



UKOPA

PROGRAMME

Venue: Silverstone Circuit

Date: 21-22 October 2026

Wednesday 21 October 2026

Day 1 – Past & Present

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 09:00 | Exhibition open
<i>Meet exhibitors, explore the latest products and services, and reconnect with industry colleagues.</i> |
| 10.00 | Opening address by Clive Zanker, Chair of UKOPA & Head of Operations, BPA
<i>Welcome to UKOPA's 30th Anniversary Conference and an overview of the themes and objectives for the event.</i> |
| 10.10 | Keynote Address, by John Armstrong, CEO, BPA & Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering
<i>Providing strategic insight into the evolving energy landscape and the role of the pipeline industry within it.</i> |
| 10.30 | 30 Years in 30 Minutes: The History of UKOPA, by Jane Haswell, UKOPA Inaugural Chair & Peter Davis, Past Chair of UKOPA
<i>Reflecting on three decades of progress, collaboration and achievement across the pipeline industry.</i> |
| 11.00 | The History of UK Pipelines, by Dr. Russell Thomas, Chair, IGEM Gas History Panel & Technical Director, WSP
<i>Exploring the development of the UK's pipeline network and the key milestones that have shaped the sector.</i> |
| 11.25 | Silver Sponsor Introduction, by Neil Bamber, Customer Operations Manager, National Gas Services
<i>An introduction from a sponsor, sharing key insights and their role within the pipeline sector.</i> |
| 11.30 | Refreshments, Networking & Exhibition |
| 12.00 | Platinum Sponsor Presentation, by Dr Jeff Wilson, Vice President T.D. Williamson
<i>An insight-led presentation, focusing on innovation and solutions addressing current pipeline industry challenges.</i> |



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- 12.20** UKOPA Working Groups Panel Session, moderated by Nikki Barker, UKOPA
Panellists:
Stephen Humphrey, Exolum, FARWG
Freya Matthews, Cadent, PSWG
Martin Cook, Wales and West Utilities, EPWG
Representatives from UKOPA working groups share achievements, current priorities, emerging challenges and opportunities for collaboration.
- 12.55** Silver Sponsor Introduction, by Dominic Wynne, Regional Business Development Manager - UK & Europe, Penspen
A sponsor showcases ahead of lunch.
- 13.00** Lunch, Networking & Exhibition
- 14.30** State of the Industry: Is the UK pipeline industry ready for what's coming? Moderated by Elizabeth Corner, World Pipelines
Panellists:
Richard Espiner, Espiner Consulting
Luke Rowlands, National Gas Transmission
John Armstrong, BPA
Vic Tuffen, Ofgem
A high-level panel featuring regulators, industry bodies and operators exploring the challenges, opportunities and future readiness of the UK pipeline sector.
- 15.10** Gold Sponsor Presentation, by Dave Baglin, Head of Operations, ROSEN
An innovation-led presentation showcasing technologies and services supporting pipeline integrity and performance.



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15.20 **Technical Pulse: What's Challenging Us Right Now? Moderated by Kirsty McDermott, National**

Gas Services

Panellists:

Richard Price, BPA

Ian McCluskey, IGEM

Louis Quinn, SGN

James Blanchard, IES Utilities

Industry experts discuss the technical, operational and integrity challenges currently facing pipeline operators.

16.00 **Gold Sponsor Presentation, by Adam Wynne Hughes, Country Manager A.Hak UK**

A focused presentation highlighting innovative capabilities and solutions relevant to today's pipeline challenges.

16.10 **Closing Remarks**

16.15 **Refreshments, Networking & Exhibition**



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Drinks Reception & Gala Dinner

For guests attending the evening celebration.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 18.00 | Drinks Reception proudly sponsored by ROSEN and A. Hak |
| 19.00 | Call for Dinner |
| 19.15 | Welcome – Opening Speech from UKOPA |
| 19.20 | Evening Keynote by Darren Elsom, COO SGN & President of IGEM |
| | <i>An evening of celebration, networking and reflection on the achievements of the industry.</i> |
| 19.35 | Toast |
| 19.40 | Dinner Served |
| 20.00 | Bar Opens |
| 21.30 | After Bar, Live Music & Interactive Games |
| 23.30 | Bar Closes |
| 00.00 | End of the Evening |



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Date: 21-22 October 2026

Thursday 22 October 2026

Day 2 – Future

09.00 **Exhibition opens**

09.20 **Opening Address by Clive Zanker, Chair of UKOPA & Head of Operations, BPA**

Setting the scene for a day focused on innovation, opportunity and the future of the industry.

09.30 **UKOPA Working Groups Panel Session, moderated by Nikki Barker, UKOPA**

Panellists:

Adrian Wathen, Cadent, CPWG

Morgan James, Wales & West Utilities, PIWG

Carl Scott, Valero, IWG

Representatives from UKOPA working groups share current achievements, emerging challenges and opportunities for collaboration.

10.00 **Case Study Spotlight: Cross Country AC Interaction Guidance by Adrian Wathen, Cadent and Steph Corless, National Gas**

Sharing practical experience and lessons learned from a project shaping future industry practices.

10.20 **Case Study Spotlight: UK Weld Project by Timothy Rudd, Senior Manager, Mainline Pipelines Ltd – a Valero company & Nicolas A. Opadeyi, PHD Candidate, Swansea University**

Practical lessons and insights from a recent industry project.

10.55 **Silver Sponsor Introduction, by Kathryn Thomas, DNV**

A short introduction from a sponsor, sharing insights and expertise.

11.00 **Refreshments, Networking & Exhibition**



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11.30 The Pressure Test, moderated by Dr Mike Kirkwood, Vice President, T.D. Williamson

Presentations by:

James Prescott-Smith, Digital Inspector Ltd

Icaro Gargione, Enivibes s.r.l

Brian Kerrigan, Frontline Integrity

David Gian, Intero Integrity

Ashley Burnhope, National Gas Services

Nick Longon, NDT Global

Chris Nicholson, ROSEN

Rapid-fire innovation pitches showcasing ideas, technologies and solutions that could help shape the future of the UK pipeline industry.

12.30 Lunch, Networking & Exhibition

14.00 Future Workforce Panel: Who Will Run the Industry in 10 Years? Moderated by Grant Rogers, Wales & West Utilities

Panellists:

Lily Ganchi, National Gas & YPPE

Sam Cunningham, Lavender International

Oliver Lancaster, IGEM

Simona Fornarino, Royal Academy of Engineering

Discussing talent attraction, skills development and the next generation of pipeline professionals.



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Day 2 – Future

14.40 **The Future – New Technologies, Innovation and Legislation, lead by Simon Joyce, Vice Chair of UKOPA & Head of Innovation Futures & Principal Engineer, SGN**

Fireside discussion with UKOPA Board Members and Conference Sponsors:

Laurent Fabry, TDW

Ian Laing, ROSEN

Adam Wynne Hughes, A.Hak

UKOPA 2035: Commitments & Next Steps

Drawing together key conference themes and identifying priorities for the future of the industry.

15.20 **Closing Remarks**

Final reflections and conference close.

15.30 **Refreshments, Networking & Exhibition**

16.00 **Exhibition close**

To participate in the Panel Discussions, please pose your question using: [UKOPA Conference](#)



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EXHIBITORS

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HALL 4 MEZZANINE

UNIT

T.D. Williamson	3 & 4
ROSEN Group	21 & 22
A.Hak	1 & 2
National Gas Services	5
DNV	19
Penspen	20
Baker Hughes	6
CRC Evans	17
Henkel	18
Applus	16
Presserv	11
NDT-Global	9
Synthotech	12
Intero Integrity	7
STATS Group	8
Frontline Integrity	15
Fisher German	14
Enivibes	10
LSBUD	13

HALL 4 LOWER FLOOR

UNIT

Lavender International - NDT	1
World Pipelines Magazine	2
Pipeline Industries Guild	3
The Institute of Gas Engineers & Managers	4
Young Pipeline Professionals Europe	5
The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing	6



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FLOOR PLAN

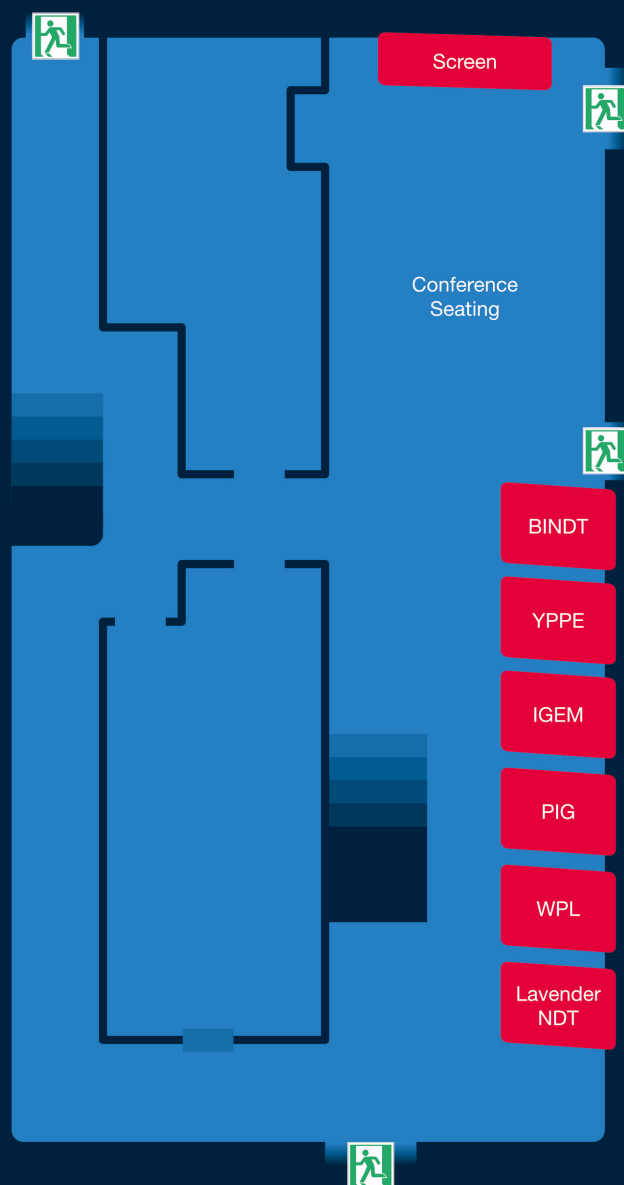
Venue: Silverstone Circuit

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Upper Floor



Lower Floor





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INFORMATION

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Slido Q & As

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