visitors from around the world come to Calgary, Alberta, Canada to participate in this annual event, the Calgary Stampede and Exhibition. As Calgary’s most popular tourist attraction, the greatest outdoor show on earth features a real rodeo, an amusement park, concerts, chuck wagon races and more. The city of Calgary is transformed for ten days into a town celebrating the cowboy culture.

> PIG
The Pipeline Industries Guild has formed its first international branch to cover the needs of the Balkans and Black Sea geographic areas. Based in Sofia, the new branch will ultimately have a wider remit, and could also be the focus for establishing a centre of pipeline industry excellence. At the branch’s inaugural general meeting in Sofia, the branch committee was formally elected under the chairmanship of Jim Southworth, Operations Director for Central and Eastern Europe for United Utilities, the operator of Sofia’s local water company Sofiyska Voda.

Established in 1957, the London-based Guild (or PIG as it is affectionately known by its members) already has six UK branches, together with one in Ireland and an international branch, all of which have an active role in pursuing the Guild’s objectives of “promoting pipelines, meeting people and advancing technology.” Currently, the Guild has a world-wide membership of 800+ individuals and over 250 corporate members.

The initiative to form the new branch has been warmly welcomed by the Bulgarian energy, utility and pipeline industries, particularly as it is seen as an invaluable precursor to Bulgaria’s accession to the EU in 2007, for which there is much local support and enthusiasm. Bulgaria is also a strategic centre for the whole region, and has a significant role to play in developing energy and transport corridors between Eastern and Western Europe. CONTINUED ON PAGE 18...
LADIES PAGE

AREN'T THEY WONDERFUL?

Michèle, also known as “the smile of IPLOCA” has given birth to beautiful Baby Matteo. One more Italian name!

Michèle is discovering the happiness of motherhood and all the work with nappies etc., which is a small price to pay for holding and feeling her own beautiful baby in her arms.

We all wish the very best to mother and baby and of course, happy father!

MORE GROWN-UP CHILDREN CAN BE WONDERFUL TOO!

You would probably agree that Scott Summers is 100% macho and not given over to sentiment in any way but you might be wrong!

It was in Vancouver at the Sponsors evening when we were having dinner in a Vancouver restaurant that Scott’s mobile phone rang. It was Sherry calling from Las Vegas to say that in the USA National Dance Championships their youngest daughter’s team had taken two first places and their middle daughter’s team a first and second place. Scott doesn’t mince his words and said in a quiet voice as he sipped his Martini, “I am really proud of them” and then quickly added “but that doesn’t mean I plan to raise their allowances”.

Let me tell you about one particular competition held in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 25-27th. It was the Jazz National Championships held at the Aladdin Resort and Casino in the Performing Arts Center, which every team in the nation had to qualify through the season to participate.

Danielle on the left

Christen in the centre

dancing on Song/Pom Teams for the Orange County All Stars Cheer and Dance for one year now. Christen is on the Junior Team and Danielle is on the Youth Team. They practice 2 hours, 3 days a week and sometimes on Saturday. They have had ten competitions this year and have been placed first in all but 2 of the competitions. They have enjoyed a successful year, which makes it really special since this is their first year on a team. Of course, I must also pay homage to their team-mates for without them there wouldn’t be a team!

The youth team that Danielle dances with consists of 5 girls from the 3rd and 4th grade. Their team competed against 5 teams in the youth jazz division as well as the youth dance performance division where they won 1st place in both divisions, making them the USA 2005 National Champions!

Christen’s junior team that consists of 11 young ladies ranging in age from 6th through 9th grade also competed in two divisions where they were placed 2nd in the dance performance division out of 12 teams and 1st in the jazz division out of 5 teams, which also makes them the USA 2005 National Champions.
Not only did both the Junior and Youth teams win a very large Trophy they also all received individual medals and National Champion jackets which they now very proudly wear. Both teams did a wonderful job performing and definitely deserved their National Championship title!

Scott and I along with their big sister Brianna (14) are very proud of not only their wins but of their stamina and determination to do the very best they can for the good of the team. We’ll let you know what happens next year….go, go, go Orange County let’s do it again!!!

AND CHEEKY SOMETIMES!

It is invariably kids that come out with the sharpest of sayings, here are a few that caught the eye of Michèle Henriod.

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human being even though it was a large mammal because its throat was very small. The little girl said how was it then that Jonah was swallowed by a whale, irritated the teacher said that it was impossible for Jonah to have been swallowed by a whale to which the little girl said “When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah,” the teacher smugly replied “What if Jonah went to hell” and in a flash the little girl came back “then you can ask him.”

The children had all been photographed and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. Just think how nice it will be when you are all grown up and you will be able to say “There is Jennifer she is now a lawyer and there is Michael he is now a surgeon.” A small voice at the back of the class rang out “And there’s the teacher and she’s dead.”

On a special teacher’s day, a kindergarten teacher was receiving gifts from her pupils. The florist’s son handed her a gift. She shook it, held it over her head, and said, “I bet I know what it is - flowers!”

“That’s right!” said the boy, “but how did you know?”

“Just a wild guess,” she said.

A farmer was helping one of his cows give birth, when he noticed his four year old son standing at the fence, soaking in the whole event.

The man thought to himself, “Great, he’s four and I’m gonna have to start explaining the birds and the bees. No need to jump the gun - I’ll just let him ask, and I’ll answer.”

After everything was over, the man walked over to his son and said, “Well son, do you have any questions?”

“Just one,” gasped the still wide-eyed lad.

“How fast was that calf going when he hit that cow?”

A mother and her child were at a wedding.

A little boy looks at his mom and says, “Mommy, why does the girl wear white?”

His mom replies, “The bride is in white because she’s happy and this is the happiest day of her life.”

The boy thinks about this, and then says, “Well then, why is the boy wearing black?”

A farmer was helping one of his cows give birth, when he noticed his four year old son standing at the fence, soaking in the whole event.

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“Just one,” gasped the still wide-eyed lad.

“How fast was that calf going when he hit that cow?”

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun had placed a card beside the pile which said “Take only ONE, God is watching.” Further along the lunch line was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies on which a child had scrawled a note “Take all you want, God is watching the apples.”

The next gift was from the liquor store owner’s son. The teacher held the bag over her head and noticed that it was leaking. She touched a drop of the leakage with her finger and tasted it. “Is it wine?” she asked.

“No,” the boy replied.

The teacher repeated the process, touching another drop of the leakage to her tongue. “Is it champagne?” she asked.

“No,” the boy replied.

The teacher then said, “I give up, what is it?”

The boy replied, “A puppy!”

The next pupil was the candy store owner’s daughter. The teacher held her gift overhead, shook it, and said, “I bet I can guess what it is - a box of candy!”

“That’s right! But how did you know?” asked the girl.

“Just a lucky guess,” said the teacher.

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“How fast was that calf going when he hit that cow?”
This will provide the opportunity for both the Guild, and the energy, utility and pipeline industries, to develop a broad network of individuals and companies for exchanging ideas and technologies to the benefit of all - precisely the role for which the Guild is most well known and which is at the heart of its activities.

The broader concept of establishing a centre of excellence is one of the first targets that the new branch will discuss. While this might seem overly-ambitious to those who have not visited the region, it is clear that many of the requirements for this are already available, and enthusiasm for the idea is acknowledged.

Whether this will be an actual facility or a network of ‘trained trainers’ is, of course, one of the first issues to be decided upon. At the very least it could start with the Guild facilitating establishment of common pipeline-industry standards and operational practices.

PLCAC
We copied this from the PLCAC Newsletter:

**Mel Ternan is to head the new Caterpillar dealership**

Mel Ternan, formerly Finning (Canada)’s General Manager of Pipelines, has been named President of Caterpillar’s new dealership, Pipeline Machinery International, a consortium of four Caterpillar dealers - Finning (Canada), Fabick, Mustang Equipment and Ring Power.

Created to serve as the company’s exclusive pipelayer supplier to the global pipeline construction industry, each of the existing dealers will hold a 25 percent interest in this new Houston-based operation.

It will operate as an independent dealership and will form a consolidated rental fleet of pipelayers made up of the current inventory of the four dealers.

Ray Letasy has joined Mel as Sales and Marketing Manager for Canada and the Northwest U.S. Both men will continue to be based in Edmonton, although the PLM headquarters will be established in Houston.

Commenting on the expanded role, Mel Ternan said: “As one of the partners in PLM, Finning (Canada) has the opportunity to become involved in major pipe-line construction projects around the world.” He noted that as well as projects such as the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, the Alaska Gas Pipeline and plans to move Oil Sand’s product to the BC coast, there are major projects on the drawing boards in South America, the Middle East and Europe.

PLCAC Convention
The 51st PLCAC Convention will take place 24-28 May at the Grand Okanagan Resort and Conference Centre Kelowna, British Columbia. We are hoping that Scott Summers will be able to represent IPLOCA at the gathering. The programme looks particularly interesting.

**IMCA CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY**

The International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) started life with just a hundred members in 1995. IMCA’s membership has continued to rise and now stands at nearly 270 companies in more than 30 countries.

The continued reduction in the lost time incident frequency experienced by member companies – and thus the number of injuries – is one of the many milestones IMCA can claim as it celebrates its tenth anniversary.

HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

**GENEVA OFFICE**

It would appear that IPLOCA has excellent meeting room facilities in the new IPLOCA Geneva office; can individual members book the room for their own meetings when they are in Geneva?

Yes, the facility is available for Members and Associate Members. Just contact Luc Henriod the Executive Secretary or Caroline Green the Geneva Office Manager and they will be pleased to give you details. We will have the latest conference recording system, after your meeting you can take with you a small Olympus Picture Card with the sound recording of your meeting from which you will be able to produce the notes of the meeting in your own office.

**COMMUNICATIONS WITH IPLOCA**

Is the IPLOCA office in Gent – Belgium now closed?

Yes, all communications with IPLOCA should be made through our new office in Geneva Switzerland, address details of which you will find on the last page of this Newsletter.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD**

Is there to be an Environmental Award this year?

No, it is awarded bi-annually and will again be awarded in 2006 in Barcelona. This year it is the turn of the BP Award and requests for submittals for this award were sent out in mid-March.
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Pipeline Cost Reduction: are we going to be squeezed until the pips pop out?

No, this is not the intention and IPLOCA would not get involved in any activity which may lead to further reducing our members’ margins. In fact our clients talk more of technical innovations to achieve a more efficient, safer and environmentally sound execution of projects. This will help to make marginal projects economically viable, i.e. more work for contractors, and also a more stable work load. Hopefully no more “boom and bust”!

YEARBOOK

We hope that by now you will have replied giving any changes to the insertion you require in the 2005-2006 edition of the Yearbook. Time is running out and you all well know that a wrong address, telephone, fax or e-mail address could cost you valuable business.

This year’s edition of the Yearbook will be well worth waiting for. Have you submitted your project photographs for inclusion in the picture spread?

STOP PRESS

> SOCOTHERM
Socotherm has announced the acquisition of Kanssen (Yadong) Group, the most important private Chinese pipeline coater owning seven coating plants in China, one in Saudi Arabia and one in Nigeria. The deal is worth over 22 million Euros and has been concluded by the Malaysian subsidiary PPSCH. The Group now owns thirteen plants between Malaysia and China and is the largest pipe coating group in Asia Pacific.

> TENARIS
Tenaris has been awarded a contract for the manufacture of approximately 680 kilometres for two 30” gas pipelines for Transportadora Gas del Norte. Socotherm, through its Argentinian subsidiary Soco-Ril, has won the contract to apply coatings at Tenaris pipe mills.

> DODSAL
We received a very nice letter from Clarence Nunes of Dodsal advising that he had stepped down from his management activities with Dodsal although he will remain on the Board. He has handed over to Zia Ahmed and Sukanta Ganguly and now intends to travel widely with his wife Esmie and take the time to relax and visit various parts of the world.

Clarence has always been very conscientious when on the Board of IPLOCA and it was his endeavours as Chairman of the Safety Committee that set up the annual safety returns and the IPLOCA Safety awards. We shall miss Clarence and Esmie but hope to see them at our annual Convention.
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