

# First Look

by Jeff Griffin ■ Senior Editor

## New System Allows Remote Inspection Up To 6,000 Feet



There is a new inspection service for long, difficult-to-access lengths of pipe that its developers say is unique to the industry.

Using specially-designed robotic equipment, the Pipe Eye International's inspection system can crawl or float high-resolution video cameras and sonar sensors through pipes to distances up to 6,000 feet, says Simon Rideout, Pipe Eye sales and marketing manager. Other types of sensors can be used for specialized applications.

"Not all pipelines were designed with ease of inspection in mind," Rideout continued. "Limited access can leave thousands of feet of pipe unreachable using conventional inspection equipment."

"The distance we can reliably travel, particularly in smaller diameter pipe from 12 inches and larger, sets Pipe Eye apart from other inspection services," he continued. "Most have a range of about 1,500 feet, where Pipe Eye International's VLR300 system can travel up to 6,000 feet and operate to water depths of 100 feet. Field operations and subsequent inspection report preparation are performed by trained technicians with experience in overcoming the specific challenges often associated with long-range pipeline inspections."

The VLR300 mobile robotic inspection system incorporates an anodized aluminum frame mounted on four powerful stainless steel minitrac crawler units. The articulated systems allows for sharp

turns. The system can be reconfigured to operate in a wide range of pipe sizes. The reel-mounted tether cable is 6,000 feet in length. The VLR300 carries a Spectrum 90, high resolution, pan/tilt/zoom, primary video inspection camera. The camera head incorporates 48 watts of variable-intensity lighting and the vehicle is fitted with up to 80 watts of variable-intensity Halogen auxiliary lighting. The iris and focus functions can be automatically or remotely controlled. The inspection system is sonar ready and, when required for submerged operations, can be readily fitted with the company's high-quality sonar profiling equipment. Additional sensors also can be supported.

### Broad application

The Pipe Eye system is used for the inspection of sanitary sewer, potable water, oil and natural gas pipelines, as well as sub-sea and other hazardous area or confined space characterization.

In 1995, Pipe Eye founder Ken Peligren established Pipe Eye Video Inspections and Services Ltd. in British Columbia as a regional company providing traditional full-service industrial pipeline inspection and clearing services. Following numerous inquiries for inspections of long runs of pipe that could not be accommodated with existing robotic equipment, Peligren recognized the potential of developing a one-of-a-kind system to serve this need.

In 2002, Pipe Eye completed its first long-range inspection job, and Peligren

determined that the service offered a viable business opportunity. In 2005, the prototype of a long-range inspection system was acquired. After extensive testing and operational modifications, Pipe Eye International was established and began offering the new services. As with many other industry service providers, Pipe Eye International Inc. has an ongoing research and development program aimed at improving their equipment and service capabilities.

Recent inspection projects undertaken by the company include; a sub-sea natural gas line in Long Beach, CA, a sewer line under a lake in Kansas City, MO, and a water line under a high-traffic urban location in Dallas, TX.

Pipe Eye International Inc. is a U.S. company based in Las Vegas, NV. Canadian company, Pipe Eye Video Inspections and Services Ltd., is based in Nanaimo, BC.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Pipe Eye International Inc., (888) 756-2033, [pipeeyeinternational.com](http://pipeeyeinternational.com)

