

GITA 11th Annual GIS for Oil & Gas Conference Houston, Sept. 23-25 2002

Introduction

GITA

The [Geospatial Information & Technology Association](#) (GITA) was set up ‘to provide excellence in education and information exchange on the use and benefits of geospatial information and technology in business, utility, and government applications worldwide.’ It is vendor neutral, and non industry specific. The GITA GIS for Oil & Gas conference, held in Houston, was well attended with nearly 600 registered and 50 exhibitors. The conference organization was excellent, and detailed and complete documentation was issued for the conference, workshops and exhibition.

Pipelines

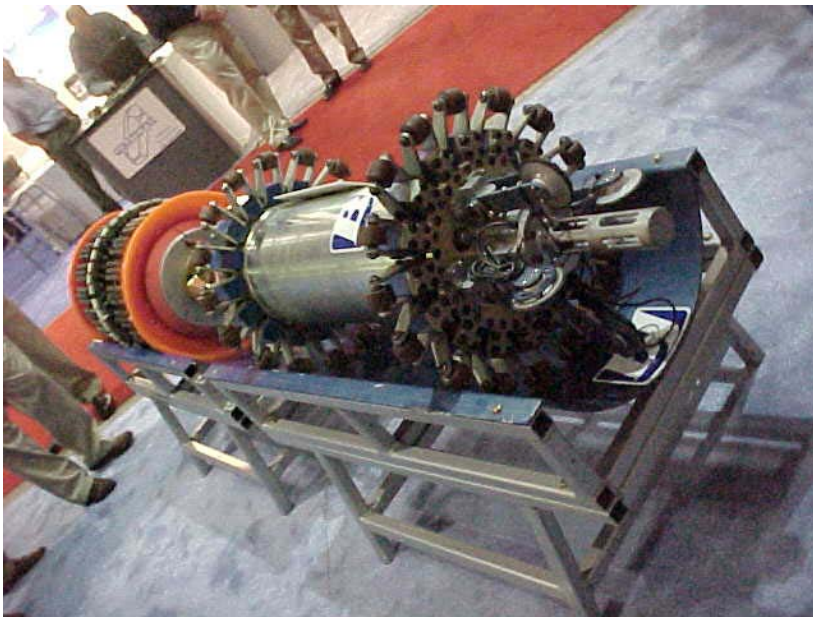


Figure 1 - Magnetic Flux Leakage (MFL) inspection tool¹.

The conference focus is very much the pipeline industry. Two things are changing the way the US pipeline industry manages its data. Regulatory pressure is mandating pipeline inspection programs. These are designed initially to locate ‘high consequence areas’ (HCAs) with a risk of significant environmental damage in the event of a spill. Operators are then expected to assess pipeline integrity using a variety of measurements of pipeline integrity, such as those available from the modern ‘intelligent pigging systems.’ Ultimately, the locations of HCAs and the pipeline integrity will be used to design and implement a pipeline maintenance program. Our understanding is that the European pipeline industry is following the US. Regulatory constraints are rather variable by country: the UK and Germany are understood to have fairly strict regulatory situations; elsewhere EU harmonization will no doubt create a situation similar to the US with regulation generating a lot of activity in data gathering, inspection and maintenance.

¹ Image of BJ Services Vectra MFL tool at the SPE ACTE 2002 – with permission from [BJ Services](#).

GIS

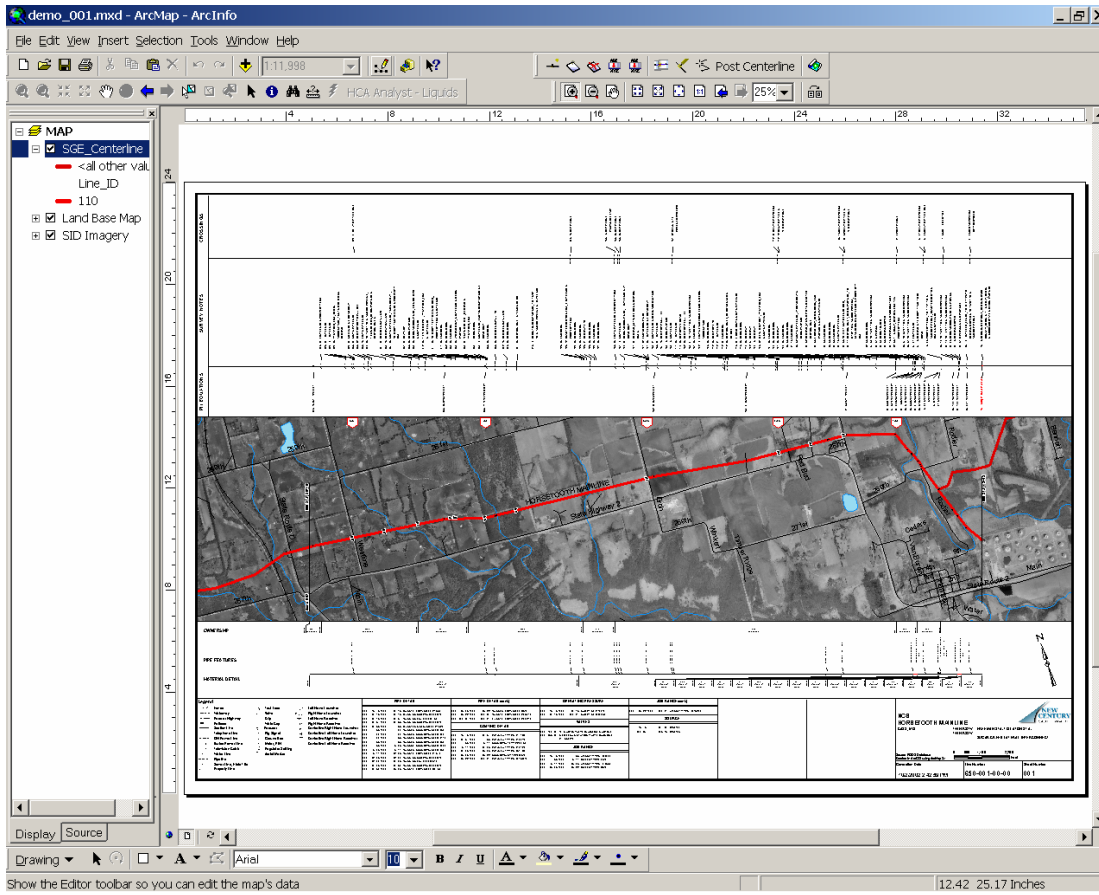


Figure 2 - A database driven alignment sheet².

The pipeline industry is a natural for geographic information systems. The traditional representation of a pipeline is the ‘alignment sheet’: a drafted document showing the route of the pipe on a map backdrop along with cultural information and engineering data. The alignment sheet has proved very amenable to computerization and many new programs are leveraging geographical information systems to the full. In fact the computerized alignment sheet can be qualified as the pipeline industry’s “killer app.”

² Image courtesy [New Century Software](#).

Contents

Introduction.....	1
GITA.....	1
Pipelines.....	1
GIS.....	2
Pipeline Integrity and Database Integration - Ed Wiegele, MJ Harden Associates	4
Data Capture and field integration - Jerry Rau CMS Energy	4
Interoperability Standards and Applications – Sonny Parafina, Ionic Enterprises.....	4
Challenges of GIS implementation in Gas Utility - Brendan O’Shaughnessy – Bord Gas Eireann	4
Pipeline Integrity: Program development, risk assessment and data management. Bruce Nelson – Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.....	5
Changing World of EU Gas Assets - Ben Rodgers Deloitte and Touche.	5
Handheld computers – GIS and GPS in the field. Ed Wiegele, MJ Harden.....	5
US Dept. Of Transportation Discussion – Mike Israni Office of Pipeline Safety.....	5
Risk Assessment. John Beets – MJ Harden.....	6
Asset management and GIS implementation. Jemmy Ang (Brunei Shell) and Nick Lake (Fugro Geosoft).....	6
Living in an alignment sheet-less world. Ron Brush, New Century Software.....	6
A pilot for Landbase migration. Dave Magee, Geographic Data Technologies.....	6
EU Perspective – Edgar Sweet – Intergraph.....	6
Spill Modeling – GeoFields - Nick Park	7
Exhibitors.....	8
Moyes & Co.....	8
MS.GIS	8
Small World – GE	8
One Call - Petris.....	9
MJ Harden	9
Wennsoft Inc.....	9
PennWell MapSearch	9
James W. Sewall Co.	9
ProActive Group.....	10
Blue Sky Development.....	10
New Century Software	11
PODS - Interview with PODS folks	12
Sanborn.....	12
Int.....	12
Robertson Research – Geoff Armstrong.....	12
Tobin.....	12
Eagle Information Mapping – Kyle Knoch	12
Map Frame.....	12
Photo Science Inc.	12
Hitachi Software – AnyGIS.....	13
Mark Hurd Corp.	13
Leica Geosystems – Mat Falkner	13
Baker Energy	13
Intergraph Utilities.....	13
USAT – Panasonic Toughbook	14
Coler and Colantonio – Jeff Allen	14
New Technology Showcase.....	14
GITA for Oil and Gas 2003	14