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## **NYSEARCH Holds Test Bed Demonstration on Guided Wave Technology**

On July 17-18, 2006, NGA's NYSEARCH convened a collaborative demonstration of Guided Wave technology vendors at its test bed facility in Johnson City, NY. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the Office of Pipeline Safety (PHMSA/OPS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation asked NYSEARCH to lead an effort with multiple vendors and directed NYSEARCH to lead a PHMSA Steering Committee for this effort.

This activity is seen by PHMSA/OPS not only as an R & D showcase but also as a means for improving the understanding of what information should be exchanged between operators and guided wave contractors. The guided wave contractors who participated in the test were TWI/FBS, Structural Integrity and Base Line Data.

Ultrasonic guided wave is a technology that has been offered commercially and used extensively, particularly for liquid lines. NYSEARCH learned through cooperative field testing in 2003 that for some important applications such as cased crossings, the technology needed additional development and validation. In 2004, NYSEARCH approved such work and gained the partnership of PHMSA/OPS. Research & Development by TWI/FBS over the last (15) months has resulted in several advances as well as field tests at the test bed and on live jobs. To add to this effort, the NGA DA Working Group sought demonstration of other similar guided wave technologies at the test bed. A previous demonstration was held in May.

The NYSEARCH/NGA test bed in Johnson City was established in 2005; numerous tests have been conducted there since its opening. NYSEG is the host utility; NGA has a ten-year lease with NYSEG to use the property where the test bed is based.

Thirteen people participated at the July demonstration, including four from PHMSA/OPS.



*Attendees at recent test bed demonstration in NY organized by NYSEARCH*



*(l to r) Shawn Mackey of Con Edison, Jeff Pryor of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (sub-contractor to PHMSA/OPS), and Brant Shields of BaseLine Data, guided wave service provider*

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