

PHMSA Pipeline R&D Forum

Key Challenges Facing Industry

Inline Inspection Association

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Inline Inspection Association Members

- ◆ Baker Hughes – Pipeline Management Group
- ◆ BJ Pipeline Inspection Services
- ◆ GE – PII
- ◆ NDT Systems & Services AG
- ◆ Rosen
- ◆ TD Williamson Inc.
- ◆ Tuboscope Pipeline Services
- ◆ Weatherford



Inline Inspection Association

Mission Statement:

- ◆ The Mission of this Association shall be to enhance Pipeline Integrity.

To be accomplished by:

- Developing and proposing **recommended practices** and policies for in-line pipeline inspection that ensure high quality services for the safety of the general public and the pipeline industry.
- **Promoting accreditation** of the recommended practices under US and international standards.
- **Articulating and advocating the interests** of the in-line pipeline inspection industry before legislative, administrative and judicial branches of local, state and national governments.
- **Collecting and disseminating information** regarding the Association's position with respect to matters involving the in-line pipeline inspection industry.
- Supporting **member training** of employees.



Current Priority Policy Issues

- ◆ The ILIA does not have a specific current priority policy issue.
 - Each member company does a great deal of R&D on their own based on their own market evaluation and customer needs
 - Member participation in other R&D forums such as PRCI
 - ☞ (at times it is difficult for ILI Service Providers to find the appropriate place to participate in PRCI projects, especially to take them from an R&D project to commercialization since we are competitors)



R&D Key Challenges

- ◆ Resources – Personnel
- ◆ Economics / Funding
- ◆ Relationships (ILI Service Provider / Operator / Regulator)
- ◆ Environment



Resources

- ◆ **Current demand for professional and trade workers has resulted in a North American personnel shortage.**
- ◆ **There are difficulties in taking a concept through to a commercialized product.**
 - **Knowledge regarding the issue. Are the issues understood the same by the pipeline operator and the ILI service provider?**



Economics / Funding

- ◆ There are times when an industry gap is specific to a niche market and the funding to support this R&D can be economically unattractive.
- ◆ Funding cut-backs (i.e. FERC/PRCI) and pricing pressures can result in less money to be allocated for R&D activities.
- ◆ Conversely, PHMSA has provided as positive influence in increased financial support for R&D activities.
- ◆ The past decade has seen the cost of ILI services drop significantly due to increased competition this results in fewer dollars to be reinvested back into R&D.



Relationships

- ◆ There are at times gaps between the relationships of Pipeline Operators, ILI Service Providers and Regulators.
- ◆ All parties need to embrace R&D activities, there should not be a fear to try new products or methods.
 - (i.e. An Operator should not be afraid to try a new inspection technique because they feel that it will cause excessive questioning and paper work from a Regulator)
- ◆ R&D Forums such as this are a good means to bridge this gap.



Environment

- ◆ **Is there a strong commitment to achieve an end result for the R&D or is the R&D being completed just for the sake of completing R&D.**
 - This has been witnessed in the past and it is acknowledged that the last step in technology exchange is the most difficult step.
 - PRCI has acknowledged this and is making a greater effort to bridge this gap. In fact, PRCI just recently conducted its first technology exchange meeting to bring together industry R&D activities.



Conclusion

- ◆ **Ensuring Key Challenges are addressed and minimized by:**
 - **Clear understanding of the issues by all invested parties and clear road maps of how to get to the end result.**
 - **Embrace R&D activities by all parties; ILI Service Providers, Pipeline Operators and Regulators**
 - **Continue to provide funding and support to R&D activities to maintain the Pipeline Industry as an industry leader.**

