

## Pipeline Integrity Tester Cuts Costs & Sharpens Competitive Edge

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If the recordings hadn't worked, we'd have to do it all again, maybe more than once.

With so many sections to check and hours of travel to each of them at least twice, and with so many clients, the costs were really adding up'.

**Mike Bennet**

MD, TubeTest



TubeTest\* provides equipment and services for the oil, gas, mining and chemical industries, serving customers in the Middle East, APAC and India. An important part of its business is integrity testing, making sure that pipelines are safe for use, before and during their lifetimes of service.

### Protecting people & places

Ensuring pipeline integrity is vital for protecting people, and the environment, both natural and built. Considering the overall distance covered, each pipeline could traverse a variety of environments, from arid and fragile to densely-forested and bushfire-prone, passing through both uninhabited and highly populated areas. At all stages, the pipeline must operate correctly and safely. Any undetected slow discharge or sudden explosion could be catastrophic.

### Big distances & costs

Before commissioning, pipelines are tested for integrity in sections. Each section, which might be 30 to 120 kilometres long, is sealed, water is pumped in and then pressurised. The system is then monitored for ambient and pipe surface temperature and water pressure over 24 to 48 hours. Relative changes between the three parameters will reveal integrity or otherwise, and the results may require quick action.

As Mike Bennet of TubeTest says: 'Until recently, we'd send one or two blokes out, first to set up the data loggers and then back again to pick up the data. If the recordings hadn't worked, we'd have to do it all again, maybe more than once. With so many sections to check and hours of travel to each of them at least twice, and with so many clients, the costs were really adding up'.

\*This client has asked for names to be changed for privacy reasons



## Instant access to remote data

The makers of SatVue already knew TubeTest and Mike Bennet, so when SatVue was developed, they called him. As Bennet says: 'The idea of tracking results continuously and avoiding sending staff to site to pick up false or no results was attractive, so I organised a trial of SatVue immediately'. Bennett chose the pole mount version.

The trial was conducted in just three weeks and the results were compelling. The instant and continuous data access was impressive, and Bennet was surprised that the SatVue device took less than five minutes to set up and start collecting data. He ordered his first SatVue device straight after the trial.

## Not just about costs

As Bennet explained after the trial: 'Cost is a big issue, but our people's safety is too. For some sites - like in the Omani desert or Papuan rainforest - getting there and back is hazardous, not just time-consuming. We want to cut down staff exposure to risk too. SatVue will help us do that'.

In truly remote areas where 3G or 4G network connectivity isn't available, before SatVue, the only option for TubeTest was the one activity it wanted to avoid: more trips to site.

With SatVue's satellite communications, clients' data will be accessible from virtually any site in the world, continuously, reliably and instantly. For TubeTest, site trips to collect data from its most remote and hazardous sites will soon be a thing of the past.

## Competitive gains too

Bennet can see a competitive advantage for TubeTest in using SatVue, too.

With a growing number of clients and remote sites, and the need for integrity testing after pipeline commissioning as well as before, SatVue can help him provide his clients with faster results, greater accuracy and lower costs. Reducing costs and risks for TubeTest as well is a bonus. Bennet plans to buy quite a few more SatVue devices.

## Contact us about SatVue

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