

Media Release



Interconnector (UK) Limited

www.interconnector.com

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INTERCONNECTOR/EDS SOFTWARE RECOGNISED

The information system which manages the transfer of gas through the natural gas pipeline from Norfolk to Belgium was one of three finalists in the British Computer Society's (BCS) Year 2000 IS Management Awards. The package, known as ISIS or Interconnector Shippers Information System was competing against over twenty entrants from throughout British industry.

The pipeline, which has been in operation since October 1998, is owned and operated by Interconnector (UK) Limited.

Made annually, the awards are given on the basis of performance in three principal areas:

1. The impact of the System on the performance of the business overall.
2. The relationship built between customers, users and all providers in the development of the system; and
3. Management of the development and operation of the System.

ISIS, developed under an Alliance agreement between IUK and EDS, was eventually declared runner-up.

IUK's Managing Director, Mr Roger Cornish, said he was delighted the cutting edge thinking reflected in ISIS had been acknowledged by the BCS.

"This is not just a system which manages gas flow in a pipe. In a very real sense, the pipeline and ISIS are having a profound effect on the natural gas markets of Europe.

"Currently, we have 15 shippers of gas who hold capacity in the pipeline. Their need for real time constantly updated information, plus IUK's need to manage multiple owners, volumes and flows in a pipeline capable of flowing in both directions, demands a system which is robust, flexible, dynamic and able to marry the very different systems of Britain and Belgium.

"ISIS does that and more," Mr Cornish added.

In their presentation to the British Computer Society judges, IUK and EDS pointed to significant achievements in the creation of ISIS including:

- 99.9% reliability – this equates to a down-time tolerance of just 8 hours per annum in what is a 24-hour a day, seven day a week operation;
- easy, intuitive use by multiple users;
- easy upgrades;
- no language problems.

Mr Cornish told the judges that IUK could not conceive of its current operation without ISIS.

“It’s important to understand that our shippers are involved in a dynamic process that is forging a new gas trading system across Europe and they have a real need for fast, quality information. We know of no other system that connects two massive markets in the way Interconnector and ISIS does.

“ISIS must track the position for each shipper, provide instant information updates, match delivery trades at either end of the pipeline and generally provide overall management information that translates this market driven operation into physical instructions for the terminal operators.

“IUK and EDS believe the system is both ground-breaking and world-class in what it does – we’re both very proud of it, especially as it was developed and delivered on time and under budget, against a backdrop of constant change in the marketplace “ Mr Cornish added.

INTERCONNECTOR (UK) LIMITED – BACKGROUND

Interconnector (UK) Ltd (IUK) operates a sub-sea pipeline and terminal facilities connecting the UK and continental Europe. The company’s 40” diameter carbon steel pipeline stretches 230 kilometres between Bacton in north Norfolk and Zeebrugge in Belgium. It is capable of transporting 20 billion cubic metres a year (bcm/yr) from Bacton to Zeebrugge and 8.5 bcm/yr in the opposite direction.

Owned by ten major companies, IUK has sold capacity in the pipeline to gas shippers. A dedicated and award winning IT system, ISIS, manages the volumes and flows and provides constantly updated information to IUK and its customers.

Further information on IUK can be obtained from www.interconnector.com.

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