

Dear YPAC Members, Sponsors, Executive Committee and Advisory Board,

On May 3 – 8<sup>th</sup> this year I attended the 20<sup>th</sup> Joint Technical Meeting (JTM) on Pipeline Research that took place in Paris. This report is an overview of my experiences at the JTM and a summary of various opportunities available to YPAC as a result of the meeting.

I would like to thank Pipeline Research Council International (PRCI), particularly Cliff Johnson (President, PRCI) and Chris Yoxall (Executive Vice President, ROSEN Group) for sponsoring this trip.

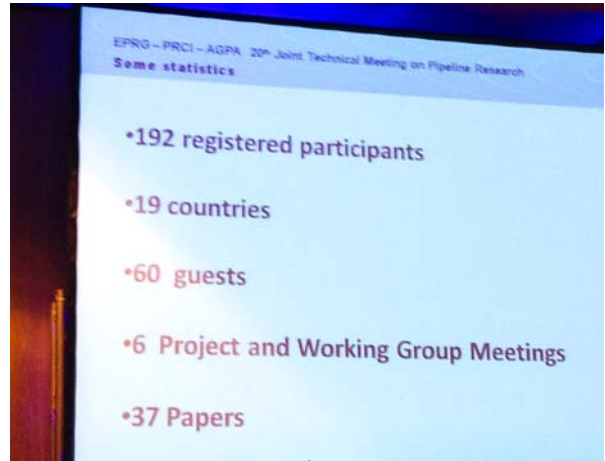
## What is JTM? My Overall Experience

JTM is a biennial meeting between the members of the [PRCI](#), the [Australian Pipelines and Gas Association](#) (APGA), and the [European Pipeline Research Group](#) (EPRG). This world-class forum reflects one of the most significant collaborations in pipeline research formed by the tripartite partnership of APGA, EPRG and PRCI who together have members operating on five continents. The JTM is an opportunity to collaboratively demonstrate pipeline research excellence and to address the challenges confronting the pipeline industry at a global level. It allows new ideas and development concepts to be discussed, and future joint activities to be planned. The meeting included technical presentations, a series of project and working group meetings, and social events.

I was impressed by the quality of papers presented and the nature of discussion that occurred during the technical sessions. It was a very healthy conversation about the challenges the industry is facing, how are we planning to overcome them, and what can be done by each party to facilitate that. On several occasions I noticed when a question or issue was presented by a participant from one country, there would already be some development happening on it in another country. It was in these moments the value of JTM and the collaboration opportunities it presents really stood out to me. The papers and presentations delivered in this forum are confidential, and can be accessed through the appropriate channels of your company if they are a member of one of the three bodies at the JTM.



*Gerhard Knaut, EPRG Secretary General opening the 20<sup>th</sup> JTM on Pipeline Research.*



*Some facts about the 20<sup>th</sup> JTM.*

I was allowed the chance to address the participants of the meeting during the closing session and to talk to them about YPAC and its operations (please see the presentation attached). This was a great platform to inform and educate the attendees on how the organization is operating. A lot of attendees were not aware of such initiatives and were pleasantly surprised by our efforts in trying to ensure a sustainable future of the industry. A number of people approached me afterwards indicating interest and wondering how they can support YPAC or get involved.

## Connections Made

Besides being a great technical forum, JTM offered numerous opportunities for networking through various coffee and lunch breaks and social events. Here're some of the highlights of the discussions I had to provide you a couple of examples of the level of interest in YPAC. Please note that numerous other connections have been made, with the information being distributed accordingly or appropriate YPAC executive members being introduced to.



*Myself with Cliff Johnson.*

Cliff Johnson of PRCI offered support to YPAC and YPP USA and proposed to have a more direct industry link to both organizations to improve integration and make sure the youth forums have a continued and more “hand in glove” relationship with industry. This idea will be discussed in more detail with the members of the YPAC Executive Committee and Advisory Board.

Carrie Greaney (Research Manager, PRCI) offered a number of ideas on industry events that YPAC members could attend. This is being explored further.

Dr. Brian Leis, who presented two papers at the JTM, offered to present to YPAC members on his next visit to Calgary. This is an excellent opportunity, considering the fact that Dr. Leis is an expert in damage mechanics, including fatigue and fracture analysis.

There was much interest in both YPAC and YPP USA from the United Kingdom. Alastair Maclachlan (Pipelines Segment Engineering Technical Authority, BP) inquired about the experience of setting up and running a Young Pipeliners Organization and offered for us to present at the BP Community of Practice group meeting in June. Mr. Maclachlan brought up a very valid point on sharing company related information between the members of YPAC. I explained that although YPAC does have member guidance, this is a professional organization and we expect the members to act according to the Code of Conduct of their respective companies.

## Young Pipeliners International

One of the highlights of the JTM was the opportunity to meet the members of the YPP USA and Young Pipeliners Forum of Australia (YPF) and to get to know more about the details of their operations.

[YPF](#) was established in 2006, with each state of Australia operating a separate chapter. The state chapter chairs meet quarterly as a national committee. YPF is set up as part of APGA. APGA provides sponsorship and secretarial support, in terms of facilitating promotion of events throughout the membership companies as well as arranging sponsorship from those. One of the benefits of shifting administrative burden to the

industry association means that the committees themselves can focus on organizing the events, which are structured to be cost neutral.

[YPP USA](#) has just started their operations and will open the membership draw in July this year (with a \$50 membership fee). The model of YPP USA is somewhat of a mix between YPAC and YPF: the organization is set up under ASME Pipeline Systems Division but will also accept support of other industry associations and companies.

After sharing our organizations' respective experiences we discussed the idea of arranging an international collaboration. As a result of the brainstorming it was decided to start the Young Pipeliners International (YPI) as a platform for sharing information and events ideas between the three countries. YPI would also be open to sharing the operational model with the countries that are looking forward to setting up a young professionals organization. A number of ideas were talked about with regards to the future state of YPI with the main focus on organic growth of the initiative.



*Klaas van Alphen (Energy Pipelines CRC, YPF), Francis Carrol (APA Group, YPF), Nick Kastelein (GPA Engineering, YPF), Mark Dragar (Jemena, YPF), Alina Gabdrakhmanova (WorleyParsons, YPAC), Tara Podnar McMahan (DNV GL, YPP USA), Guillaume Michal (University of Wollongong, YPF) Thomas Seeber (Atteris, YPF).*





*Tara Podnar McMahan (Chair of YPP USA) and I at the Dinner Cruise on the river Seine.*



*YPF, YPP USA and YPAC members at a dinner in a typical Parisian brasserie.*

Overall it was a great experience and I felt privileged to be there. One of the practices that I would like to borrow from YPF is to send a group delegation of YPAC members to conferences like this followed by a tour of various facilities in the area. I will be pursuing this idea further with the YPAC Executive Committee and Advisory Board. Hopefully we will be able to implement it in time for the IPC2016.

Sincerely,

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