FFT Secure Pipe™ Case Study – European Gas Company

The major cause of gas pipeline incidents in Europe remains external interference (50% of all incidents), followed by construction defects/material failures (16%) and corrosion (15%) according to the European Gas Pipeline Incident Data Group.

The relatively high contribution of external interference emphasises its importance to pipeline operators and authorities, as these incidents are characterised by potentially severe consequences (holes and ruptures).

For these reasons, pipeline protection is of great importance to European gas transmission companies and was the driving force behind the installation of FFT Secure Pipe™ on a main gas pipeline in Italy.

The pipeline which stretches in excess of 30 kilometres has been protected from external or third party interference (TPI) by FFT Secure Pipe™. This security has brought peace of mind to not only the company in question but also the wider community who can be assured of the continued integrity of the energy supply.

Critical aspects of this installation included:

- Protection of the entire 30km pipeline with a single system

- Detection of an external interference event to within 150 meters or better

- Retrofit to en existing fibre optic cable, direct buried armoured cable, or in conduit

- No power or electronics in the field

- No nuisance alarms whilst maintaining full sensitivity to real interference events

The Secure Pipe™ system has been reliably protecting this critical pipeline since it was installed in 2003. When recently queried about FFT Secure Pipe, a Gas company representative commented:

"The Secure Pipe system has been installed and operational since 2003, and during this time we have found it to perform to the manufacturers specifications, meeting [our] expectations and requirements. The systems were delivered on time, commissioned on time, and have experienced no failures since acceptance"