

TRACERCO Diagnostics™ MUI

An increasing problem on vessels and pipelines within chemical and refinery units is the “invisible menace”, more commonly known as “corrosion under insulation”.



When this occurs, unseen corrosion of the pipe or vessel wall takes place ultimately leading to either an operational stoppage or at worse a catastrophic failure of the unit or pipeline, causing product loss and potential environmental damage. The costs associated with this can be enormous.

The **TRACERCO Diagnostics™** MUI technology offers a hand held inspection technique to examine the water content of the insulation. Although the technology does not directly examine the condition of the metal wall itself, it does give an accurate indication as to the “wetness” of the insulation indicating where the conditions for corrosion to occur are most prevalent.

The benefit of doing such a survey is that it gives the client an early warning of an impending problem.

The **TRACERCO Diagnostics™** MUI service is carried out by highly trained and experienced Tracerco field engineers, using portable inspection equipment. The service has been designed to provide instantaneous results, allowing our field engineers to identify to our customers whilst on-site which sections of the insulation contain moisture and require further pipeline inspection.

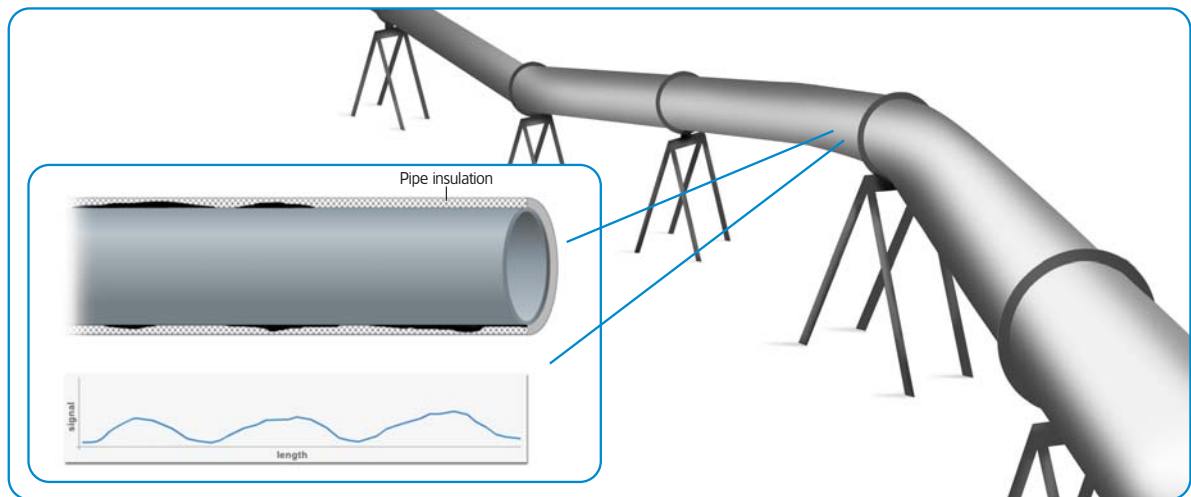
European gas pipeline undergoes insulation inspection using **TRACERCO Diagnostics™** MUI

An example of the successful use of the **TRACERCO Diagnostics™** MUI technology is on a gas transportation line in Europe. This line is over 16km long and suffered a catastrophic failure during the mid-nineties.

On inspection, the client found that this was due to corrosion from the outside of the pipeline and that the insulation in this area was extremely wet. This obviously raised major concerns as to the condition of the remainder of the line.

Immediately, the **TRACERCO Diagnostics™** MUI technology was used to conduct a detailed examination of the insulation along the remainder of the pipeline. This initial survey showed significant areas of wet insulation, which on removal showed that major “corrosion under insulation” had taken place.

Large sections of the pipeline were replaced (due to corrosion) and re-insulated after the initial inspection. Since then, Tracerco has carried out an annual inspection of the pipeline insulation using **TRACERCO Diagnostics™** MUI technology. Although the condition of the insulation has improved dramatically, Tracerco regularly identifies areas where the conditions for corrosion are present.



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