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The Importance of HEART

In his monthly article series in *Materials Evaluation* magazine, ASNT 2016-2017 President and long-time member of GHASNT, David Bajula touches on a topic he calls “HEART”...specifically the importance of NDT technicians having “HEART” and how it is pivotal to successful application of NDT. In this issue of GHASNT’s newsletter, we will feature the “H” and “E” in Dave’s own words.



What is HEART? HEART is:

- H** = Honesty
- E** = Excellence
- A** = Accuracy
- R** = Respect
- T** = Teamwork

Honesty

It should be noted that I am always looking for NDT technicians, young and old, that have the HEART to be in NDT.

As an NDT professional, you can have the most certifications, the most hours of training, and be the smartest person in the room, but in the end, none of that matters if you do not have honesty. Honest work builds trust and trust is necessary for us to do our jobs.

It goes without saying that the importance of the inspection we do can save lives and minimize failures and economic impact to industry. Major decisions are made based on the information and results we provide. When we perform inspections, we are given a level of trust to ensure that we bring back results that are accurate and truthful. To fudge numbers or change readings even in the smallest degree can have catastrophic consequences. Then, if there is a failure and it was found that the inspector did not do his or her job honestly, that damages not only the inspector’s reputation, but it reduces the level of trust that businesses, government and people will give to our certifications.

In discussing this with others, I am reminded of the keynote address from the 2015 Annual Conference by Stephen Covey. In his talk, “The Speed of Trust”, Covey explained how trust is something that is difficult to earn and easy to lose, but when we focus on honesty, not only in our inspections but in our work overall, we can strengthen or rebuild trust.

Nothing is more important than honesty and integrity in what you do. Without honesty we lost trust, and without trust, we cannot succeed.

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Advancements in CUI Detection and Overview of MsS Guided Wave

By: Adam Gardner, NDE Specialist, PinnacleART

Introduction

Corrosion is a leading cause of asset failure in the oil and gas industry. Over time, undetected corrosion degradation can cause an asset to fail before its projected lifespan, resulting in a costly repair or replacement, unplanned downtime, and lost revenue. Beyond the financial hits, undetected degradation can also lead to critical safety risks. Thus, to effectively manage mechanical integrity, organizations need reliable methods of identifying the current states of corrosion occurring within their assets. Therefore, effective inspection planning and monitoring of assets is essential to maintaining mechanical integrity.

Corrosion Under Insulation

Corrosion under insulation (CUI) is a severe form of localized external corrosion that occurs in carbon and low alloy steel piping and equipment that has been insulated. This form of corrosion occurs when water is absorbed by or collected within the insulation. In these circumstances, corrosion occurs as the base material is exposed to water and oxygen. CUI commonly appears in temperatures ranging between 32°F and 300°F. Acceleration of CUI can be caused by cyclic thermal operation, intermittent service, and equipment design.

Common occurrences of CUI include the following:

- General and pitting corrosion of carbon steel, which may occur if wet insulation comes into contact with carbon steel—particularly if acidic product can leach material from the insulation.
- External stress corrosion cracking (ESCC) of austenitic stainless steel, which is a specific type of corrosion mainly caused by the action of water-soluble chlorides from rainwater or insulation that does not meet material standards.

Guided Wave Ultrasonics and CUI Detection

Guided Wave Ultrasonic Testing (GUL), or Long Range Ultrasonic Testing (LRUT), is considered a viable screening approach for detecting CUI related problems in the oil and gas industry. Guided wave ultrasonic testing is a nondestructive inspection method in which low-frequency omnidirectional ultrasonic waves propagate along internal geometric boundaries, in order to detect corrosion. As the guided waves travel across the confined boundaries, the waves will then be reflected at areas with cross-sectional changes, identifying areas with corrosion. These low-frequency waves are able to travel great distances with less sound attenuation.

Not only can GUL provide expeditious and expansive coverage, it can also be used for the inspection of otherwise inaccessible assets (i.e. buried piping, roadway piping, etc.). Essentially, GUL can be used as a proactive screening tool to pinpoint specific areas (i.e. suspect corrosion areas) which will need to be followed up with other Nondestructive Testing (NDT) methods, in order to quantify the severity of corrosion in suspect areas. By using this productive and minimally-invasive screening method, organizations can achieve efficient corrosion detection through the optimization of time, resources and efforts. For example, by screening large areas to identify which areas will need further NDT inspection, organizations will avoid the unnecessary downtime and expense associated with extensive insulation stripping, re-insulation of stripped equipment, and erection of scaffolding.

Inspectioneering Journal article (continued from page 2)

Some advantages of using GUL for CUI detection include:

- CUI detection on both carbon and alloy materials
- Large coverage area, with omnidirectional scans
- Full volumetric coverage
- Ability to inspect in service equipment (i.e. operating ability with temperatures up to 500°C)
- Ability to be installed as a permanent CUI monitoring system

While some organizations have expressed concerns about GUL being overly sensitive, recent advancements in GUL technology and operating software have helped achieve a reduction in false calls, making GUL a viable and cost effective tool for inspection planning and asset reliability programs.



MsS Systems and Guided Wave Inspection

Magnetostrictive Sensory System (MsS) GUL uses a Torsional wave mode as opposed to a Flexural wave mode. This type of Guided Wave Inspection is not limited to the traditional operating frequency range of standard GUL, which ranges from 8KHz to 100KHz (typical operating frequency is between 20KHz to 100KHz). Rather, MsS GUL provides a wider frequency range of operation (ranging from 8KHz to 250kHz). Due to increased sensitivity and resolution, MsS is able to detect areas as small as two percent cross-sectional area loss. MsS GUL also has the following advantageous capabilities:

- Increased near-field resolution
- Ability to use sectorial scan methods for large areas (i.e. no limitations on pipe diameter) and is capable of spot corrosion inspection
- Not limited to corrosion detection on just piping (i.e. can be used to inspect pressure vessels and storage tanks)
- Identification and assessment of corrosion under pipe supports
- Due to higher frequency capabilities, pipe supports, U bolts, and other geometric features have less effect on wave propagation

A Project Overview Demonstrating the Utilization of MsS Inspection

One of the nation's largest refineries, located in the Gulf Coast region, produces heavy-sulfur crude oil and utilizes interstate pipelines to transport its products. To meet compliance, this organization's tunnel piping was due for inspection. Therefore, an inspection approach was needed to aid in the determination of both insulated and non-insulated tunnel piping conditions, and to identify areas affected by corrosion, as well as any associated leaks. Because the tunnel piping area was not accessible for visual inspection (VT) or remote visual inspection (RVI), MsS GUL inspection was identified as the optimal method, due to its advantages and capabilities.

To monitor the gulf coast refinery's tunnel piping, MsS GUL was utilized on 300 feet of pipeline. A scan was taken on each end of the tunnel, with scans in the range of 150 feet. Key findings included:

- A thru-wall hole at pipe support
- Several areas of severe corrosion discovered at pipe supports throughout the tunnel
- Numerous lines did not meet compliance requirements due to percentage wall loss
- In two separate lines, leaks were discovered due to severe corrosion



Inspectioneering Journal article (continued from page 3)

These findings enabled the refinery to understand where to focus further inspection efforts in order to efficiently allocate time, resources, man-hours, repair efforts, and spending. Had MsS GUL not been used, this refinery would have had to alter product flow and possibly shut off active lines in the tunnel, remove the pipe supports to allow personnel into the tunnel (which involves numerous associated safety concerns), and invest significant time and planning hours in order to safely access and inspect the tunnel.

Conclusion

Despite advancements in insulation materials and coating applications, CUI remains a serious industry-wide problem, costing facilities millions of dollars each year. By applying asset integrity solutions, risk-based analysis, and the latest inspection practices—such as the GUL inspection demonstrated herein—many facilities can mitigate the likelihood of a catastrophic failure due to CUI.

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Holiday Rewind

The spirit of camaraderie and giving is always in the air at GHASNT and while the holidays may be behind us, it's always nice to look back on the fun and fellowship of our annual holiday party where more great memories were made by all!

Thank you again to our Casino Grand Prize sponsors:



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ASNT is live with computer based testing for all certification candidates

The American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) is now offering computer based testing (CBT) to certification candidates around the world.

ASNT’s previous model allowed candidates to only take examinations at authorized test centers (AEC’s) and limited approved locations at specific dates and times. With Pearson VUE as ASNT’s chosen CBT administrator, candidates will now experience streamlined scheduling by having the option to schedule via phone or online 24/7 and a worldwide network of test centers including ASNT examination partners from which to choose.

AEC’s and National Sponsoring Organizations (NSO’s) remain trusted examination partners to the Society and the NDT community. Each AEC/NSO offers industry training opportunities and resources that non-AEC/NSO testing locations do not. Candidates may find a greater overall value in choosing an AEC/NSO as a testing center when scheduling examinations through Pearson VUE

Key benefits for ASNT and candidates include examination integrity safeguarding with added layers of security and candidate verification. Also, the majority of examination results to be given at the test site immediately.

Not only does CBT provides a consistent testing experience for all candidates but it also aligns with ASNT’s move towards a more efficient and cost-effective paperless environment. All applications for examinations are now entirely online to not only give candidates an intuitive, secure portal to upload required documentation, but also streamline the administrative process of gathering and assessing applications for completeness.



While this is a very different way of doing business than in the past, supporting a global membership of over 16,000 necessitates ASNT to be innovative and agile for members and all of those in the NDT community that look to ASNT examinations as critical professional credentials.

ASNT recently celebrated 75 years of creating a safer world last year because of its renowned commitment to supporting and promoting excellence in NDT. ASNT’s offering of CBT is one way that commitment is being upheld.

For more information, please visit www.asnt.org

Professional Progress

Well done! GHASNT would like to congratulate the following section members as new certificate holders for November 2016 – December 2017.



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ACCP Level II	VT	Gannon Greer
ACCP Level II	VT	Joshua Hernandez
ACCP Level II	VT	Travon McCoy
ACCP Level II	MT GI B, MT GI Y	Gene Perz
ACCP Level II	VT GI D	James Basham
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ACCP Level II	VT	Mark Alan Johnston
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The Importance of HEART

Excellence

There's an old saying that goes you can get things done fast, cheap, or good, but you can only pick two. That is, if you want it done fast and cheap, it won't be good. If you want it fast and good, it won't be cheap. If you want cheap and good, it won't be fast. In our industry, there is a demand to do things fast and cheap, which could lend itself to mediocrity. This is unacceptable, especially considering how critical our work is to the safety of our fellow man. How do we, as technicians, make it good? We do that by striving for excellence.

At the company I work for, we are continually challenged to achieve excellence, keeping in mind that better, faster, and cheaper is the desired result by the end users. What is readily apparent is that quality is connected to excellence. Excellence in any one area alone is diluted when it is absent or less in other areas. In our case, excellence is achieving the highest level of satisfaction for the clients from cradle to grave, that is, when the call comes in, the personnel are assigned to the job, the inspections are performed, and the results reported, and then again when the invoice is submitted. There are many opportunities for mediocre execution and, in general, if any one of those steps breaks down, it may not matter how good you were at performing the other steps. If you have to prioritize, then by all means, it comes down to how good you finish.

It is incumbent on the NDT technician to achieve excellence for many reasons (obviously safety, reliability, and so forth). However, he or she is likely to relate most to this reason – if you want to be the best, you must do your best. If you want to be the first one out the door on that call out job, continually asked to work overtime or get the best inspection jobs, then you must absolutely separate yourself from the rest of the pack. You must be willing to put in extra time (your own time) to the betterment of your craft. This may even include optimizing your productivity and performance during the day by taking on data analysis or reporting at night or off shift. This may mean taking extra time to



get the perfect calibration, letting that dwell time go a bit more than the minimum established in procedure, or even performing that eddy current tubing examination a bit more slowly than you did during that pull on the calibration tube. Excellence is about doing things better than they have ever been done before.

Strive to achieve excellence in the execution of your inspections to ensure the reliability of the parts you are inspecting. In the end, the only person responsible for your excellence is you. To our Level II technicians out there, I would offer you this quote from Confucius: “The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential...these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.” It is paramount that we execute our NDT task to the very best of our ability. The consequence of a critical component or part failure is too great and the inspections you are required to make ensure safety and save lives. As I continue to strive for excellence, I look forward to all of you doing the same, and discussing the other elements of HEART in the issue to come.

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From Vision to Mission – ASNT 1941-2016

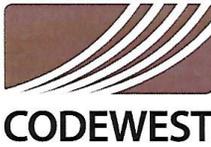
In honor of ASNT’s 75th anniversary, *From Vision to Mission: ASNT 1941 to 2016* recounts in rich detail the entire ongoing history of the American Society of Nondestructive Testing beginning with its founding by “nine visionaries” in Building 34 of the Boston Navy Yard in 1941. Introduced by past president (1976-1977) Charles J. Hellier III, the book highlights the Society’s challenges, initiatives, and achievements decade by decade as it grows into an international organization serving a membership of more than 15,600 NDT professionals.

in an accessible, conversational style with abundant photographs interspersed throughout. As a commemorative tribute to the continuing commitment and diligence of its members, it would enhance the library of anyone interested in the origin and development of the leading organization dedicated to the advancement of nondestructive testing worldwide.

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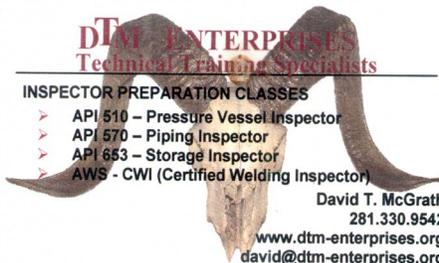


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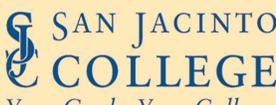
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