REMOTE VISUAL INSPECTION: OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITATIONS

Invitation to a Shared Research Project Scoping Workshop

Visual inspection of tanks, vessels and pipework is a cornerstone of the examination process and is often the primary means of defect detection, sizing and diagnosis. Recent advances in imaging and access technology have meant that replacing the direct human element of visual inspection is now possible, and remote imaging could be used to undertake these parts of the examination process. The use of remote visual inspection is of particular interest in the high hazard industries, where intrusive human intervention, for example vessel entry, could be reduced.

The limitations of the technology have yet to be fully explored, and no meaningful comparison has yet been made with the established standards for visual inspection. Variables such as lighting, sensor and display capability and the impact they may have on defect and corrosion diagnosis, and hence integrity, have yet to be considered.

With this in mind, on 1st November 2018 HSE will be hosting a workshop to discuss the options for shared research regarding the use of remote visual inspection. The workshop, which will be held at HSE’s scientific laboratory in Buxton, will provide a forum for discussing concerns and identify opportunities for shared research to address them. The basis on which this research can be undertaken will be a key outcome of the meeting.

To register your interest in attending the workshop please contact:

Christine Daws 02030281898 christine.daws@hse.gov.uk

Proposed Research Themes for Consideration

- Understanding the variables and their impact – light (quantity and quality), sensor capability, depth of field etc;
- Surface breaking defect detection and sentencing capability;
- Corrosion mapping and diagnosis;
- Guidance and/or standard development for operators.