



MEDIA RELEASE

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH CENTRAL TO LONGER LIFE OF GAS AND PETROLEUM PIPELINES

South Australia will play a major role in enhancing the reliability and longevity of Australia's pipeline transmission industry under a \$695,000 grant announced today by the Federal Government.

The Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA) has been granted the funds for a collaborative research project with Adelaide University and a number of other major Australian research institutions.

Matched dollar-for-dollar by the private sector, the three year research project represents an investment of more than \$1.4 million in enhancing the future performance of Australia's pipeline system.

"The knowledge and skills gained from this research program will not only benefit Australia but also the rest of the world," APIA's Chief Executive, Ms Cheryl Cartwright, said in Adelaide today.

"We expect the program will eventually lead to Australian pipeline transmission know-how being exported to many other countries, paving the way for the delivery of natural gas and petroleum in the most reliable and efficient manner possible," she said.

"In relation to natural gas, success in enhancing pipeline performance will help reduce transmission costs and further increase the appeal of this environmentally friendly fuel."

Ms Cartwright was commenting following the announcement of the research grant by SA Senator and Federal Immigration Minister, Hon Amanda Vanstone, at a function at Adelaide University today.

The research program entails seven projects and will, at various stages, also involve Monash (Victoria) and Curtin (WA) universities and research organisations, such as CSIRO and ANSTO.

The research will encompass:

- Improved quality of steel for manufacture of pipelines
- Improved pipeline construction techniques and better quality control
- Better and longer-lasting coatings and other improved techniques to prevent corrosion and leaks
- Improved resistance to damage caused by excavators and earth-moving equipment

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Research project details:

1. Investigate stress corrosion cracking growth rates and subsequent assessment and development of the appropriate methods for the repair of pipelines affected by stress corrosion cracking.
2. Carry out research into the effect of stray currents from electric traction systems and other sources on corrosion rates of high pressure pipelines.
3. Conduct practical research into the deposition of elemental sulphur during the pressure reduction phase in high pressure natural gas pipelines.
4. Determine the rate of deterioration of various pipeline coatings on Australia's older pipelines in various environments and, in particular, in the way that this impacts on corrosion protection and cathodic protection current requirements over time.
5. Conduct on-site testing and analysis of the integrity of coatings on pipelines installed by horizontal directional drilling so as to provide meaningful results suitable for use in the field and the incorporation of the results into an Australian Standard.
6. Determine the level and influence of boron in weld deposits produced using commercial welding electrodes used in the construction of high pressure Australian pipelines.
7. Determine the appropriate test voltages for inspection of new and partially weathered fusion bond epoxy pipeline coatings in order to provide information required for incorporation into an Australian Standard.