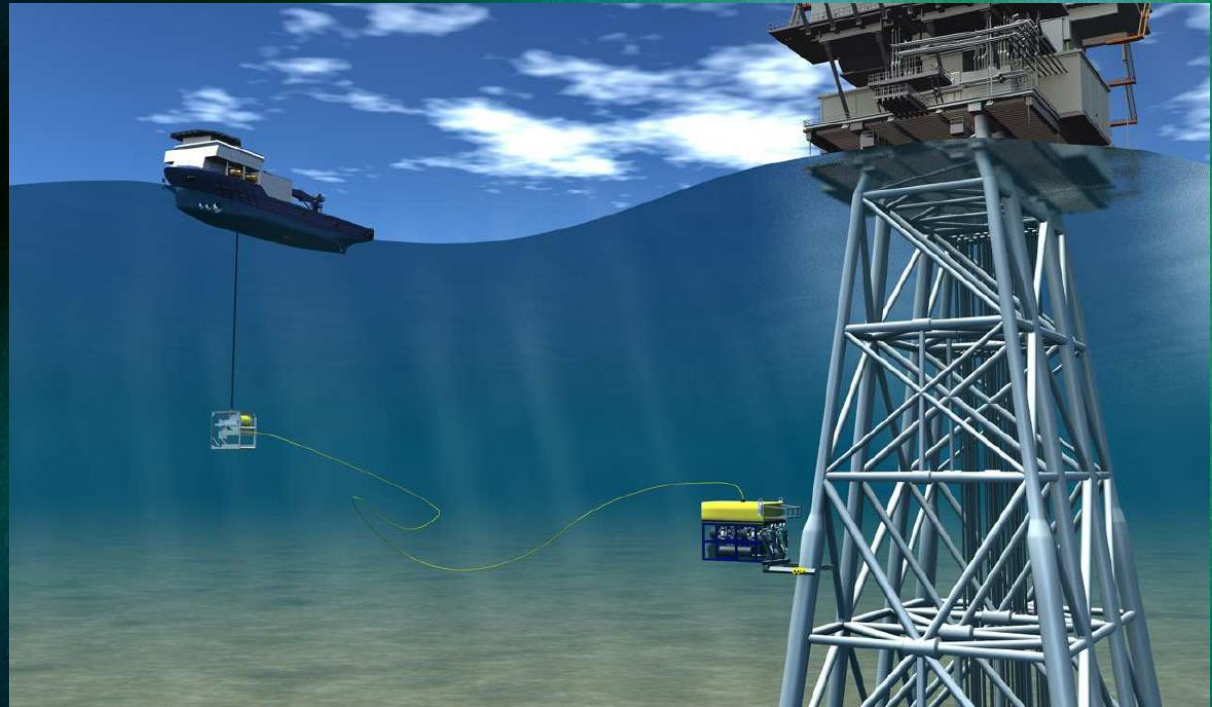


# Wireless for Space and Extreme Environments Conference (WiSEE2018)

## Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management



John Nyholt

John Nyholt Consulting, LLC

BP NDE Inspection SME-Retired

API Subcommittee for Inspection and Mechanical Integrity

[John.nyholt@SJCD.edu](mailto:John.nyholt@SJCD.edu)

# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

- Objectives:
  - A brief review the Oil and Gas view of equipment integrity management and Non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE) technology
  - The types and roles of permanently installed NDE sensors
  - Existing and future wireless sensing technology applications



# Safety Moment: What Happened?



This is a picture shows an explosion of a wireless subsea permanently installed sensor system during its travel out for installation

A lithium battery pack supplying power to a Corrosion Erosion Monitor exploded on the ship deck

Significant damage to the surrounding steel work of the PLET (Pipe Line End Termination)

A number of individuals can be seen running from the scene



# What Happened?



**4 people required medical treatment with 1 IP requiring a number of stitches to the forehead as a result of flying debris.**



# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

## Emerging technology life cycle

- The end user decides what technologies are developed as well as their progress toward later life cycle stages
- The end user owns the risks and costs of operation
- End users come from a broad range of backgrounds; Inspection, Engineering, operations or management
- There are many new technology success stories, however the path to success can be difficult and the bar is higher than in the past (e.g. >\$100 million)

# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

## O&G outlook on Emerging stage technologies:

- Un-proven technology for the field
- Boundary conditions for essential variables are not fully understood
- Test performance is frequently poor during the emerging stage
- Not yet adopted by codes, standards, or specifications
- Lack of qualified technicians to perform the application



# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

## Emerging stage (cont.):

- High cost of service
  - R&D cost recovery
  - High equipment fees
  - Limited availability
  - High labor cost
  - Specialized technicians
  - T&E
  - HSE risks associated with non-routine personnel

# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

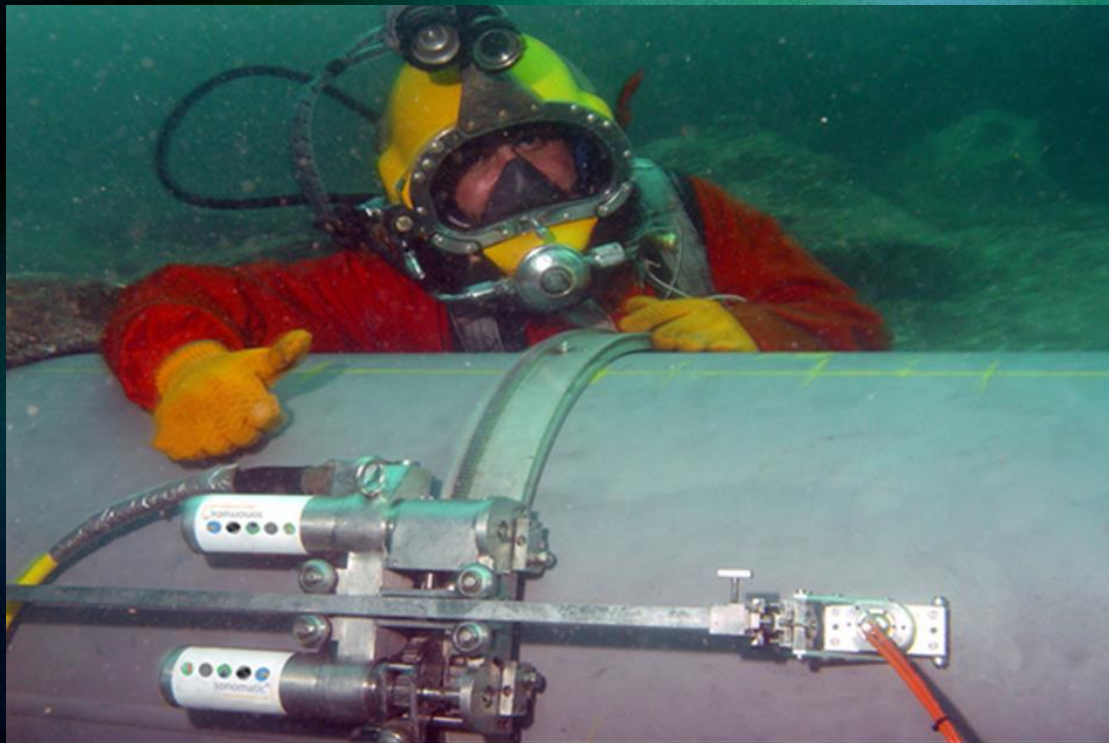
It is possible for O&G emerging technologies to languish or die on the vine due to:

- High risk or cost aversion
- Poor understanding of the technology
- No one wants to be the first to use it
- An over-reliance on poor internal or external technology performance demonstrations
  - too broad of a performance test
  - testing the technician rather than the technology
  - improper performance demonstration boundaries for a given essential test variable



# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

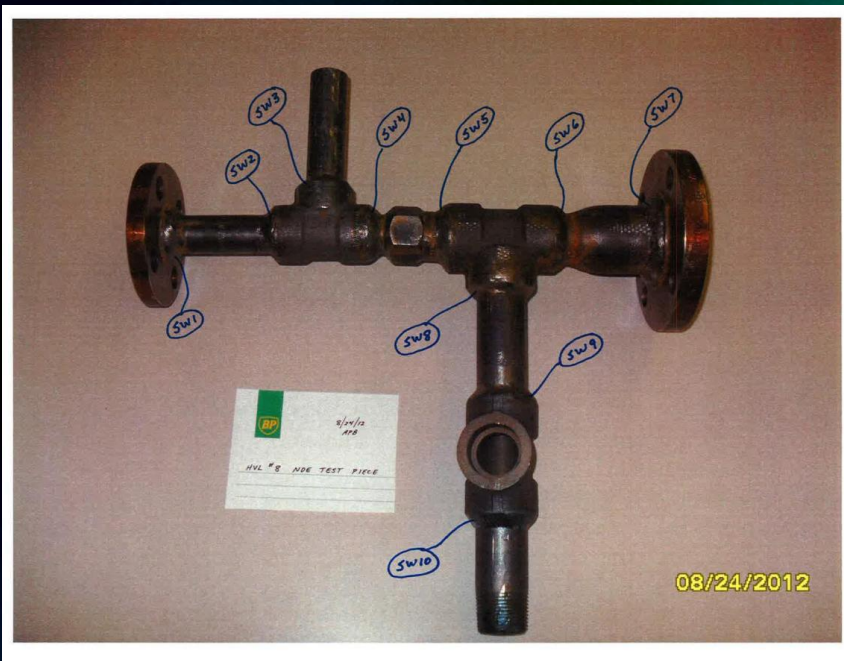
- **Difficult Access Inspection**





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

## Wide Range of Topsides and Subsea Piping Configurations



**Small Bore Branch Piping**

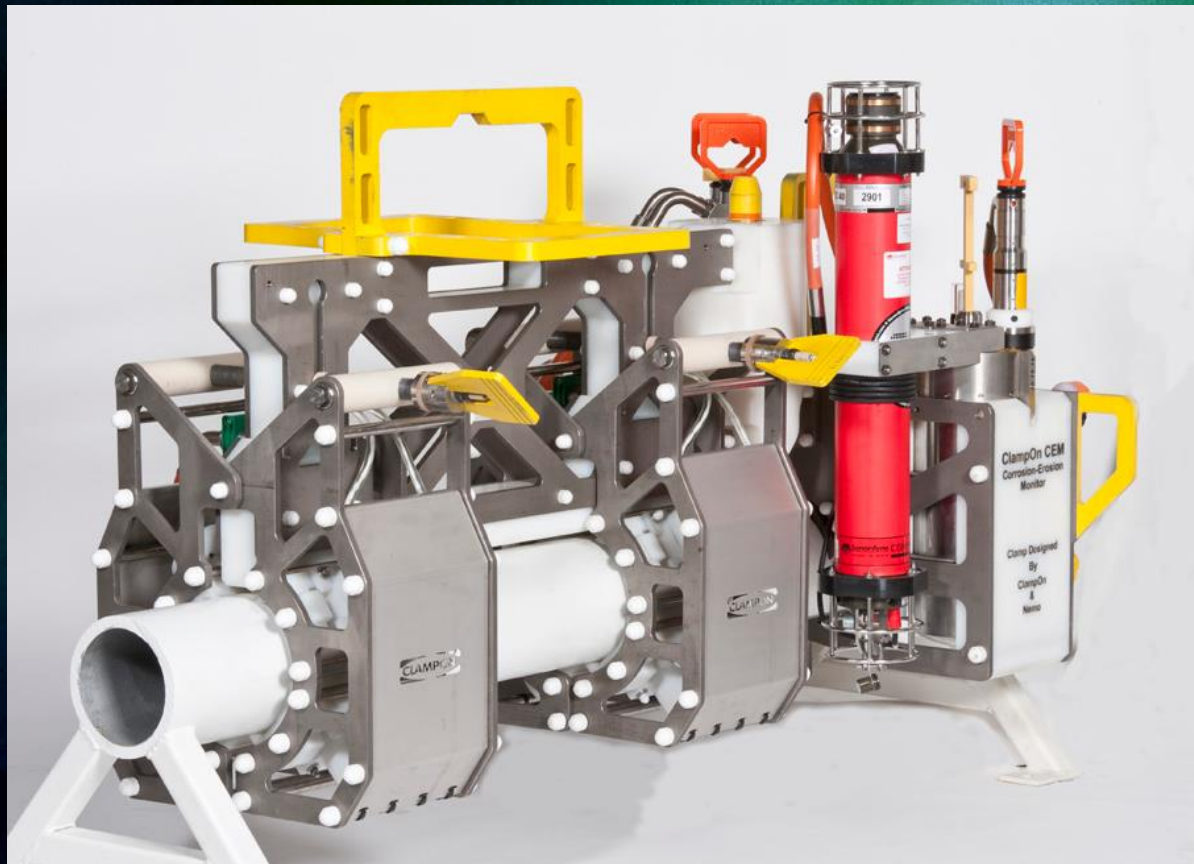


**Subsea Wet Insulation**



# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

- **SUBSEA Short Range Guided Wave Ultrasonics**  
**Water Depth: 6,900 feet**





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

- **SONAR Wireless Communication**





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

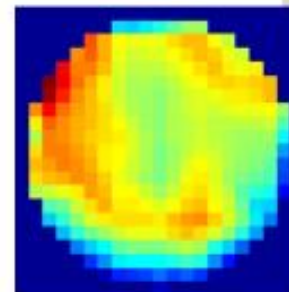
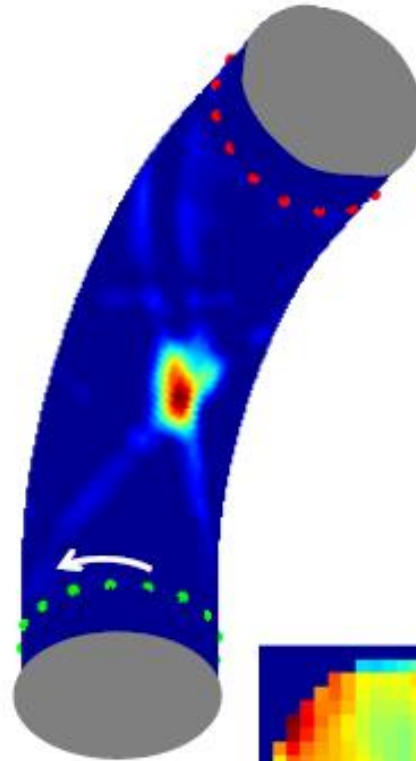
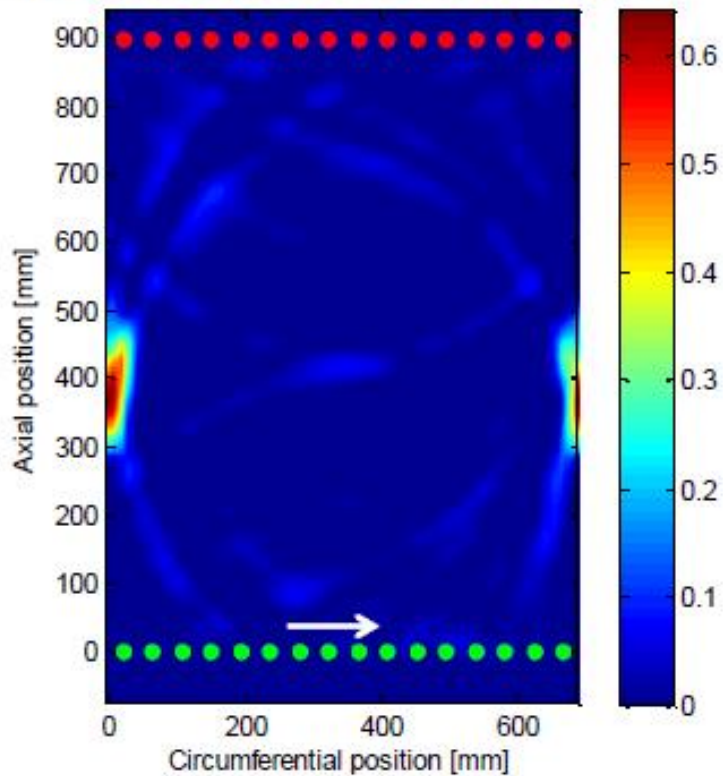
- **WAVEGLIDER Surface Sonar Transponder**





# Bend Tomography - Reconstruction

Wall Thickness Loss [mm] - Maximum Depth 0.64 [mm]



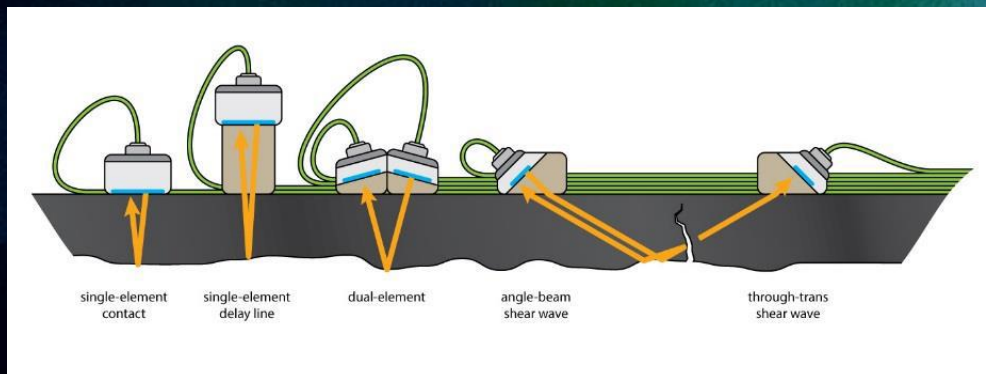
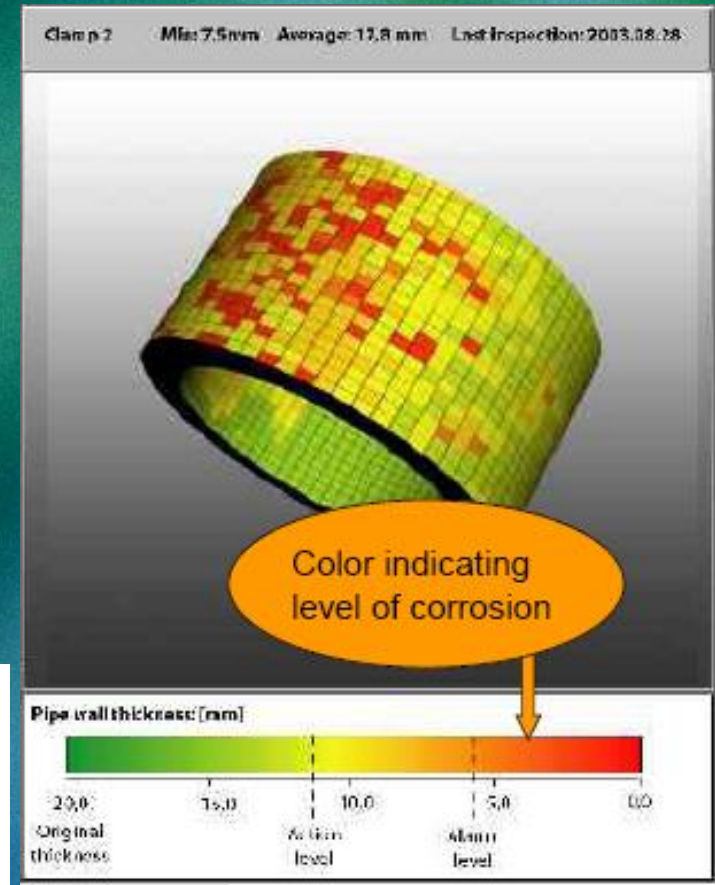


# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

## Permanently Installed Deep Water Sensors (PIMS)



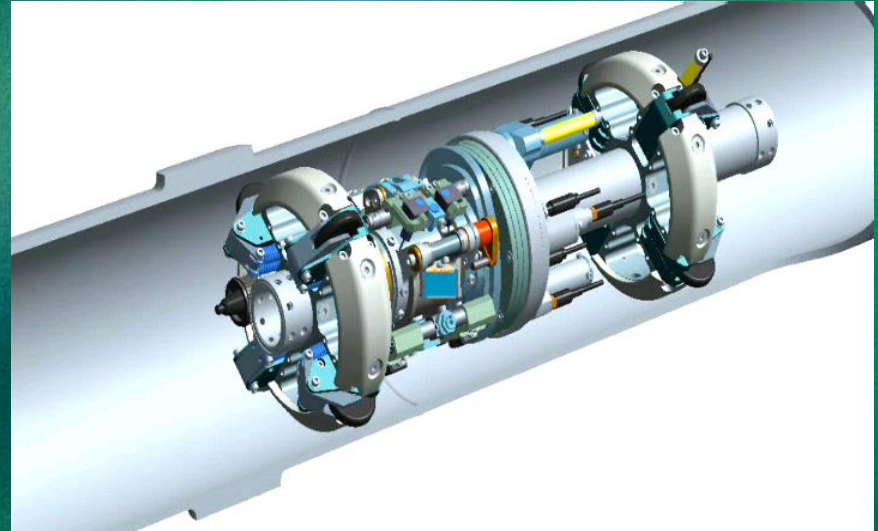
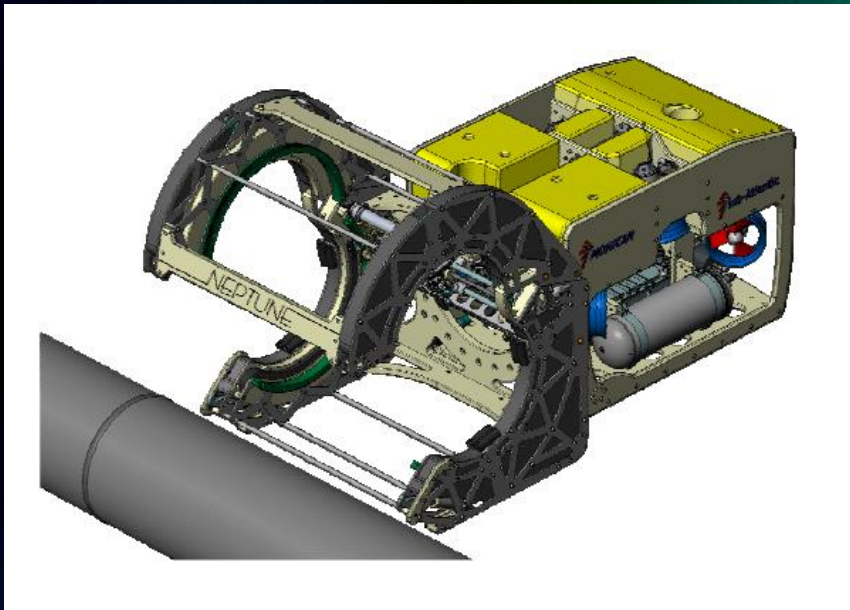
**High density Ultrasonic Sensor Grid**





# Robotic Subsea Pipe Inspection

**External ROV Deployable Robots: Remote Video, Ultrasonics, Digital Radiography, Electromagnetics**



**Internal Inspection Robotics: In-Line  
Inspection Tools: Ultrasonics,  
Electromagnetics, Laser Profile, Tethered, Free  
Swimming**



# Wireless Inspection Challenges

- Standardized design and manufacturing for a range of robotic inspection systems:
  - Miniaturized
  - Single NDT physics robots
  - Multiple NDT physics robots
  - Crawlers
  - Track mounted
  - Harsh environment
  - Intrinsically safety
  - Swimming
  - AUV or ASV communication



# Wireless Inspection Challenges

## Pipe in Pipe Inspection

- Pipe in pipe annulus inspection
- Subsea manifold dead leg inspection
- Through-wall wireless communication





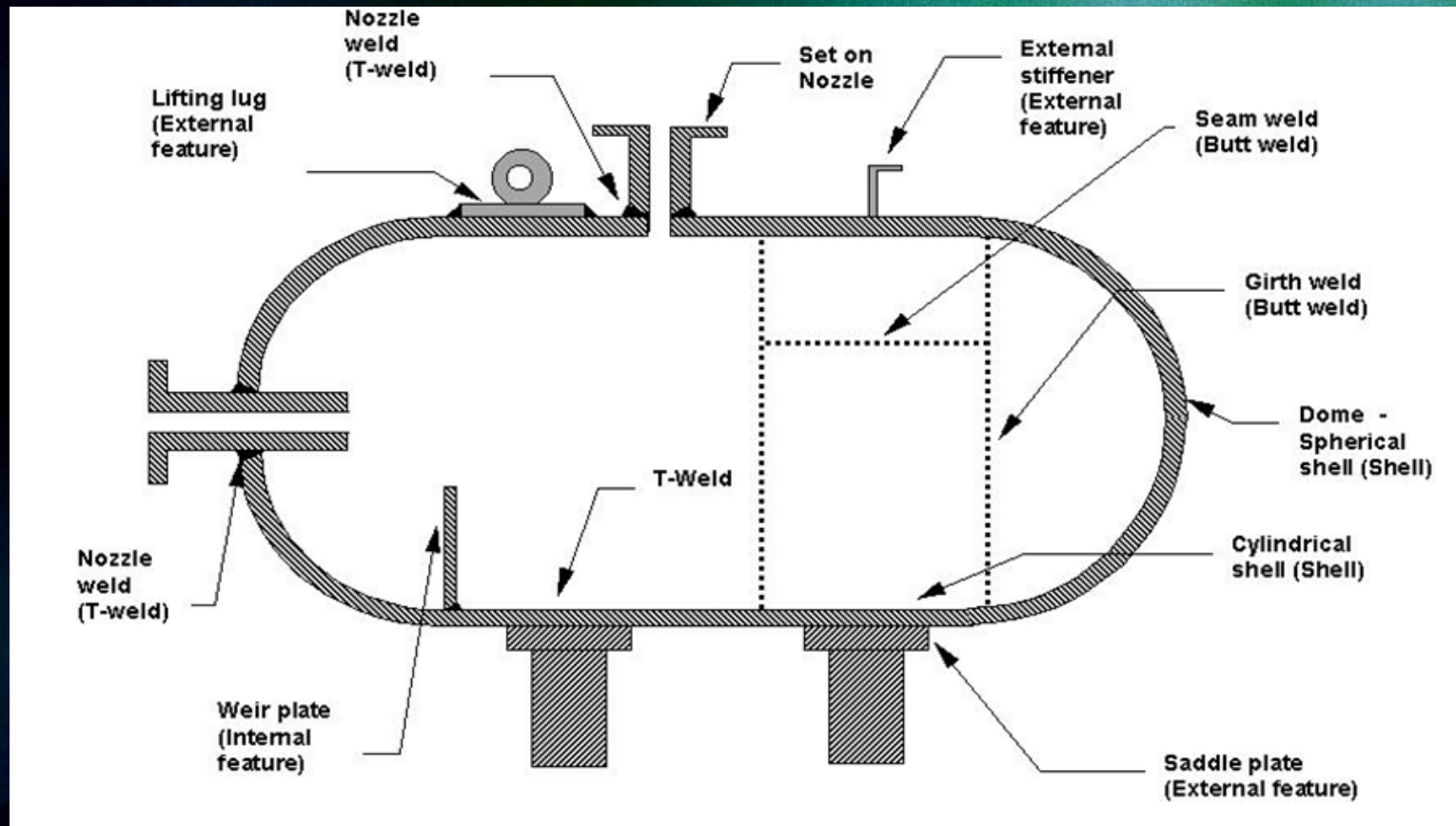
# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

- **Underground Piping**



# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

## Pressure Vessel Design Components





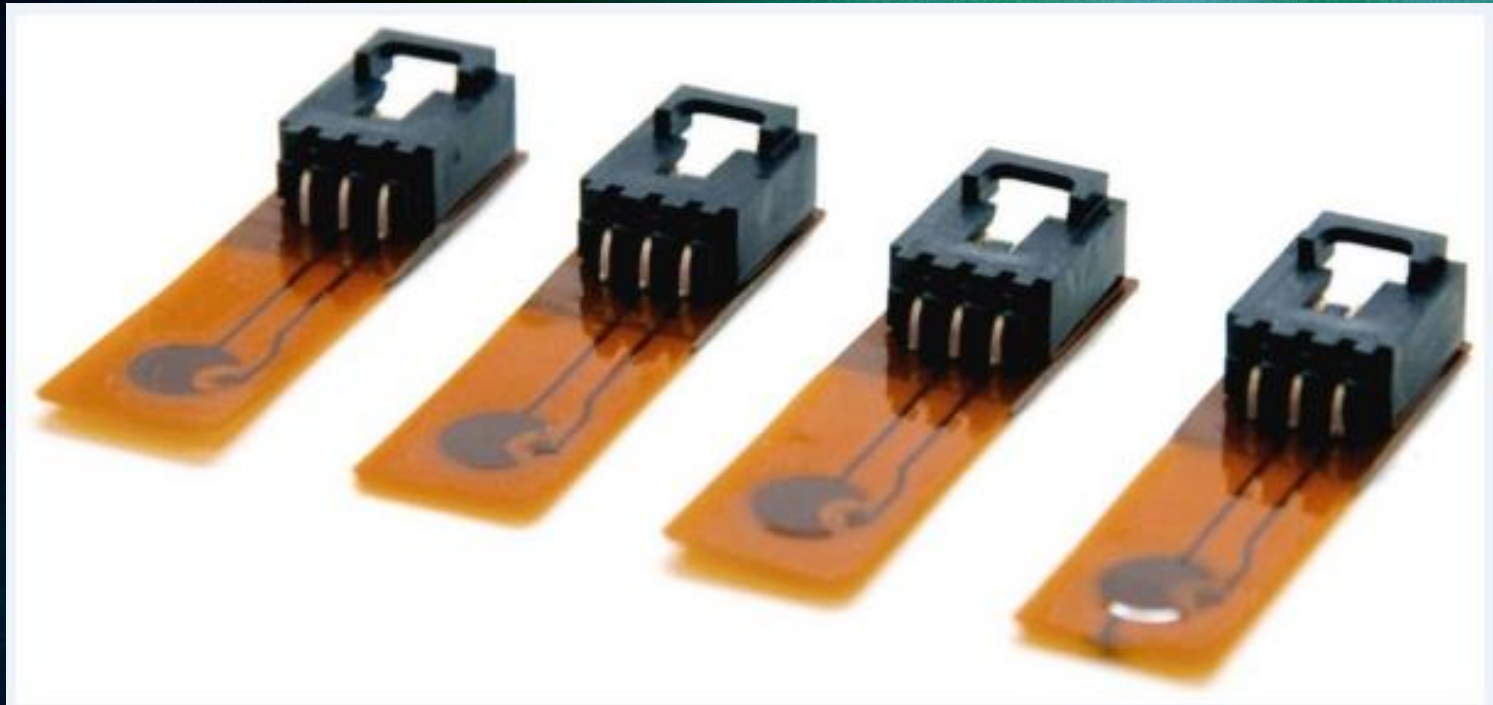
# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

- **Permanently Installed Ultrasonic Sensors**



# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

- **Permanently Installed Ultrasonic Sensors**





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

- Currently >20 Commercially Available UT-PIMS





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

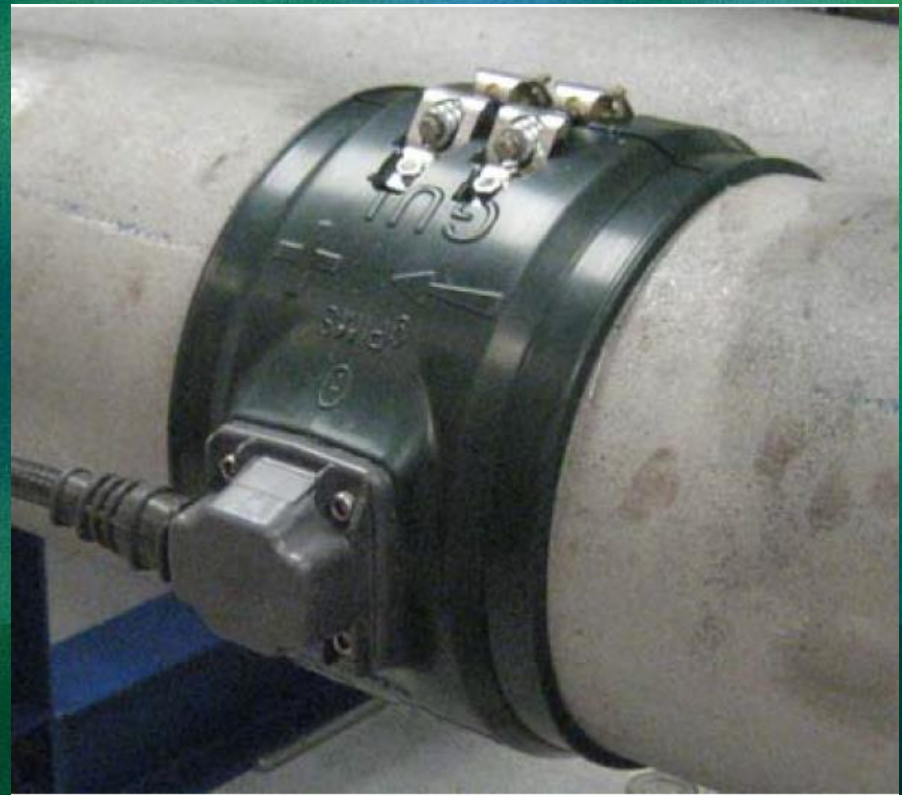
## UT-PIMS Plug and Play (no integrated electronics)





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

## UT-PIMS Plug and Play (no integrated electronics)





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

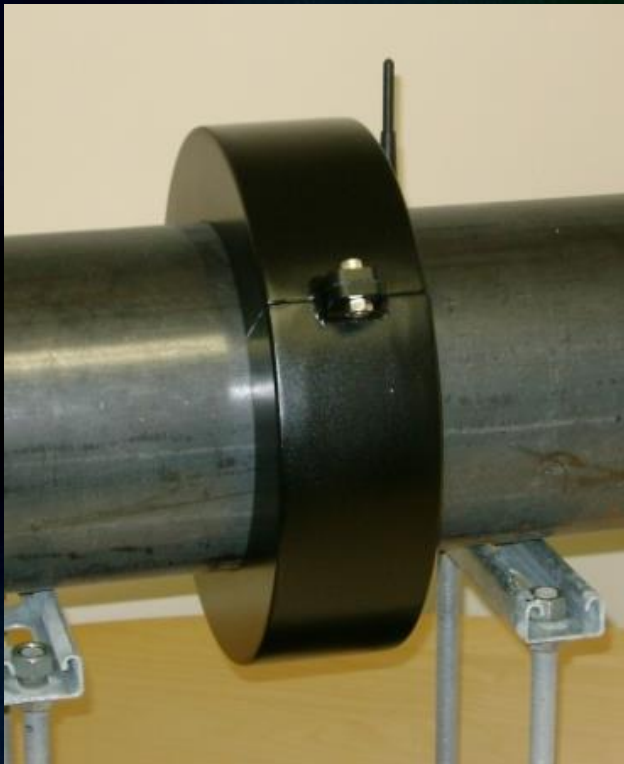
## UT-PIMS with on Board Electronics





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

## UT-PIMS on Board Electronics and Wireless Communications





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

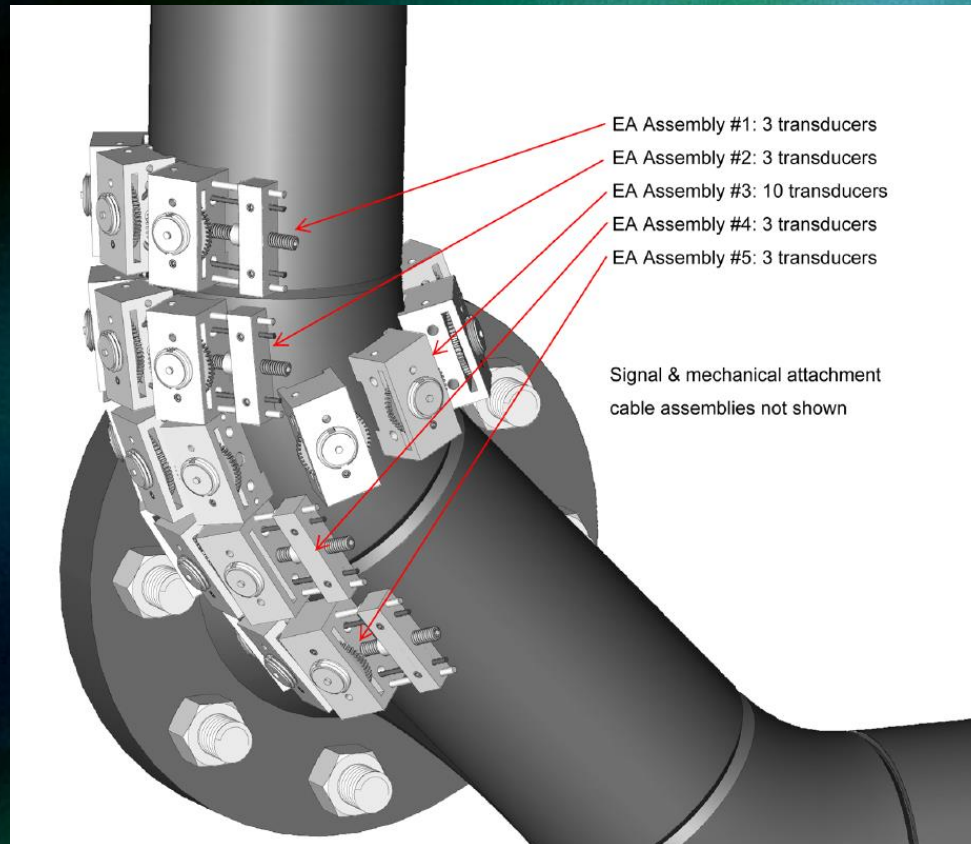
## Wireless with solar power





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

**UT-PIMS are seen as complicated and expensive**  
**Costs range from \$2,500-\$180,000**



# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

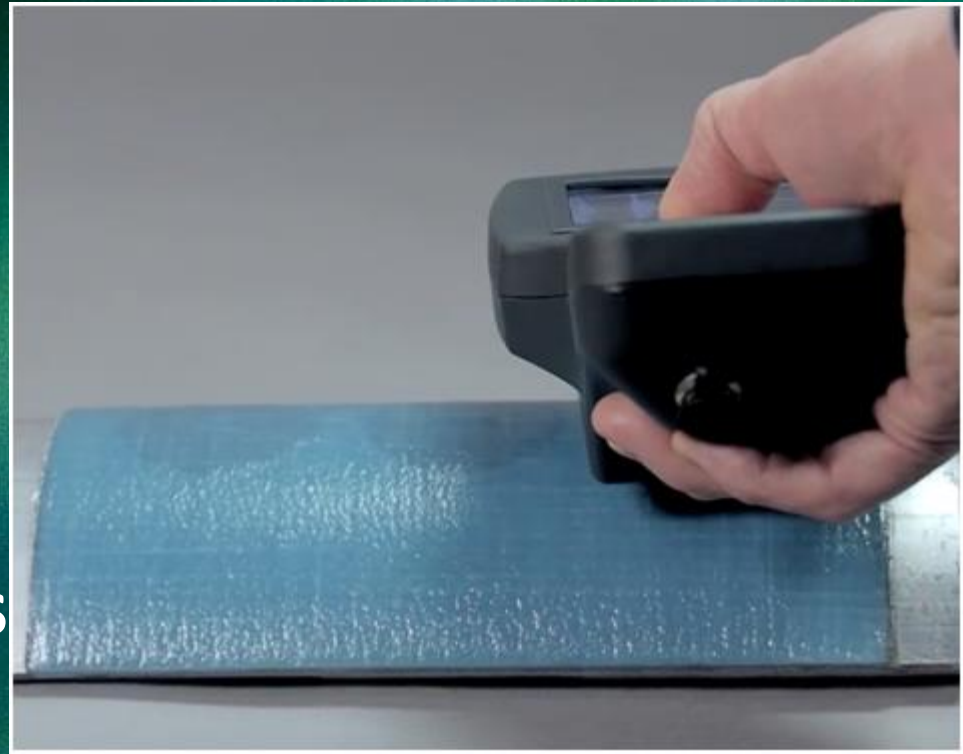
## Inexpensive, Inductive, Wireless, Battery-Free UT sensors





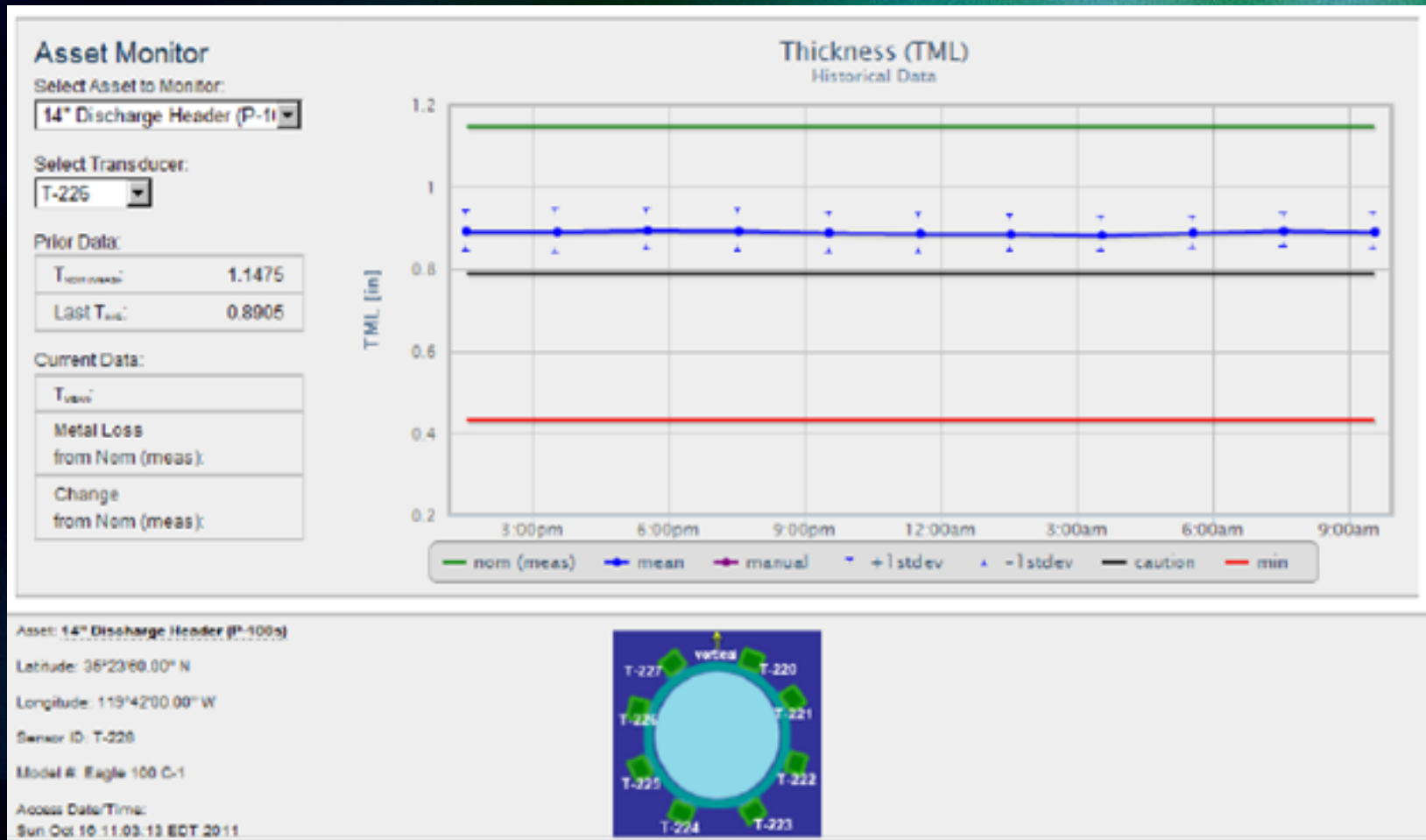
# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

- Potentially  
    <\$100/sensor
- Very similar to  
    current UT-TM  
    processes
- Compensates for  
    most UT error sources
- Can be installed  
    beneath coatings and  
    insulations



# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

## On-line sensor activation and analysis





# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

- Real time digital radiographic (DR) imaging:

Manual DR scanner

On above ground

Insulated pipe

100 14X17" DR

Shots per hour

Now wireless!

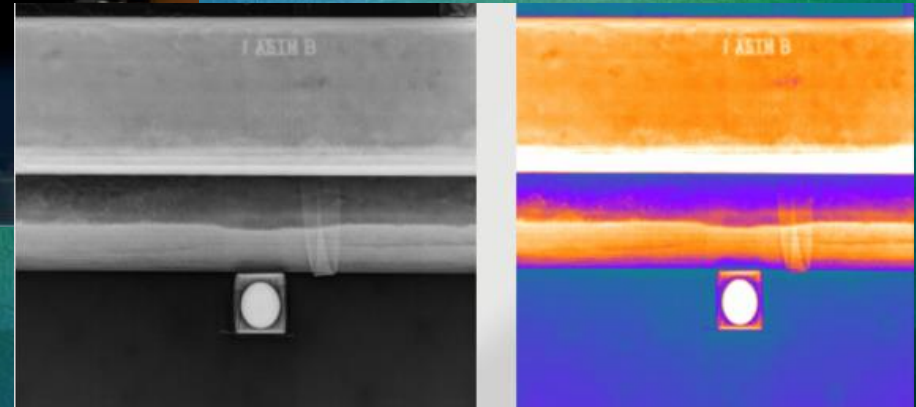


# Passive Wireless Sensor Needs in Oil and Gas Asset Integrity Management

Remote real time digital radiographic imaging work station



Real time DR image

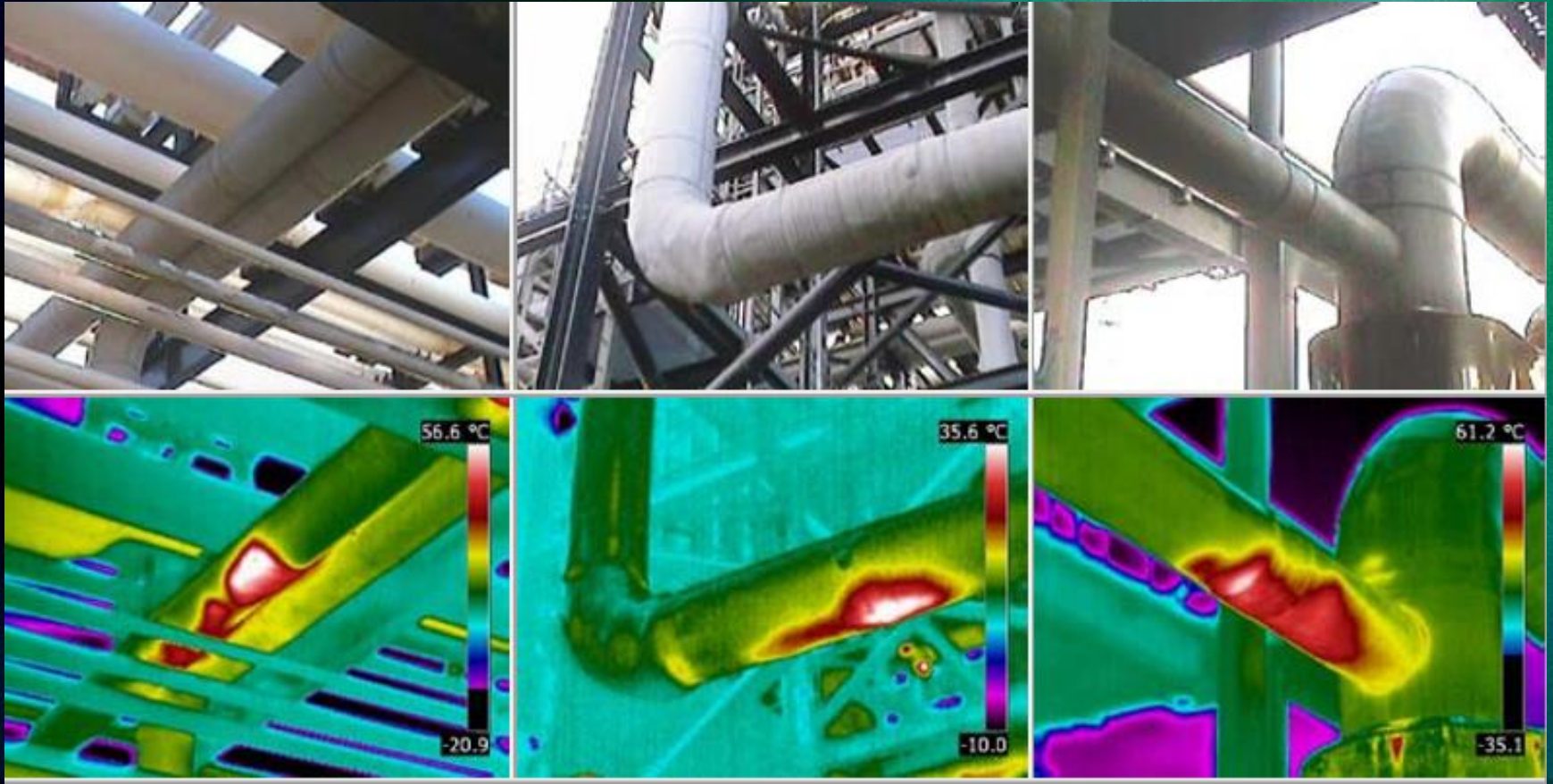




# Drone RVI and IR CUI/CUF Inspections

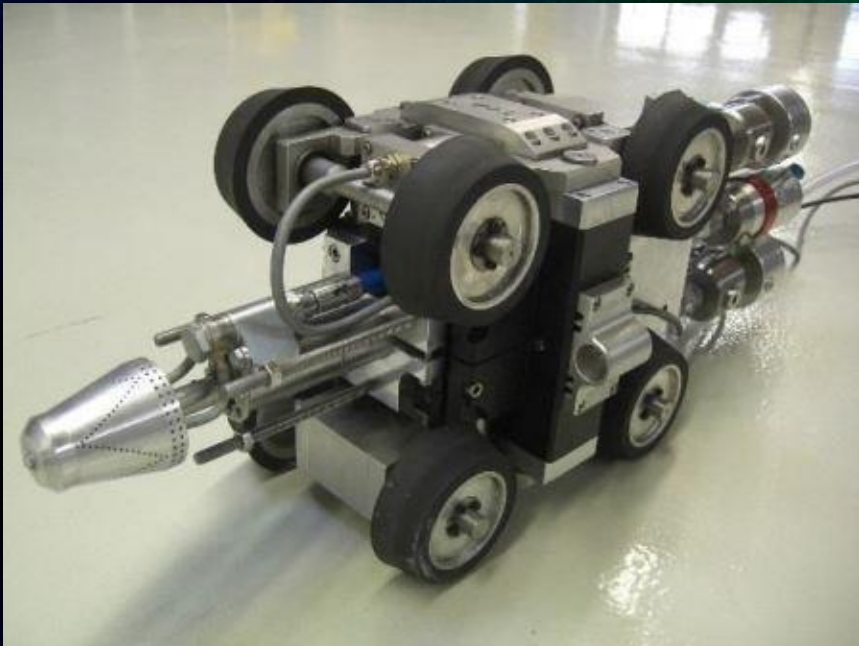
## Aqueous Water Detection

### Thermal/Infrared Examination Method





# Robotic Crawlers Install Internal Corrosion Resistant “SMART” Coatings



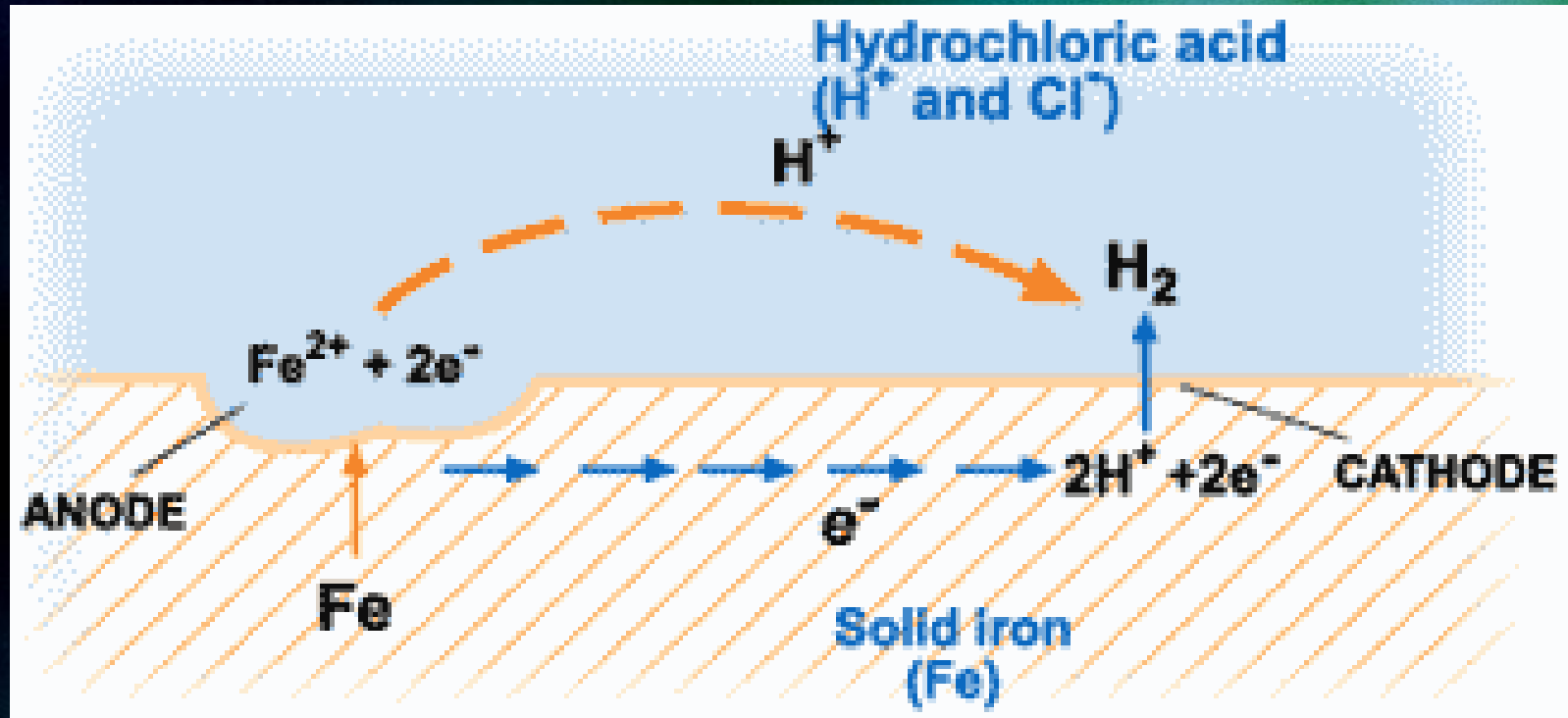
**Internal Coating Robot**



**Installed Corrosion Resistant  
Coating**



# Corrosion Resistant Coatings Arrest Electrochemical Corrosion Activity



Bare metal surface in electrolyte

# Localized Damage to Corrosion Resistant Coatings Create an Accelerated Anodic Corrosion Cell (Leaks)



**Failures due to  
Internal coating  
damage**





# Corrosion Resistant Coatings Arrest Electrochemical Corrosion Activity

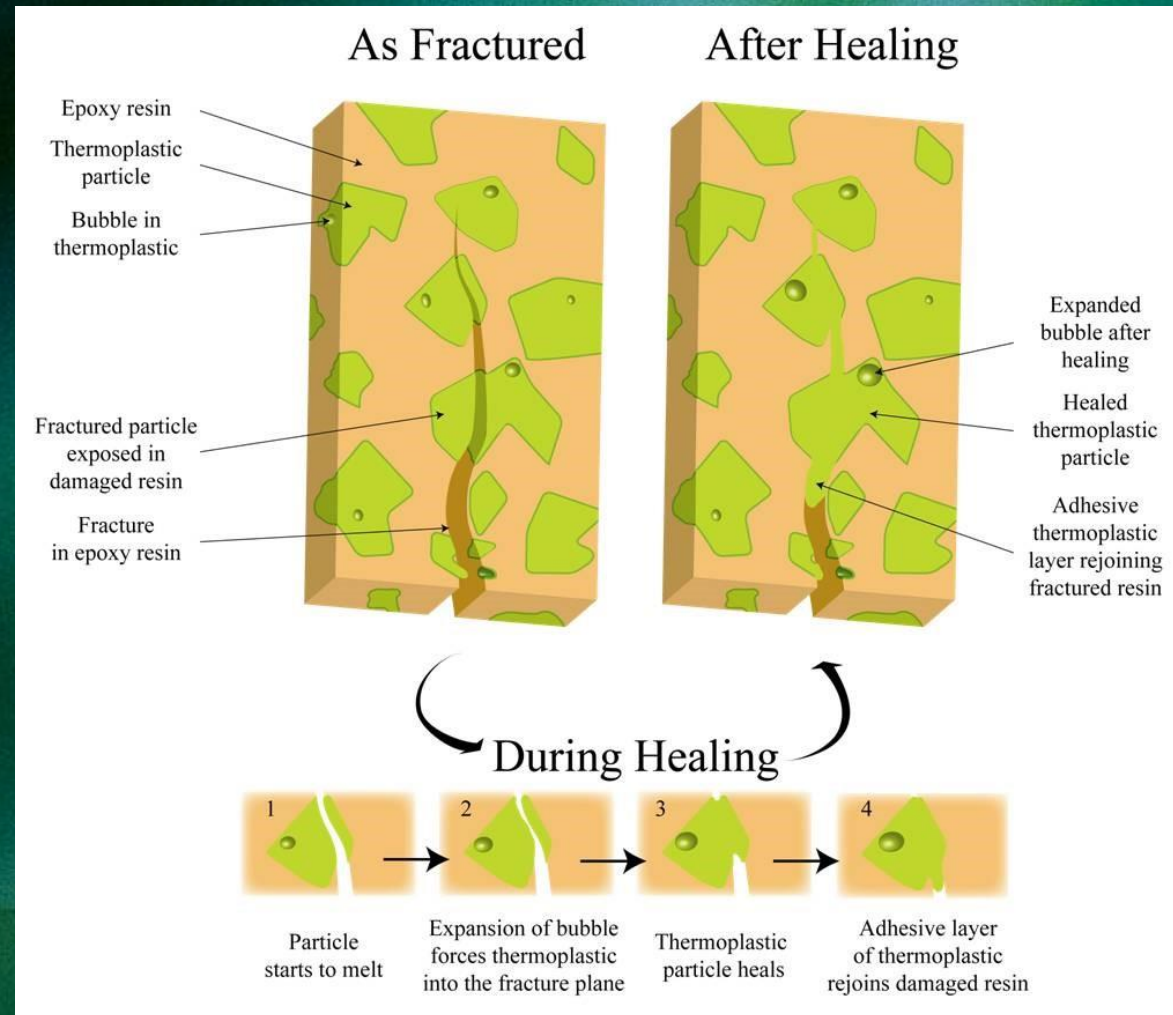
## Current Oil and Gas research: Self-Healing Internal Coatings

Micro thermoplastic particles

Reacts with iron oxide

Enters and expands inside of localized coating failures

Self-healing



# Corrosion Resistant Coatings Arrest Electrochemical Corrosion Activity

## **Wireless sensor technology challenges:**

- 1. How to determine if the coating system is working in miles of piping?**
- 2. How to detect areas of coating failures**
- 3. How to grade the severity of coating failure?**
- 4. How to accurately identify repair areas without large scale inspection processes (e.g. In-Line Inspection Tools, external radiography, ultrasonic imaging)**



# Medical Case for Nanorobots

- Nanorobotic devices will be used to protect the human body against pathogens
- Nanocomposites: Carbon will be a primary material of construction due to its strength and chemical inertness.
- Nanorobots will contain electric circuitry and sensors as well as mechanized control surfaces such as propellers, fins and functional appendages



Robot size = 0.1-10 micrometers



# Future Wireless NDT Sensors

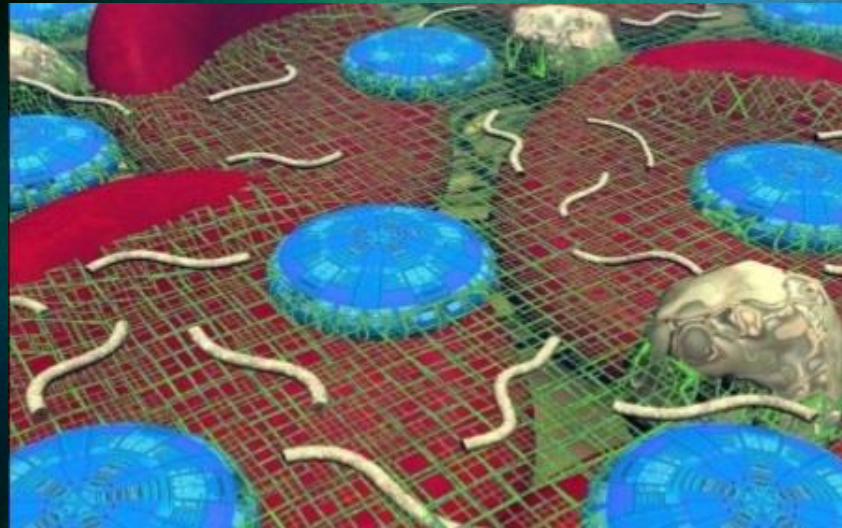
- **Nanorobots** (nanobots or nanoids) are typically devices ranging in size from 0.1-10 micrometers and constructed of nanoscale or molecular components.
- Electrical circuits (on/off switch, etc.)
- Commercial viability estimated within 15 years





# Nanorobots

- Self-Replication: Nanorobots might be able to re-produce themselves in order to remain operational for years

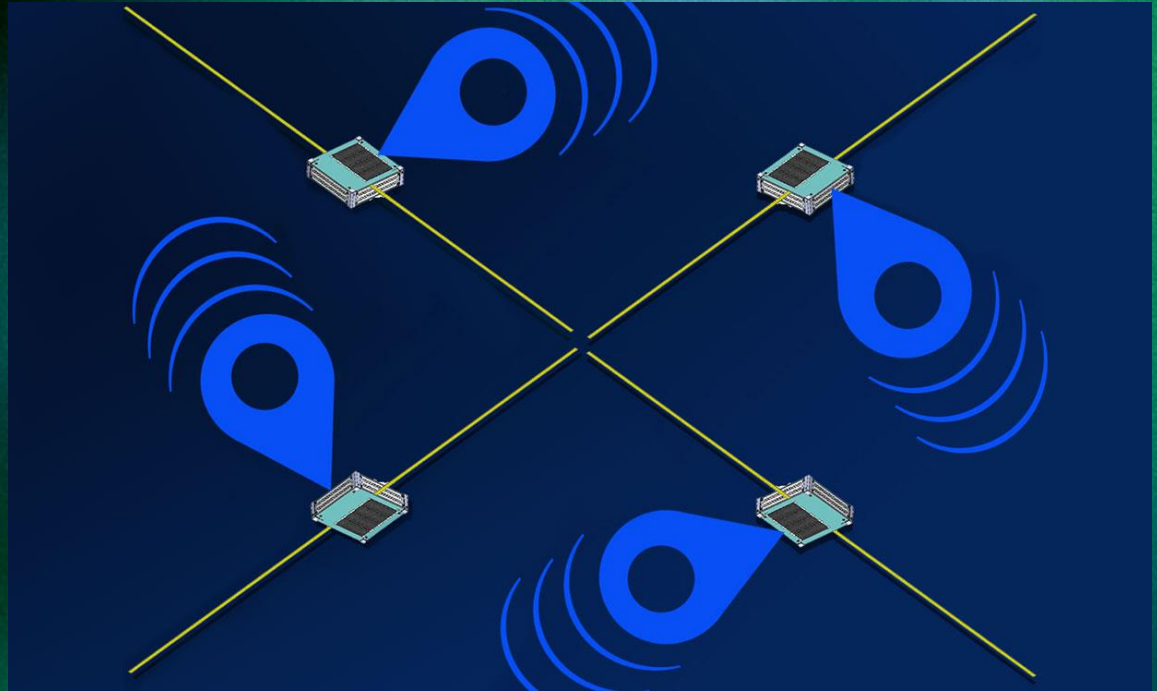


Nanorobot Colony

# Nanorobots

## Swarm nano-circuits

- Transmit individual wireless codes when entering an energy field
- Manufactured in swarm batches for purpose
- Reclaimable
- Reusable



Swarm satellite example



## Robotic Crawlers for Installed Corrosion Resistant Coatings



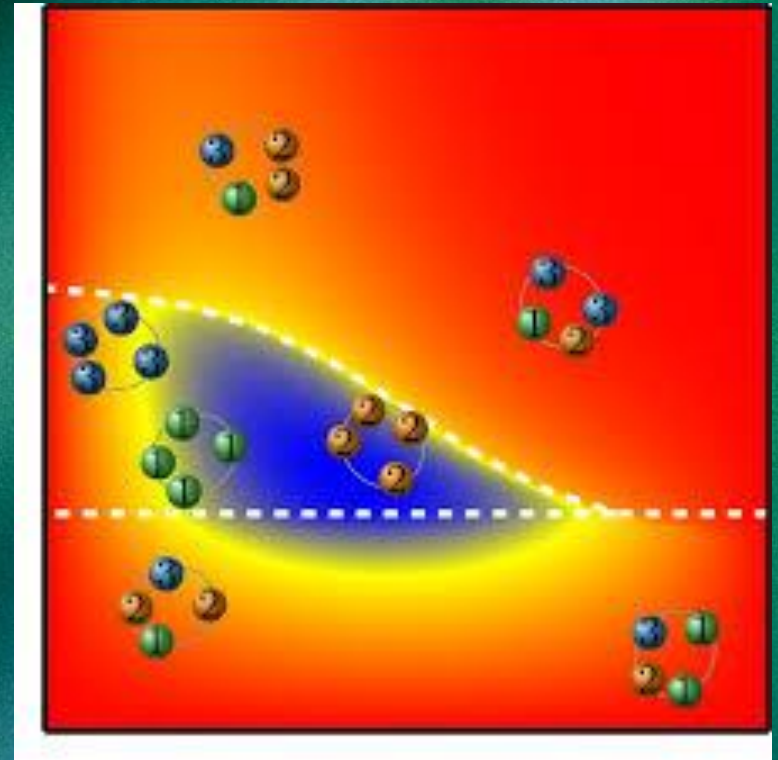
**Internal Coating Robot with nano-circuit axial, circumferential and layer positional encoding**



**Installed Corrosion Resistant Coating**

# Nanorobots

- Wireless coded nanocircuits are introduced directly into the process stream when coating layers fail
- A wireless exciter is located at the inlet pipe of oil and gas separator pressure vessel
- The axial, circumferential and layer information of entrained nano-circuits are recorded and referenced against coating installation positions



Robot size = 0.1-10 micrometers



# Robotic Crawlers for Installed Corrosion Resistant Coatings

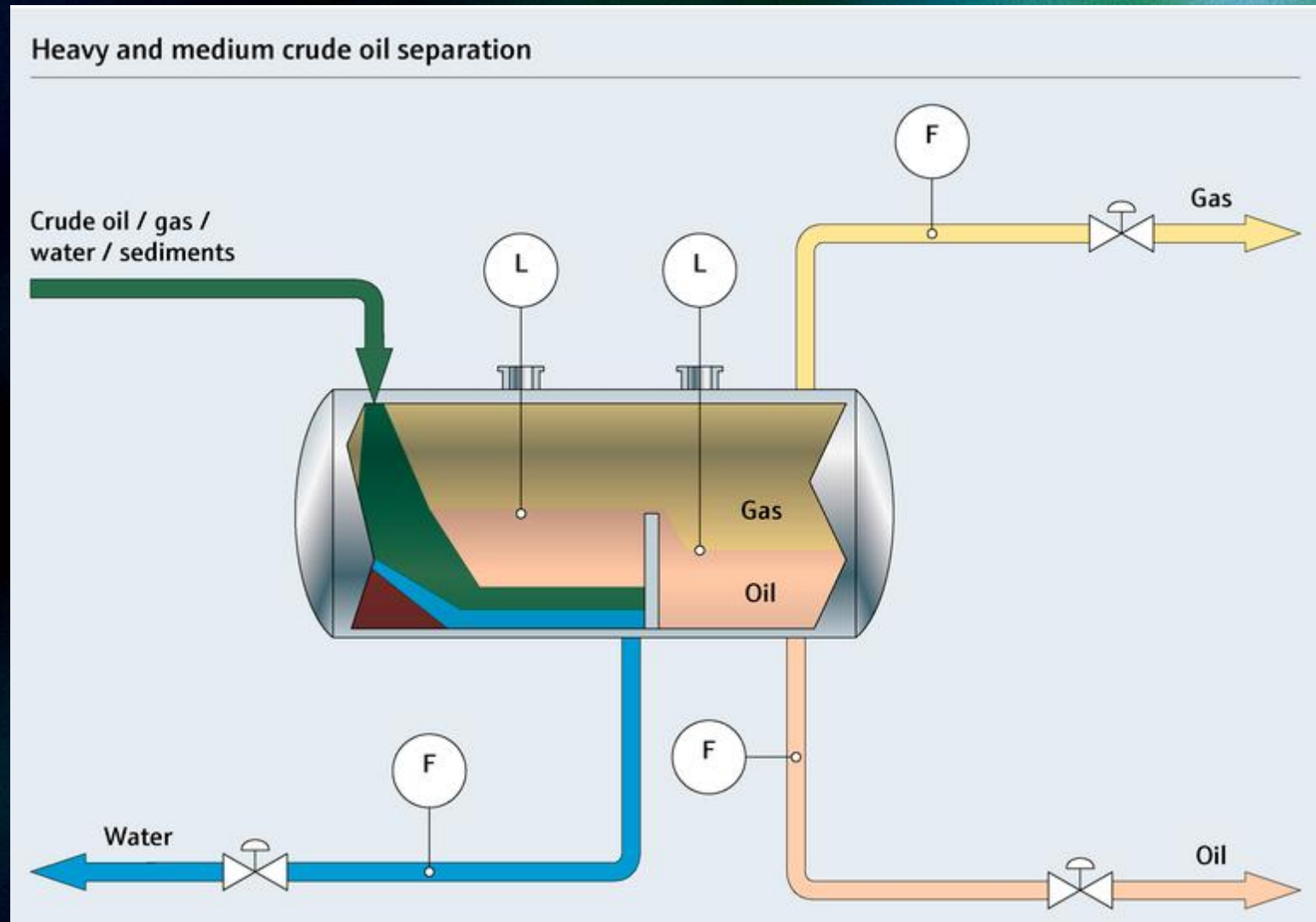


**Production Well Head**



**Wireless Encoded Installed  
Corrosion Resistant Coating**

# Robotic Crawlers for Installed Corrosion Resistant Coatings



Seperator Pressure Vessel



# Questions and Discussion

**Thank You!**