

Managing Water & Wastewater Utilities Proactively



**Interview with: Mike Higgins,
Vice President Engineering,
Pure Technologies Ltd**

"It is clear that **water utilities** do not have capital funding necessary to replace their underground pipelines in their entirety. The alternative solution is to better understand the condition of the existing infrastructure and perform proactive maintenance and asset management," advises Mike Higgins, Vice President Engineering, **Pure Technologies Ltd**. "If a proactive management strategy is implemented, existing pipelines can be operated as reliably and safe as new pipelines", he adds.

Ahead of the **marcus evans Water & Wastewater Management Summit 2012**, in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 3-4, Higgins discusses how **water infrastructure** can be managed cost effectively to prevent failures before they occur.

Can you give us an update on the state of water infrastructure in the US today?

The most valuable assets **water and wastewater utilities** have are their

underground pipelines, which are now decaying and causing failures that are significantly eroding people's confidence in their services.

For decades now, the water and wastewater utilities have focused on above ground assets, building treatment plants and pumping stations, forgetting about the pipelines buried underground.

How can water infrastructure be better and cost effectively managed?

It is clear that water utilities do not have the capital funding to replace underground pipelines in their entirety. Further, replacement of large diameter pipes running through urbanized areas is not practical.

The alternative solution is to either do nothing or try to better understand the condition of the existing infrastructure and perform proactive maintenance and asset management. Utilities inspect pipelines, find where the problems are and perform isolated spot repairs.

This approach typically costs three to five per cent of capital replacement, yet it gives utilities the reliability of a new pipeline in terms of performance and safety.

Would a repair program leave infrastructure more prone to safety and reliability failures?

The vast majority of buried infrastructure is in perfectly good condition. After performing an inspection and condition assessment,

typically less than one per cent of a pipeline requires repair. The remainder of the line is in "like new" condition. A reliable assessment allows us to repair the problem locations and in the end the pipeline has the safety and reliability of a new pipeline. The challenge is finding those locations where there are problems, and preventing the next failures. If utilities find and repair their next failures, they can safely manage their pipelines into the future.

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The **marcus evans Summits groups** deliver peer-to-peer information on strategic matters, professional trends and breakthrough innovations.



Please note that the Summit is a closed business event and the number of participants strictly limited.

About the Water & Wastewater Management Summit 2012

This unique forum will take place at the Red Rock Casino, Resort & Spa, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 3-4, 2012. Offering much more than any conference, exhibition or trade show, this exclusive meeting will bring together esteemed industry thought leaders and solution providers to a highly focused and interactive networking event. The Summit includes presentations on improving reliability and cost effectiveness in water and wastewater utilities.

www.h2osummit.com

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About Pure Technologies Ltd

Pure Technologies is a world leader in the development and application of innovative technologies for inspection, monitoring and management of physical infrastructure including water and hydrocarbon pipelines, buildings and bridges. Pure is committed to continuing the development of solutions and commercialization of state-of-the-art technologies for proactive management and assessment of critical infrastructure.

www.puretechltd.com

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