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DEPLOYMENT OF SENSOR TECHNOLOGIES AND SUPPORTING SYSTEMS FOR ENHANCEMENT OF COMMERCIAL EXPLORER™ Daphne D'Zurko, Executive Director, NYSEARCH Vice President, RD &D, Northeast Gas Association



# **Commercial Platform Products**

- Modular, self-powered, non-tethered & measuring metal loss
- Battery powered; wireless communication; remotely controlled
- Live launching, operation and retrieval
- Can negotiate short radius and mitered bends, plug valves (>20"), back to back bends, vertical segments



# Features of Explorer Series of Products



# Completed/Commercial Supporting Technologies



- Mechanical Damage /Ovality Sensor
- In Line Charging
  - Rescue Tool













## Supporting Techs Under Devt – Crack Sensor



Position [ft]

- A combination TMFL/EMAT sensor was selected
- Inherent large size and weight of TMFL a major challenge
- One module for all crack sensing

# Supporting Techs Under Dev't – Cleaning Tool



- Special cleaning head
- Cleaning tool launcher attached to off-the-shelf fitting and valve
- Launcher purged with nitrogen
- Sleeve to protect the valve
- 2<sup>nd</sup> fitting required for separation of debris; recirculation of clean gas

## Supporting Techs Under Devt – Hardness Tester

- In live conditions, prepare surface (removal of at least 0.01") to eliminate surface decarburization
- Using proper indenter, apply increasingly higher loads (with partial unloading in-between) on pipeline surface to generate indents
- Depth of indents used to measure hardness that correlate to yield strength
- Ten measurements needed per point for statistical accuracy

# **Overall Summary of Supporting Technologies Results**

- Implementation of LDS sensor, crack sensor, in line inspection, cleaning tool and hardness tester adds functionality and improves operational efficiencies
- N. American gas industry has welcomed and implemented these solutions for inspection of unpiggable pipe
- What was unpiggable is now 'robotical'

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N. American Gas Industry R & D

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Robotic Inspection Service Provider