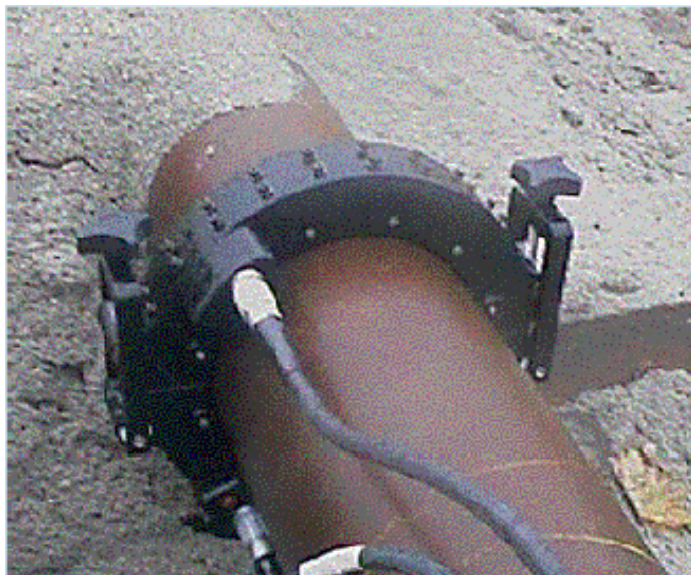


EXTRA: SI Acquires GUL Technology to Expand Its Assessment of Piping Degradation

SI has acquired the assets of a Los Angeles-based inspection company, UNITEK Energy Services, to further enhance our assessment capabilities of above and below ground piping. This relatively new technology utilizes torsional long-range guided waves to identify wall thinning originating on either the ID or OD of the piping. With Guided Ultrasonic Ltd. (GUL) technology, waves are sent along the pipe, allowing up to several hundred feet of piping to be examined from one location, depending upon conditions. This is especially cost-effective as a screening tool to identify locations of wastage because entire piping systems can be assessed very rapidly.



Outgoing SI President, Pete Riccardella commented, “We are extremely excited to integrate this new technology with our deep seated materials and structural expertise in assessing piping systems. This integration will enable us to offer our clients more complete and cost effective piping assessment services. We are looking to further develop this technology and expand its applicability into the gas transmission, nuclear, and fossil industries.”

GUL is ideally suited for the assessment of a wide variety of above ground piping while in service. We can easily assess piping that is insulated, running through hangers and, at times, even in buried applications.

A ring of transducers is placed around the pipe that introduces low-frequency ultrasonic waves. Both torsional and longitudinal waves are used to examine piping on both sides of the transducer. The WavePro™ software displays the features found in the pipe versus distance from the transducer, as illustrated in the accompanying screen shot. The evenly-spaced vertical spikes represent a series of pipe welds, and degradation is indicated by the large red components on the plot.

As part of Structural Integrity Associates, Larry Weigel and the former UNITEK employees will continue to support their existing clients, as well as seek applications of this innovative inspection technology in SI's buried gas pipeline, nuclear and fossil power plant businesses.

