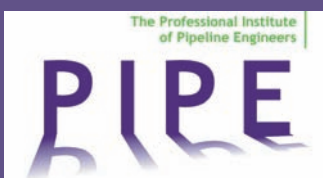


PIPEnews

the newsletter of the Professional Institute of Pipeline Engineers



PIPE update

SINCE ITS launch in May last year, PIPE has grown to 280 members living or working in 41 countries. This total includes 25 graduate students on the pipeline engineering MSc course at the UK's University of Newcastle, who have been accepted into the new membership category of graduate/student member. Another significant statistic that eloquently reflects PIPE's successful first year is that the average length of members' professional careers in the oil and gas pipeline industry exceeds 14 years.

As well as attracting those new to this industry, therefore, PIPE is clearly proving of importance to those with well-established careers.

As members may be aware, an international group of founding Board members was set up, whose ultimate responsibility will be to direct the PIPE, to ensure that membership criteria are set and met, and to oversee the management of its affairs in general. In this current inauguration phase, however, the day-to-day affairs of the Institute's secretariat are being looked after by Scientific Surveys Ltd (co-publisher of the JPE). As soon as possible, however, it is intended that the PIPE will become established as a not-for-profit organization.

Prior to PIPE's launch, the indications were certainly that the venture would prove worthwhile. However, there was no specific evidence for this,

other than the valued support of Board members, and a feeling among those to whom the idea was introduced that it was, generally-speaking "what the industry had been waiting for". We soon found, happily, that our expectations had been exceeded, and there was an immediate flow of applications for membership that has been maintained throughout the last 12 months.

By the time this issue of *PIPEnews* is published, all members will have received not only their membership certificates, but also their membership pack and, hopefully, the recently-mailed lapel badge and adhesive PIPE labels. However, PIPE has, to a certain extent, been a victim of its own success, and some of the other plans for membership benefits are taking longer than anticipated to put into action. Among these are the free on-line access for members to the library of technical papers at www.pipedata.com, and the introduction of webinars to which members will have free access. A technical forum will also shortly be established, among other aspects of the 'mypipe' members'-only area at www.pipeinst.org.

A positive and actual development has been the appointment of a membership-development manager for PIPE. Dan Lentell's name will hopefully already be familiar to members, and his role is expanding as his job develops. Following-on from Dan's appointment, the secretariat

PIPEnews is published by
the Professional Institute of Pipeline Engineers
PO Box 21, Beaconsfield HP9 1NS, UK
tel: +44 (0)1494 675139
fax: +44 (0)1494 670155

realized that the existing PIPE website is no longer adequate for the expansion in membership and influence that PIPE will attract in the coming months. The site is therefore currently being completely redesigned with the twin basic aims of both being an easily-accessible resource for – and means of communication with – members, and also a way of promoting pipeline engineering as a significant engineering discipline as extensively as possible, world-wide. The new site will come on-line in early June, according to the current development programme. Among its attributes will be the ability for members to renew their memberships on-line, and to sign-up for industry events and publications via the site. Once you've had a look at the new design, comments and suggestions of how the site and its facilities can be further improved will be welcome.

This newsletter contains details of many of the PIPE's Board members, who are leaders in the industry from around the world: their support and encouragement is highly valued and gratefully acknowledged. An announcement is also included of the first annual meeting, which will be held in Calgary on 28 September. This date has been chosen as being just before the biennial International Pipeline

Conference on 30 September-3 October, and hopefully it will be possible for many members (who may, in any case, be travelling to Calgary) to attend. The formal part of the meeting will be followed by a reception for those attending, at which refreshments will be served. More details will be sent to members in due course.

Among other items on the annual meeting agenda, it will be necessary for members to receive a full report on PIPE's financial affairs, and the other important actions that have been taken in order to set PIPE up as an independent and legally-established organization. One of these actions is to create The PIPE Association Ltd as a registered not-for-profit company in the UK, and this is currently being done. Once this has been formally completed, a bank account in PIPE's name can be opened, and financial transactions can be carried out in the Institute's own name.

One final point to mention as part of this overview of PIPE's current activities. This article began with mention of the new student/graduate membership grade, and how it has been successfully launched at Newcastle University. PIPE is in current discussions with the University of Calgary and PUC-Rio University in Rio de Janeiro,

and it is hoped that students at these academic institutions will similarly be willing to join. PIPE is already looking to the future: whenever industry people gather, it doesn't take long nowadays for the talk soon to move towards the problems of current and future skills' shortages. So where better to recruit tomorrow's members of the PIPE – and the industry in general – than at these respected seats of learning? If members know of other higher-education institutions which PIPE should approach in a similar manner, please let the secretariat know (jt@pipeinst.org).

The aims of PIPE are clearly expressed on the web site. All those involved with the management of the Institution are completely committed to implementing these aims for the benefit of both the membership and the industry in general, and we look forward to the support of members in achieving this. Comments and ideas on how we can best be proceeding are welcome at any time.

John Tiratsoo

jt@pipeinst.org

BJ Lowe

bjlowe@clarion.org

PIPE Events

ALL MEMBERS who can join us are warmly welcomed to the following meetings we are planning. All meetings are free to members, and are accompanied by refreshments (drinks and a light buffet). Keep an eye on the PIPE site for up-to-date details.

25 June: Houston social event, Doubletree Hotel (Downtown), 5.30-7.00pm
400 Dallas Street, Houston, tel: +1 713 759 0202

28 September: Annual Meeting, Marriott Hotel, **Calgary** (*provisional venue*), 5.30-6.30pm
followed by social meeting, 6.30-8.00pm

23 October: Prague social event, Corinthia Towers Hotel, 5.30-7.00pm
Kongresova 1, 140 69 Prague 4, tel: +420 261 191 259

PIPE Board Members

WHE PROFILE below (in alphabetic order) the majority of the Founding Board members of the Institute. We apologize that details of the remaining four members – Professor Luis Azevedo, Professor Rudi Denys, Ted Metcalfe, and Dr John Smart – were unable to be obtained in time for publication, and notes on these will be published in the next issue.

Dr Michael Beller has more than 15 years of experience in the pipeline inspection industry.

Formerly with Preussag Pipeline



Services, Pipetronix, and PII, he is today the global marketing manager of NDT Systems & Services AG

in Stutensee, Germany. Michael holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering, and obtained his PhD in fracture mechanics. He has been involved with a large number of inspection projects all around the world, both on- and offshore. Michael has considerable experience as a presenter and trainer, and in lecturing. He has authored more than 40 papers on the subject of pipeline inspection and intelligent pigging, and is also co-author of a German reference book on pigging technology. Currently, Michael serves on a number of technical committees and is a former president of the Pigging Products and Services Association.

Marcelino Guedes Gomes is director of pipelines and terminals for Transpetro, the Petrobras subsidiary responsible for the group's transportation system, including offshore and pipelines and terminals. Transpetro operates 52 oil tankers, 44 marine and onshore terminals, and oversees 10,000km of pipeline for Petrobras' holding companies.

Dr Jane Haswell is a principal consulting engineer with the UK-based Pipeline Integrity Engineers. She holds a BSc (with

First Class Hons) in mechanical engineering, an MSc in mathematical modelling and computer simulation, and her PhD subject was the fracture mechanics of tubular joints. She is a Chartered Engineer, and a member of both the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Gas Engineers.

Jane has over 26 years of experience in gas transmission engineering. For the first 13 years of her career she was employed at the British Gas Engineering Research Station, initially involved in pipework and pipeline stress analysis and 3D finite-element analysis. Jane was later responsible for managing a team of specialist engineers, covering defect assessment, stress analysis, and technical input into developing codes such as TD/1, TD/12, and BSI PD 6493. Subsequently, she became divisional manager for the Engineering Sciences Group, with management responsibility for 55 specialist engineers.

Following this, Jane spent five years as network maintenance manager for Transco in the UK, where she was responsible for the provision of a comprehensive technical and engineering support to Transco's North Area Districts, covering network integrity and operational support, with lead national responsibility for the steel pipelines and pressure systems. Two years experience as engineering manager followed, where Jane was responsible for technical direction of specialist transmission and E&I staff.

Jane joined Pipeline Integrity Engineers in 2001, where she is now responsible for quality and delivery of technical work for

clients related to pipeline integrity, fitness for purpose, and tolerability of risk, as well as preparation of emergency plans, procedures and requirements, actions for legislative compliance, and regulation. She is the professional chairman of the IGE TD/1 Panel, and has been closely associated with the work of the United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association (UKOPA) for a number of years. She is also an external lecturer on the pipeline engineering MSc course at Newcastle University

Professor Phil Hopkins is an executive director of Penspen Ltd, a pipeline engineering company based in Richmond, near London, in the UK. Penspen is a 1500-employee company for which Phil, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, has technical direction, training, and business-development roles.



Phil has a BSc and a PhD in engineering subjects, and specializes in pipeline integrity and safety, but is also involved in novel pipeline designs. He has been involved with many pipeline committees, such as the EPRG (European Pipeline Research Group), PRCI (Pipeline Research Council International), and the Pipeline Systems Division of ASME. Phil is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Newcastle, where he helped to set up the MSc in pipeline engineering. He is also heavily involved in training engineers around the world, and has trained nearly 3000 engineers over the past 12 years.

Phil was previously managing director of the pipeline

engineering consultant Andrew Palmer and Associates, and before that spent 17 years working in the research and technology division of British Gas, where he was business manager for pipelines.

Dr Gerhard Knauf graduated in physics at the University of Aachen in Germany, in 1977. From 1977 to 1982 he worked in the field of the applicability of elastic-plastic fracture mechanics at the Max Planck Institute for Steel Research in Düsseldorf, Germany, and he took his doctorate in natural science (Dr rer. nat.) at the University of Aachen in 1982.



Later that year, Gerhard joined the Mannesmann Forschungsinstitut GmbH (widely known by its initials MFI), and today called Salzgitter Mannesmann Forschung GmbH (SZMF), in Duisburg, where he was in charge of destructive testing and failure analyses. In 1997 he became head of the company's mechanical engineering division, and is responsible for materials and component testing, fracture mechanics, failure analysis, and safety of structures and pipelines.

After working for several years on the technical committee of the European Pipeline Research Group (EPRG), and having also been chairman of the weld defects sub-committee, he was elected the Secretary General of the EPRG in 1997, a role which he continues to fulfil.

Dr Alan Murray, PEng, is a Professional Leader – Engineering with the National Energy Board in Calgary, Canada. Alan's doctorate in civil engineering was from the Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he also lectured in civil engineering for seven years. Since graduating as a mechanical engineer in 1967, he has spent much of his working life in design, and research and development activities. Before joining the NEB, he worked for a large North American pipeline company in various managerial capacities including pipeline construction, maintenance, and procurement. He is a former chairman of the ASME Pipeline Systems Division, the co-author of a book on pipeline design and construction, and the author of over 50 publications on a variety of engineering topics.

Professor Andrew Palmer is Keppel Chair Professor in the Centre for Offshore Research and Engineering of the Department of Civil Engineering at the National University of Singapore. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and a chartered engineer.

Andrew has divided his career equally between practice as a consulting engineer and university teaching. In 1975 he joined R.J. Brown and Associates, at that time the leading consultant in the field of subsea pipeline engineering. In 1985,



Andrew went on to found Andrew Palmer and Associates, a company of consulting engineers who specialize in marine pipelines. In 1996 he returned to research and university teaching as Research Professor of Petroleum Engineering at Cambridge University in the UK. He was a Visiting Professor in the Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University, 2002-03. He is the author of three books and more than 180 papers on pipelines, offshore engineering, geotechnics, and ice. Andrew has an active consulting practice, and is also chairman of the DNV Pipelines Committee.

Jan Spiekhou is a project manager with NV Nederlandse Gasunie based in Groningen, the Netherlands. He received a Masters degree in civil engineering at the University of Delft in the Netherlands in 1981, and went on to start his career at Shell in the area of storage tanks



for LNG and LPG. Jan later joined Gasunie as a material and construction consultant. His subsequent activities with Gasunie included management roles in research, engineering, inspection, materials expertise, HSE, and quality assurance. He became an interim manager, and is now project manager, for pipeline and compressor station projects, and is involved in on- as well as offshore projects. Jan has published several papers in the areas of fracture mechanics, no-dig techniques, pipeline construction, and pipeline integrity management, and has chaired and co-chaired a number

of working groups and technical committees in this area.

Jan is also a lecturer in fracture mechanics on a course for postgraduates in the Netherlands, and is a member of the Dutch Safety Board (formerly the Dutch Transportation Safety Board).

Dr Nobuhisa Suzuki, based in Kawasaki, Japan, is a principal researcher with JFE Steel, which was established by the merger of NKK and Kawasaki Steel in April, 2003.

Karim Sylla is a senior marine pipeline specialist engineer and structural specialist engineer with Safier Ingenierie of Serris in France. He holds an MSc in structural engineering for steel structures from the Centre des Hautes Etudes de la Construction in Paris, and is both a chartered engineer and a registered Eur.Ing.



Karim's experience is mainly in the design and analyses of offshore steel structures (including earthquake, transportation, lifting, load-out, and motion analyses); for decks and jackets for fixed platforms; and for secondary structures and FPSOs. He has also been the lead engineer on major marine pipeline and riser projects.

Dr Christophe K W Tam is Chief Strategy Officer of INTEC Engineering, based in Houston, and has over 23 years of experience in the offshore oil and



gas industry with particular emphases in structural mechanics research and development, subsea pipeline analysis, design, project engineering, and management. His research areas include beam mode buckling of subsea pipelines, buckle initiation and propagation, subsea pipeline spanning and its alleviation, and the effects that geometrical and material imperfection have on the structural integrity of cylindrical components. Chris has published numerous technical papers on his research and engineering work, his recent works including the management, design and construction of several major international deepwater gas transmission pipelines with extremely rugged seabed features and hostile environmental conditions.

In his current position Chris has global responsibilities for INTEC's strategy development, planning, and implementation, leading the company in pursuit of new technologies and market niches. He also has global responsibilities in business processes, engineering processes, technology development and training, knowledge management, organizational and management development, quality, resource management and succession planning.

Chris is a member of the UK Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (MIMarEST), as well as being a chartered engineer and a registered European Engineer (Eur.Ing.). Chris holds a BSc in

civil engineering and a PhD in structural engineering, both from University College, London. He worked as a pipeline project engineer and project manager for several years with JP Kenny in London before moving to Houston in 1998.

Professor Sviatoslav ("Slava") Timashev, PhD, DSc, has over 25 years experience in pipeline reliability (including human factors), remnant life, diagnostics, maintenance, integrity, quantitative risk analysis, safety and security. Much of his work has been for (among other clients) the Russian oil and gas majors Gazprom and Transneft, and he is currently the general director of the reliability of Large Machine Systems Division of the Science and Engineering Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences based in Ekaterinburg, Russia.



Slava has authored and co-authored 24 books and more than 300 technical papers on the reliability, integrity, diagnostics, maintenance, remnant life, safety and security of large distributed systems, including pipelines and, as an internationally-recognized expert, he has lectured worldwide on these topics. His professional memberships include Charter membership in the International Association on Structural Safety and Reliability (IASSAR); membership of the ASME Pipeline Systems Division's technical committees on operation and maintenance, and risk and reliability; the API 1163 ILLI Qualification Standard Work Group; and the Interstate (CIS) Science & Engineering Council on High-Reliability Transmission Pipelines. Sviatoslav Timashev also serves on the editorial boards of eight industry and professional journals, including Structural Safety (USA), Condition Monitoring & Diagnostics Engineering

Management (COMADEM, UK), Control & Diagnostics (Russia), and the Journal of Pipeline Engineering. He is also an Associate Editor of the JPVT (USA).

As well as his other activities, Slava is CEO of the private consulting company WEKT, which provides consulting services and creates digital maps for oil and gas facilities and pipelines using GPS technology. He is also a member of the Russian Academy on Quality Problems, a member of the Washington Academy of Sciences and of the Fulbright Academy of Science and Technology, and he holds the title of "Distinguished scientist of Russia" awarded by the president.

MuhammadAli Trabulsi has overall management responsibility for Saudi Aramco's vast pipeline network. In this role, he oversees all aspects of the company's pipeline activities to



ensure delivery commitments of various hydrocarbon streams to their respective destinations, while safeguarding the overall integrity of the network. He also plays a key role in steering the pipelines' department's capital projects development, in conjunction with the continuing crude and gas expansion programmes launched by Saudi Aramco to maintain its leadership position in the oil industry.

MuhammadAli graduated from King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals in 1974 with a BSc in civil engineering, and earned an MBA degree in 1980 from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. He also attended several management programmes, including the Executive University Program at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburg, and 'Leadership at the Peak' at the Creative Leadership Center in Colorado Springs.

Prior to assuming the position of general manager of the pipelines department in 2001, MuhammadAli served as general manager of training and career development, before which he served for three years as president and CEO of Petrolube Co, a Saudi Aramco subsidiary. In addition, he has held several managerial positions in a number of different organizations within the company.

Recent events...Houston....Newcastle

THE FIRST-ever social gathering of PIPE members took place in February during the 20th International Pigging Conference and Exhibition in Houston, TX. John Tiratsoo talked briefly about the PIPE and a short discussion was held as to new ways in which PIPE could serve the membership. Many good ideas were mooted, including a suggestion that PIPE issue branded hard hat stickers

which can be worn on site. These were produced and dispatched to members along with an ultrachic lapel badge – this season's must-have items.

ON 17 April PIPE sponsored an informal social event for students on the pipeline engineering MSc course at Newcastle University. The evening was graciously hosted by Marie Minto, the chairman of

year group's Pipeline Society, and a number of PIPE members from across the region also attended, eager to meet the next generation of pipeline engineers. PIPE board member Phil Hopkins gave a quirky and thought-provoking talk on the need for pipeline engineers to work together for the sake of their industry.

Student membership

IT HAS recently been agreed to launch a Student/Graduate grade of PIPE membership. At present, only three academic institutions in the world – the universities in Newcastle, Rio de Janeiro, and Calgary – offer courses on the subject of pipeline engineering, and from now all students enrolled on these, or

other recognized pipeline-engineering courses, are eligible for Student/Graduate membership of the PIPE. Student membership of the PIPE is free for the period of study and for a further two years after graduation.

As you can see elsewhere in this

issue of PIPEnews, 25 students from Newcastle have already joined at this grade of membership, and we hope that this will be the start of a beautiful friendship: good luck to all new PIPE members in their studies!

International pipeline news

supplied by PipeWire (www.pipewire.net)

Burma-China oil pipeline project approved

THE Burma-China oil pipeline project, which will transport oil imported from the Middle East across Burma to China, has won Chinese government approval. The Chinese side is now understood to be drafting detailed plans for the construction of the pipeline, the route of which will terminate at Chongqing in SW China.

In January, **China National Petroleum Corp** (CNPC) signed production-sharing contracts with Burma's Ministry of Energy covering crude oil and gas exploration projects in three deep-sea blocks off western Burma. The China Oil News reported recently that construction of the pipeline is expected to start this year. ♦

664-km gas pipeline in N Sumatra

INDONESIA'S state gas distributor company **PT Perusahaan Gas Negara** (PGN) is to construct a 664-km long gas transmission pipeline linking Sumatra's towns of Duri, Dumai, and Medan. The pipeline will have a capacity of 250-300m cuft/d, the company said, and the gas will come from **ConocoPhillips'** gasfields in North Sumatra. Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in 2009 and will be completed in 2011.

PGN has also been appointed (by the government) to be the project leader for construction of an LNG receiving terminal in West Java. Its other consortium members for this are state-electricity company **PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara**, and state-run oil and gas company **PT Pertamina**. The terminal will have a capacity to store 3m tons/yr of LNG, or 400m cuft/d. Gas will be supplied from **Total's** Bontang LNG project, as

well as from the Tangguh LNG project developed by **BP**. PGN said the consortium is also planning to build similar LNG receiving terminals in East Java and North Sumatra, although the timetable for these two other projects has yet to be determined, subject to the availability of gas supply. ♦

DIB supports UAE Gasco project

THE **Dubai Islamic Bank** (DIB) has signed a facility agreement with **Dodsal Engineering & Construction** to finance the \$151-million replacement of the NGL pipeline network project awarded by **Abu Dhabi Gas Industries Ltd** (Gasco) to Dodsal. Commenting on this decision, Ayman Kamal, executive vice-president of DIB, said: "This agreement [is] in line with DIB's vision to support a wide range of economic sectors with reputable contractors. The gas processing sector is considered a vital field for the national economy, and we are proud to be part of this significant project.

"The bank has successfully developed and structured innovative financing deals that meet the requirements of major corporations and government bodies in the UAE and worldwide," he continued. "Dodsal has been a valued customer of DIB and our relationship with Dodsal extends over various local as well as regional project financing."

Rajen Arvind Kilachand, chairman of Dodsal, continued: "We are extremely pleased to announce the signing of this major financing agreement with DIB, which will enable Dodsal to continue to support the economic development of the UAE and, in particular, the

energy sector. Our longstanding partnership with DIB is greatly valued by all of us at Dodsal, and we look forward to continuing to work with it in the future." ♦

European companies to explore integrated gas network

GAS TRANSMISSION companies from Central and SE Europe have agreed to launch a feasibility study to explore the potential benefits of an independent, regionally-integrated, gas pipeline network. The initiative, known as *New Europe Transmission System* (NETS), was proposed by Hungarian gas company **MOL** last December. NETS would aim to attract capital, accelerate infrastructure development and inter-connectivity, and enhance value, competition, and the supply security of the region.

The companies involved – Romania's **Transgaz**, Hungary's **MOL**, Bosnia Herzegovina's **BH-Gas**, Slovenia's **Geoplin Plinovodi**, Austria's **OMV**, Croatia's **Plinacro**, and Serbia's **Srbijagaz** – met recently in Bucharest to discuss the issue further. Speaking at the meeting, held in mid-March, MOL chief executive Dr Janos Zsuga said: "This is a great step forward for NETS, as seven of the region's leading companies have said that they support the concept in principle and are interested in working together to see how it can best be turned into reality." Olivier Silla, from the European Commission's Directorate for Energy and Transport, said the EU executive supports the project. ♦

Tenders for Iraq oil pipelines to Iran

IRAQ'S Oil Ministry has invited companies to submit detailed designs and bids to supply equipment for the construction of two oil pipelines with Iran, the ministry has announced. Companies interested in providing designs and equipment for the pipelines linking the Basra oilfields in southern Iraq with Iran's Abadan refinery

should submit their offers no later than 9.00 GMT on 24 April, the ministry said. The tender documentation can be obtained from the ministry's **Oil Projects Co** for a non-refundable fee of \$500, the ministry said. The aim of the project is to export crude oil and import multi-products through the Shatt-al-Arab waterway.

In November last year, Iraq and Iran signed an agreement to build the two pipelines, one to export Iraq's crude oil to Iran and the other to pump oil products from Iran to Iraq. Iraq's oil minister Hussein al-Shahristani said that the crude pipeline would pump 100,000bbl/d of Basra Light to Iran.

When the two countries signed the agreement last year, they did not make public the cost of the two pipelines, which will each be between 50km and 75km. However, it is understood that the two lines would be financed by a \$1-billion loan granted by Tehran to Baghdad earlier this year. ♦

New gas pipeline from Wyoming to the Canadian border

THE Alliance Pipeline and Questar Overthrust Pipeline Co have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) jointly to develop the Rockies Alliance pipeline (RAP), a jointly owned interstate natural gas pipeline from Wamsutter, Wyoming, to the Minnesota US/Canadian border at the Emerson trading hub. The proposed 42-in pipeline route will run for approximately 1300km NE through Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota, connecting the Rockies – the fastest-growing gas-producing region in North America – with important gas markets in the US Midwest and central Canada.

The RAP is proposed to interconnect with downstream pipelines (Alliance Pipeline, Northern Border, Great Lakes Transmission, and TransCanada Pipeline) to provide direct access to the Chicago Hub, Michigan, and Dawn storage, and upper Midwest and NE US markets. The

pipeline is intended to provide 'receipt flexibility' to access the growing gas supplies in the Rocky Mountain region originating in the Wamsutter hub as well as the Powder River Basin area (Dead Horse and Gillette, Wyoming). Its promoters also intend that the RAP will also provide multiple delivery options, and will offer zonal rates with the various interstate pipelines. A 'binding open season' is scheduled to commence on 1 May, and Alliance and Questar will work with prospective shippers to determine the most-efficient size, route, and timing of in-service date for the RAP facilities. The companies have said that they will be flexible in the project design to meet shippers' needs in the most-effective way. Subject to obtaining shipper commitment for this system and regulatory approvals, the pipeline is expected to be in service by as early as the third quarter, 2011. ♦

Siat secures Argentinian pipe supply contract

ARGENTINIAN steel tube and equipment producer **Siat** has won a tender to supply pipes to state energy company **Enarsa**, Siat's 30% owner **TenarisConfab** confirmed in March. Siat is to provide 1,182km of pipes under the \$549-million contract. Sao Paulo-based TenarisConfab will provide another 327km of welded steel pipes as a further part of the contract, separately worth \$178m, and deliveries are expected to start within 21 months of the date the contract is signed.

The pipe will be used for the GNEA gas pipeline, according to Siat. Confab, part of Luxembourg's Tenaris Group, reports that it sold 427,800t of welded tube products last year, up 76% compared to 242,600t in 2006. ♦

\$1.2-billion ethanol pipeline plans for Brazil

MID-MARCH saw state-run oil firm **Petroleo Brasileiro SA** (Petrobras) sign a \$1.2-billion cooperation agreement with two Brazilian states on plans for a second ethanol pipeline. Petrobras, along with the states of Mato Grosso do Sul and Parana, plans to develop viability studies for the ethanol pipeline linking Campo Grande in western Brazil to the port of Paranagua in the south of the country. The pipeline is intended to transport ethanol from both states for export.

Petrobras recently said it wants to start taking stakes in ethanol production, and become a major player in ethanol trading. The Brazilian company and Japan's **Mitsui** have set up a joint venture for investments in Brazilian ethanol destined for export to Japan.

In a separate development, Petrobras, Mitsui, and Brazilian contractor **Camargo Correa** have formed a joint venture to build the world's first ethanol-only pipeline, which will be able to transport up to 12m cum/yr of ethanol, and will run from sugar cane-growing areas in western Brazil to the Atlantic coast in Sao Paulo state. ♦

Chinese oil pipeline network now reaches over half of group's refineries

THE Sinopec Group reported recently its crude pipeline network now supplies 18 refineries in North China, East China, and Central China, which accounts for just under 53% of the group's 34 refineries. Sinopec Group transported 66.56m tons of crude last year through its pipeline system, an increase of 5.2% over 2006. It expects to transport over 70m tons by pipeline in 2008. ♦

For more up-to-date pipeline industry news, see
www.pipewire.net