



# Operational Pigging Programs

## Stuck Pig Recovery

---

Stephanie Craig  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2019

# Operational Pigging Programs



## TDW 100 Years



**THE PIG WITH THE PURE... CLEANS PIPE LINES**

**MORE VOLUME PER DOLLAR...  
THROUGH ALL PIPELINES  
CLEANED BY WILLIAMSON PIGS**

**6" - 14" WC-11 Products  
and Gas  
WC-11 Crude Oil P/L**

**Type GP-4 Pig 10" to  
30" sizes.  
Similar design for  
16" to 18" sizes.  
Brushes expanded by  
arched springs.  
Brush and cap service  
life up to 1,000 miles.**

**Type GP-3 Pig 10" to 30"  
sizes.  
Consists of two Type GP-1  
Pigs - Each Unit may be  
used as individual pig.**

**REPRESENTATIVES**  
H. E. Davis James S. Kane Co. Keyes Tank Co. Perry Tank & Supply Co.  
Los Angeles 15, Calif. Amarillo, Texas Phoenix, Ariz. Casper, Wyoming  
Canadian Equipment Sales & Service Co., Ltd. St. Paul, Minn. and Tulsa, Ok.  
Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, Canada Pittsburg 22, Pa.

**T. D. Williamson, Inc.**  
TULSA 9, OKLAHOMA

Reprinted from  
April 1952 issue - The Petroleum Engineer

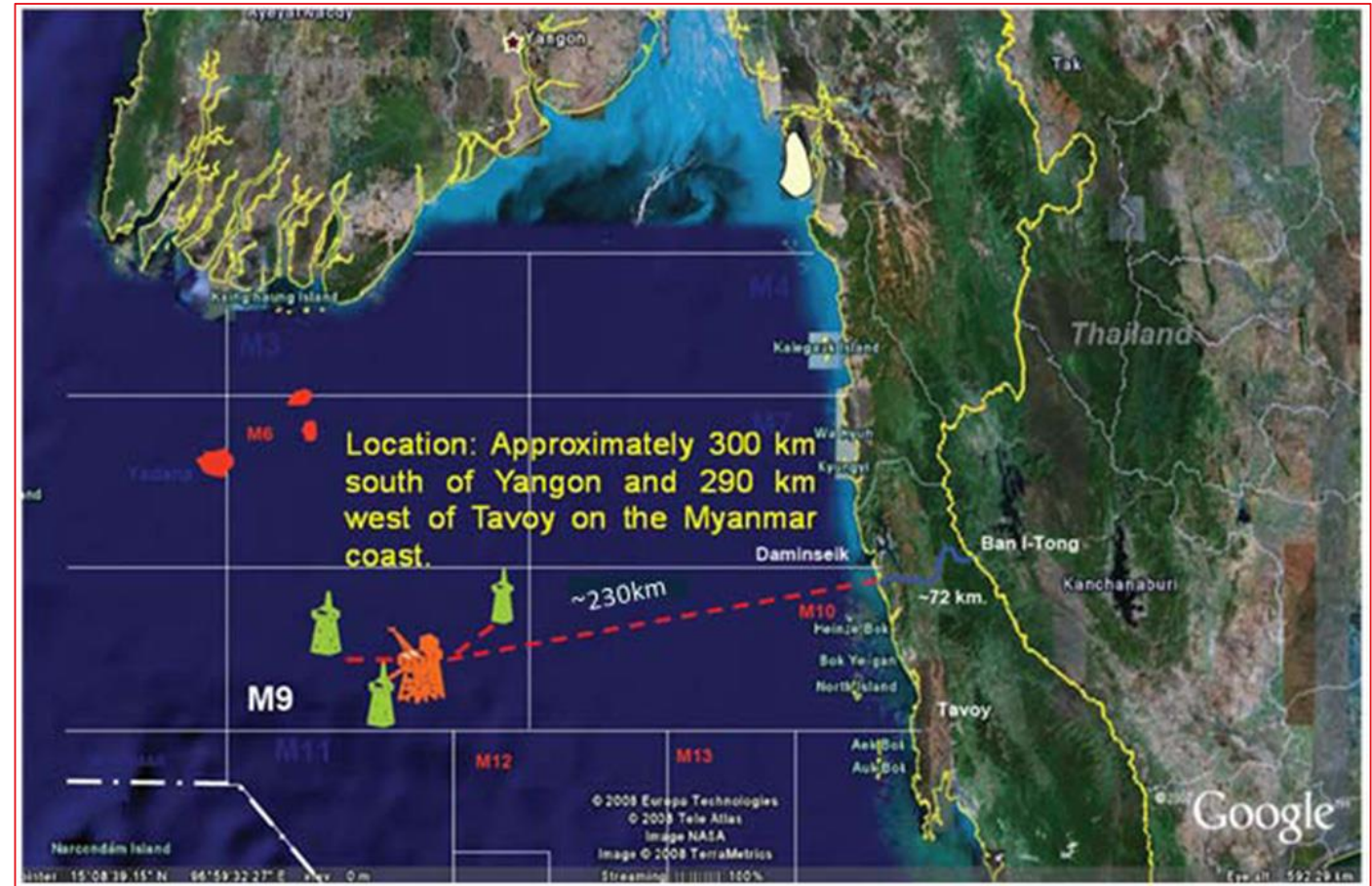


# Project Overview



## Geography

- 28 Inch Gas Export Pipeline
- Southeast Asia

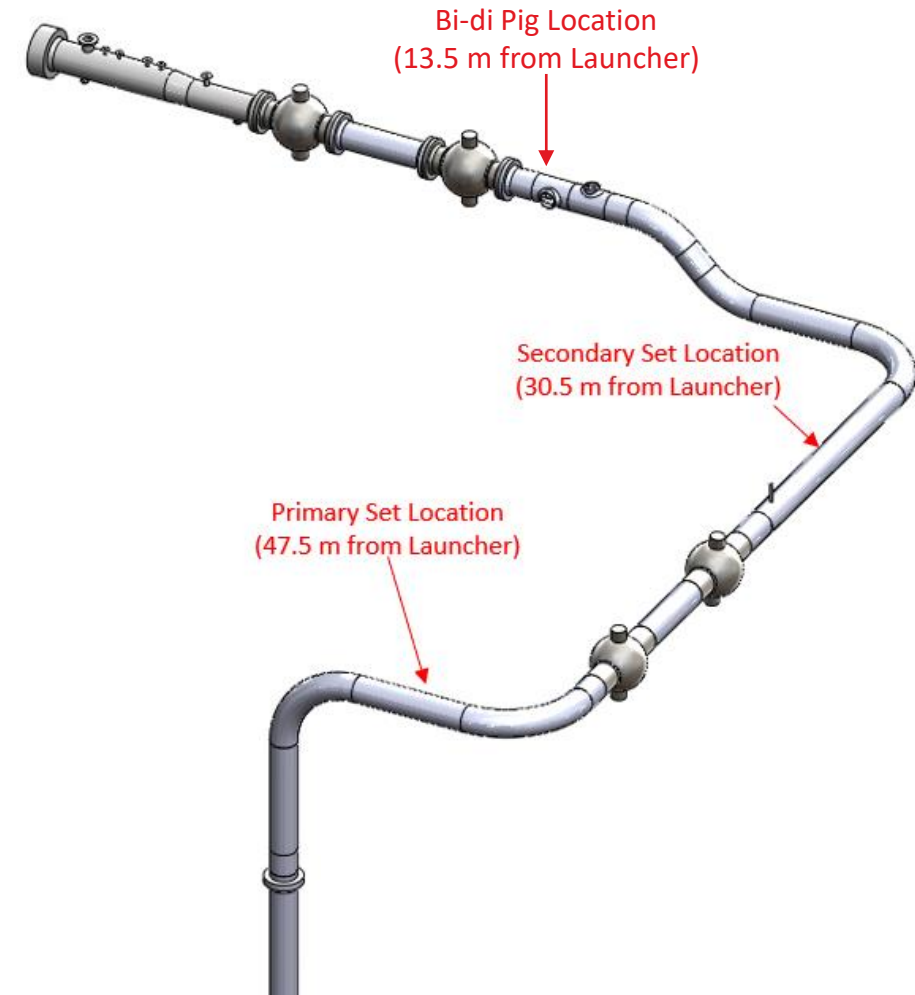


# Project Overview



## Situation

- 28in Bi-directional pig stuck in production Tee **~13.5 m into the line**
- Production could still continue
- Concern pig would move further into the line and block production completely
- Passing Launcher Valves
- Removal of stuck pig prior to SmartPlug<sup>®</sup> tool isolation

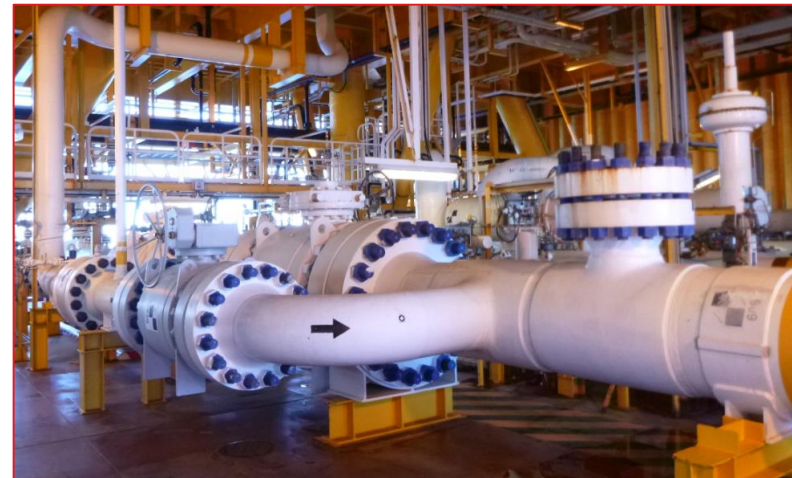
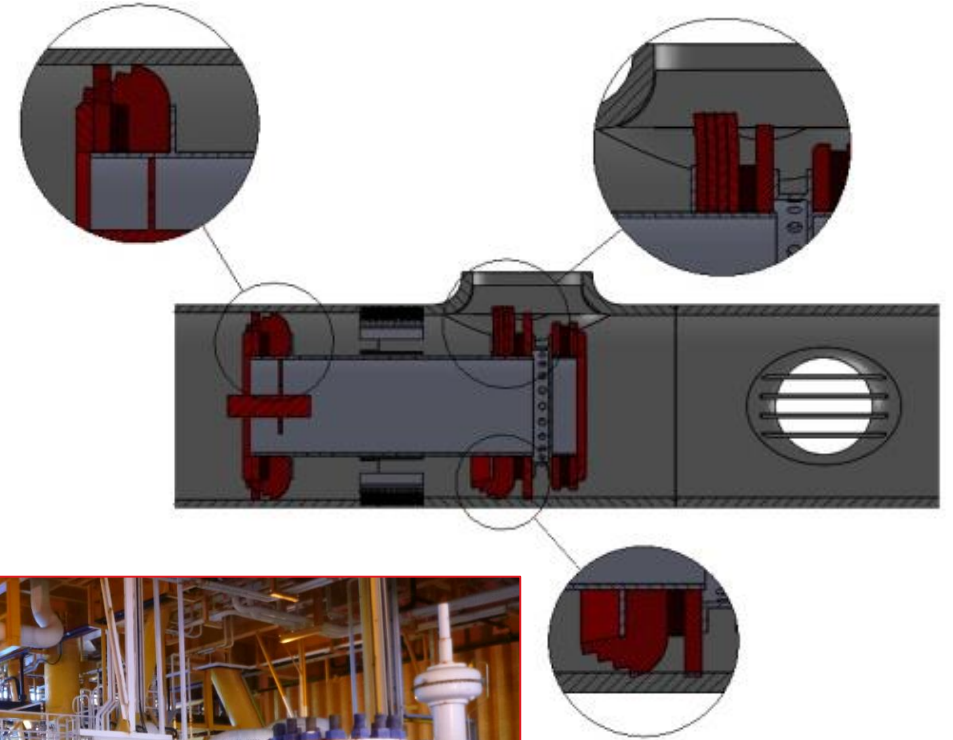


## Evaluating Alternative Solutions

Understanding why the pig stalled and became stuck:

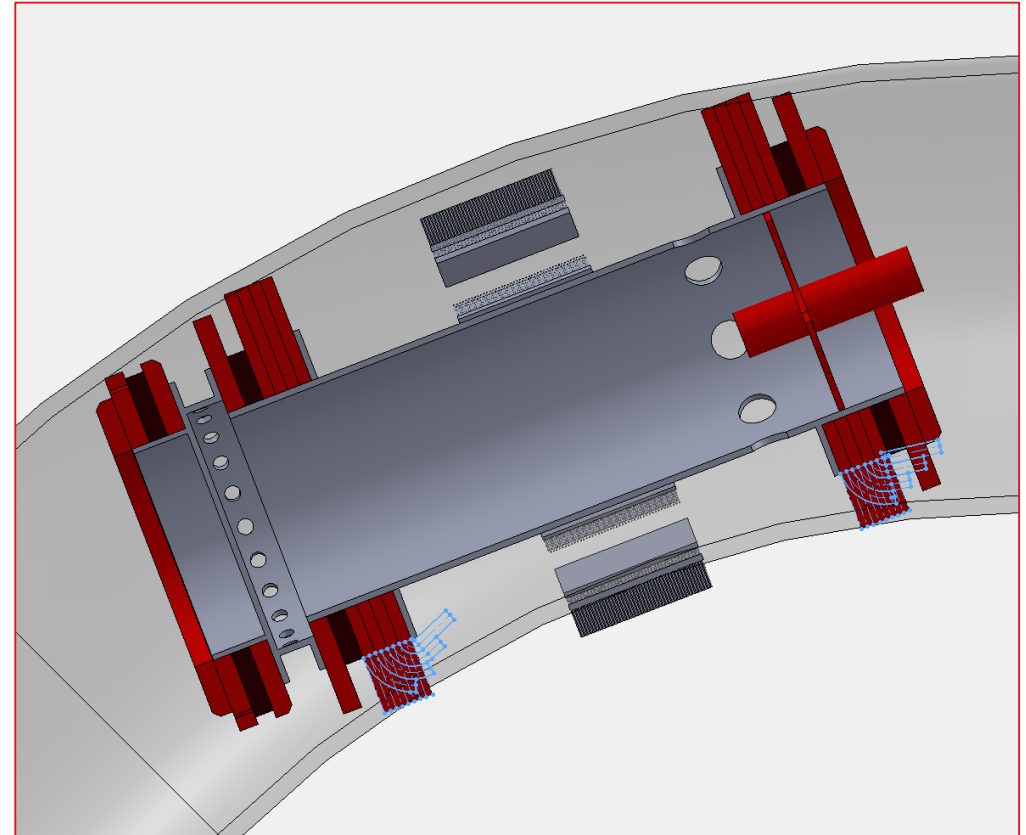
- Large bypass allowed due to expected high level debris
- Heavy stacked disc setup for wear resistance due to type of debris and pipeline length

**Large bypass + High differential pressure = Stalled pig**



## Evaluating Alternative Solutions

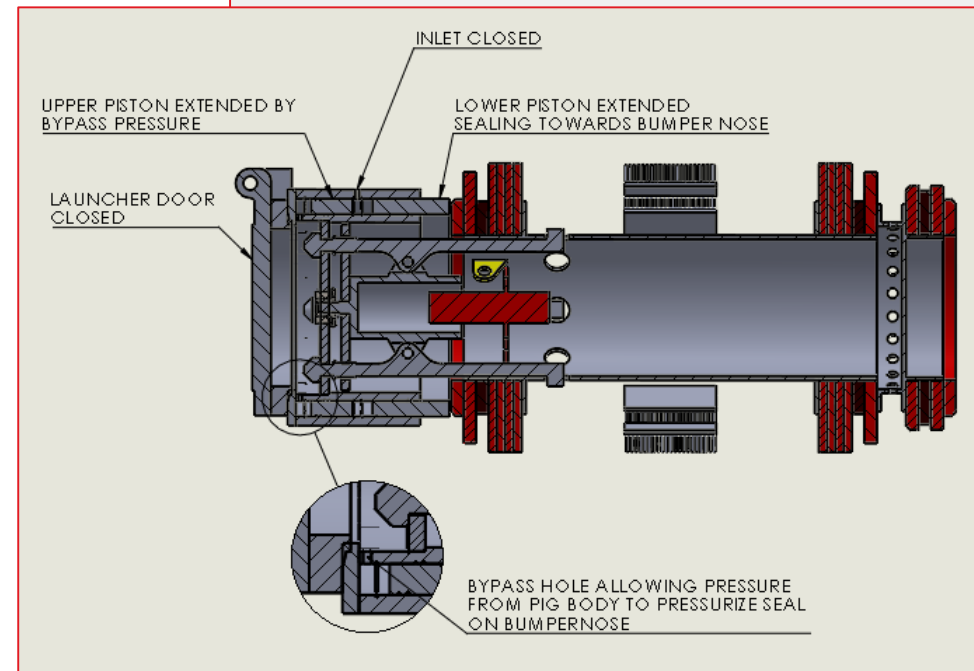
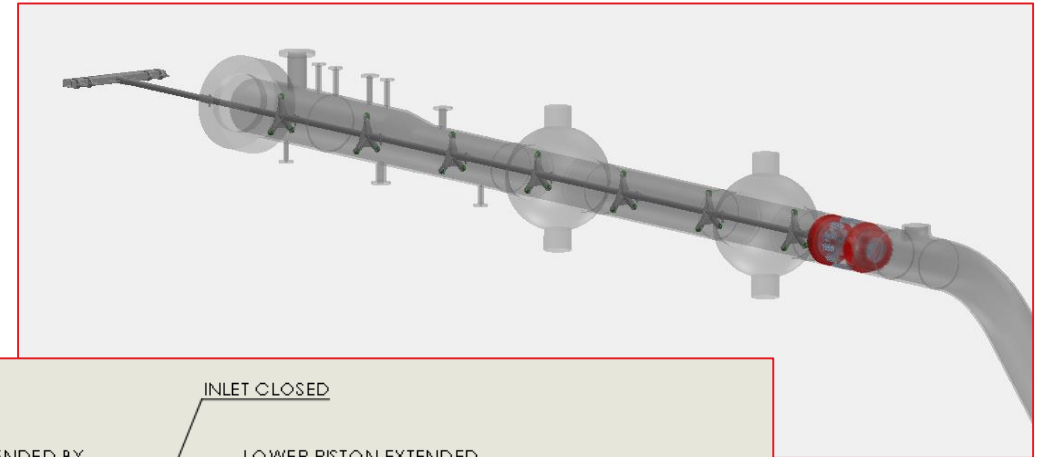
- Launch another Bi-Di pig to push the stalled pig back to the onshore receiver
- Recover the Bi-Di pig back to the platform launcher



## Evaluating Alternative Solutions

Recover the Bi-Di pig back to the launcher:

- Pigging: Installing a sealing cap to block the pigs bypass & pig it back into the launcher
- Mechanical pull: Attach a pulling arrangement to the pig & pull it back into the launcher using hydraulic pull force



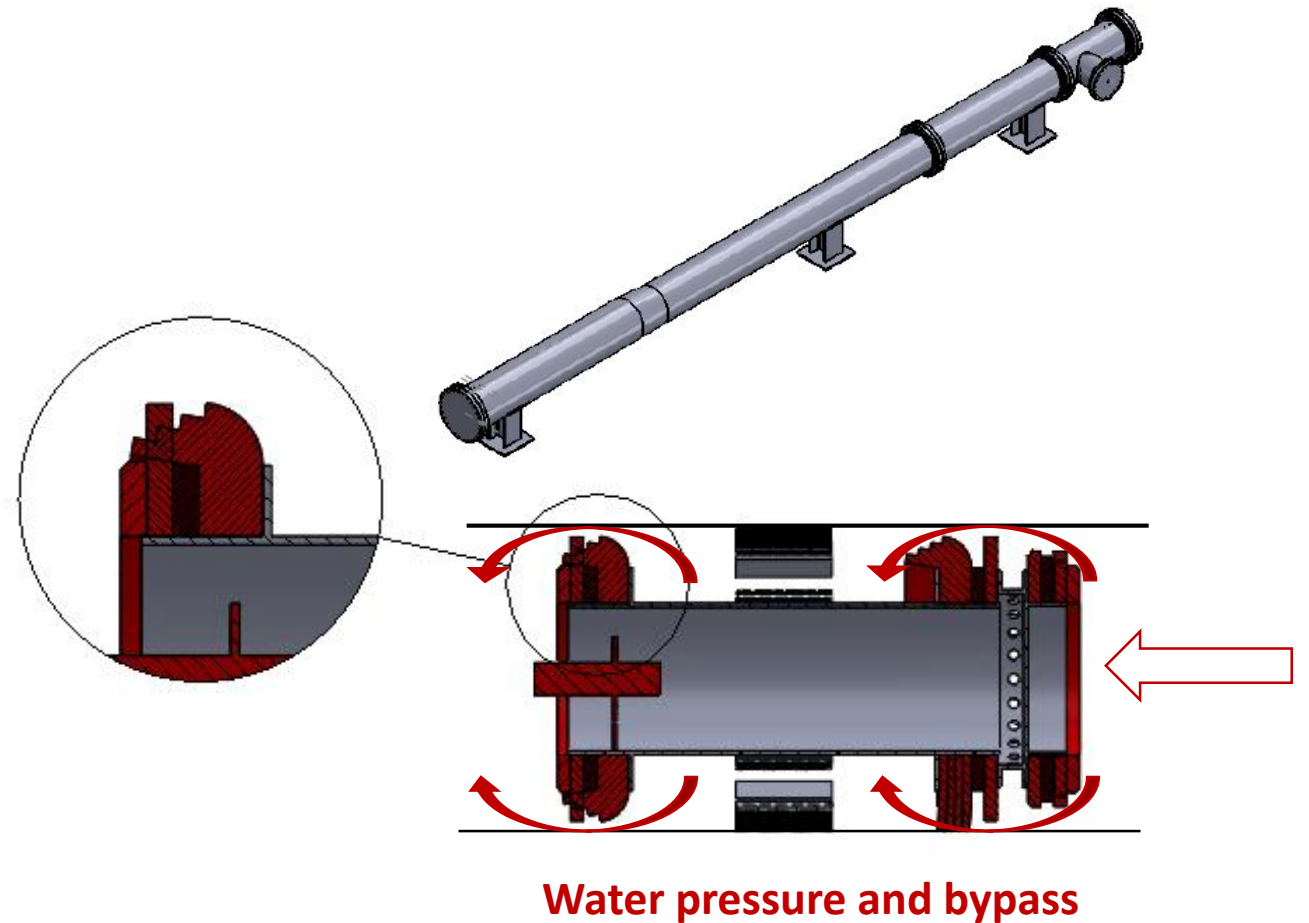
## Pigging Test – Disc Flip Straight Section

Pigged test pig into minor barrel:

- ~ 3 bar differential pressure
- As expected from offshore pigging

Pressurized from downstream side:

- Built ~ 3.5 - 4 bar
- Leakage across outer disc perimeter
- Pig did not move



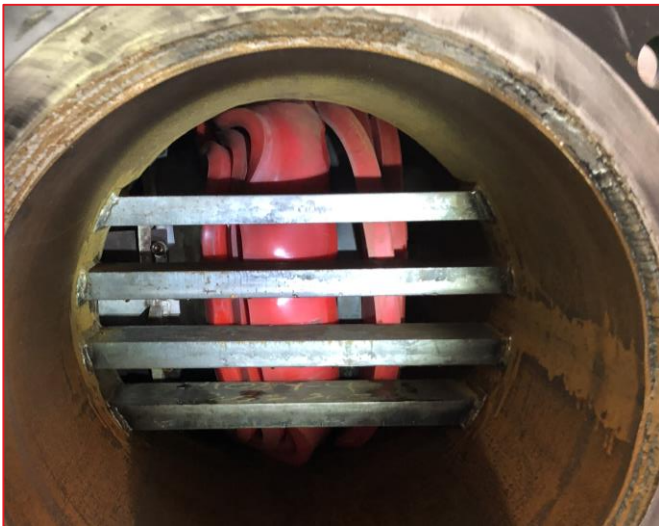


## Pigging Test – Disc Flip Tee Section

Pigged test pig with Bypass Cap into Tee; stalled in Tee section

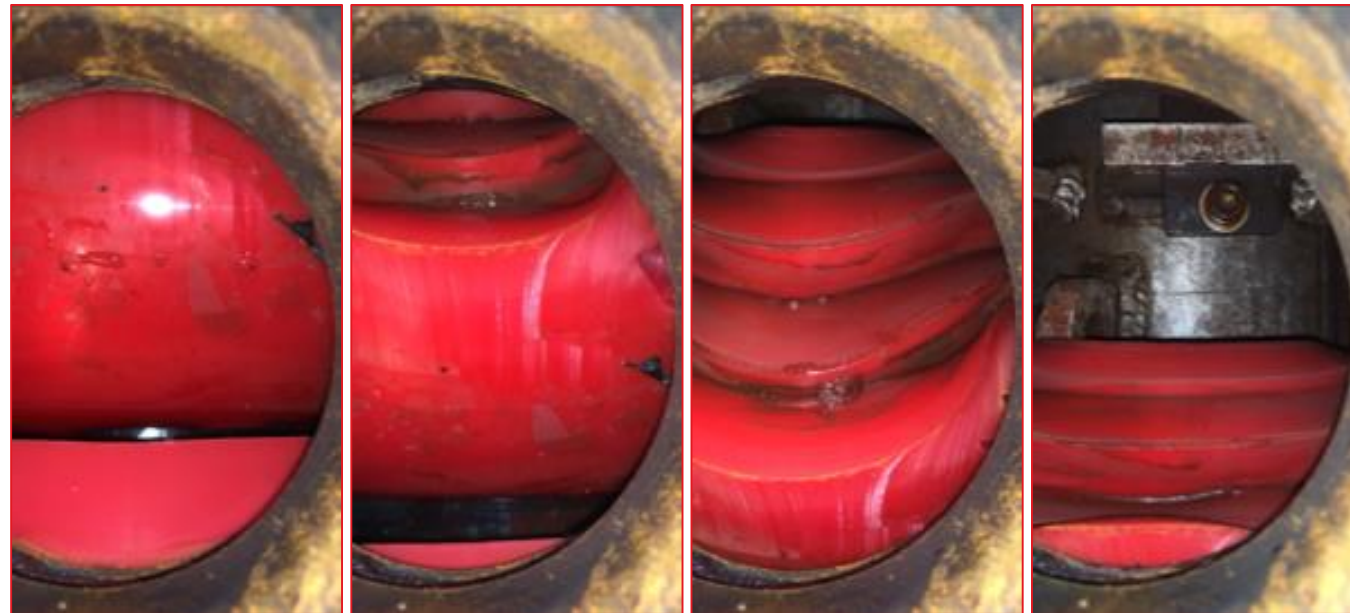
Pressurized from downstream side:

- Built ~ 3.5 - 4 bar
- Pig with cap moved ~ 1 m & stalled; leak path similar to straight section test
- Front pack, first seal disc flipped; No flip on rear disc pack



## Pigging Test – Recovery Force

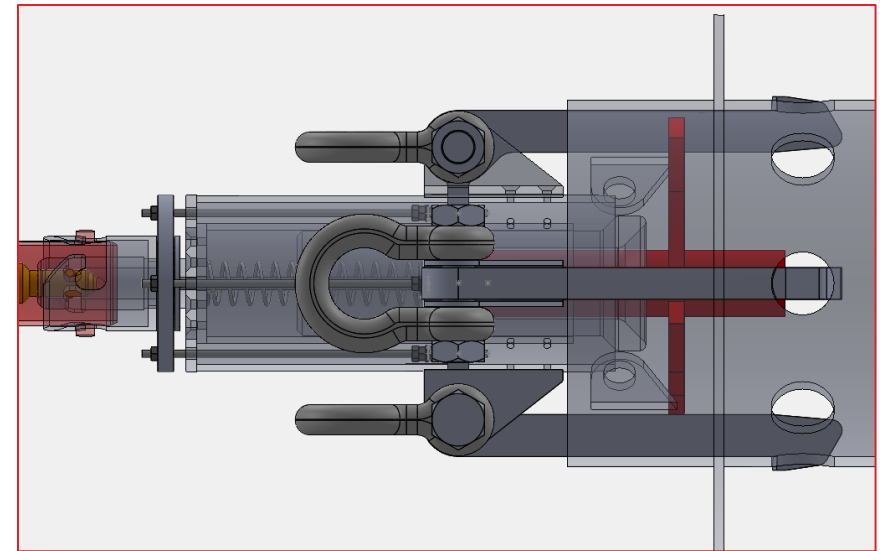
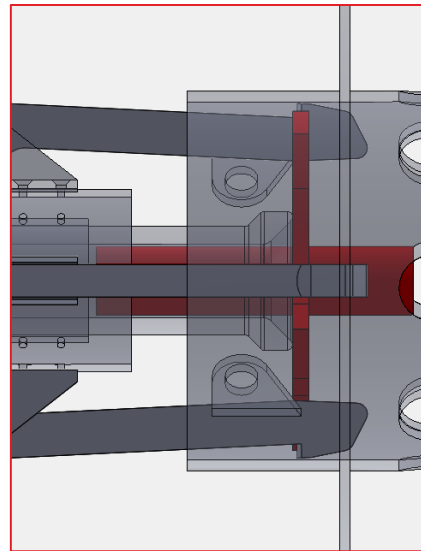
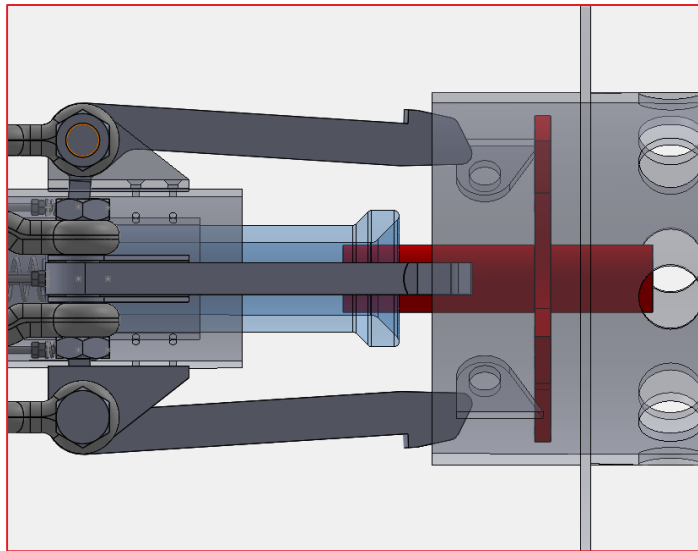
- Recovery force: 13 tons
- All discs flipped: 1st seal disc on each pack stretched over the following 3 discs
- Left to right through 28in straight section:



## Pigging Test – Design Impact

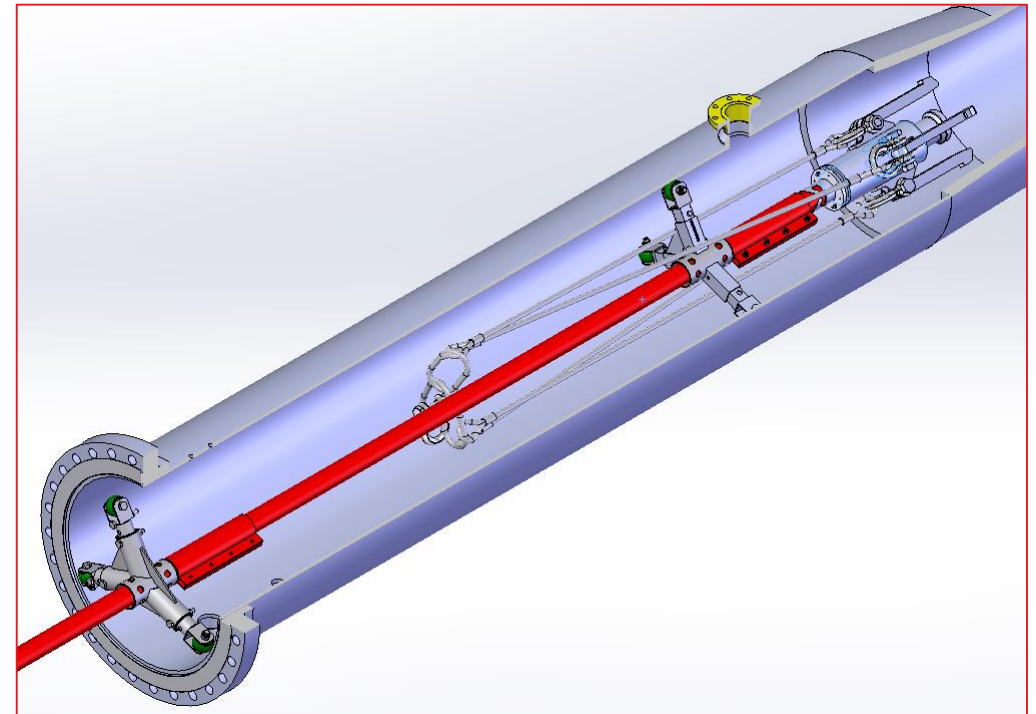
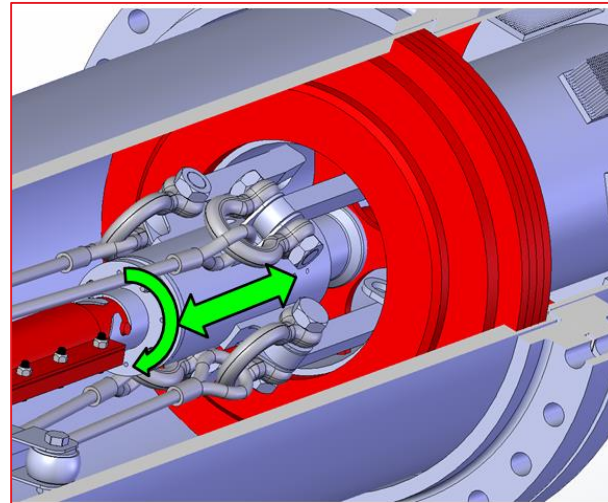
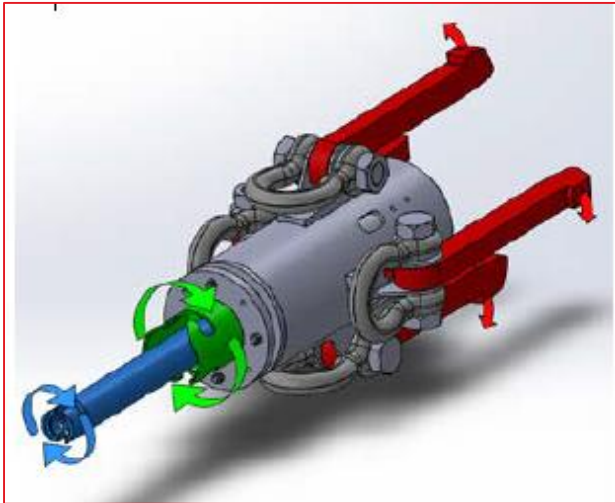
Leakage over disc packs during testing:

- Piggable recovery option eliminated
- Optimize retrieval solution for machinal pull



## Pigging Test – Design Impact

- Optimize retrieval solution for machinal pull
- Minimizing duration the launcher door is open



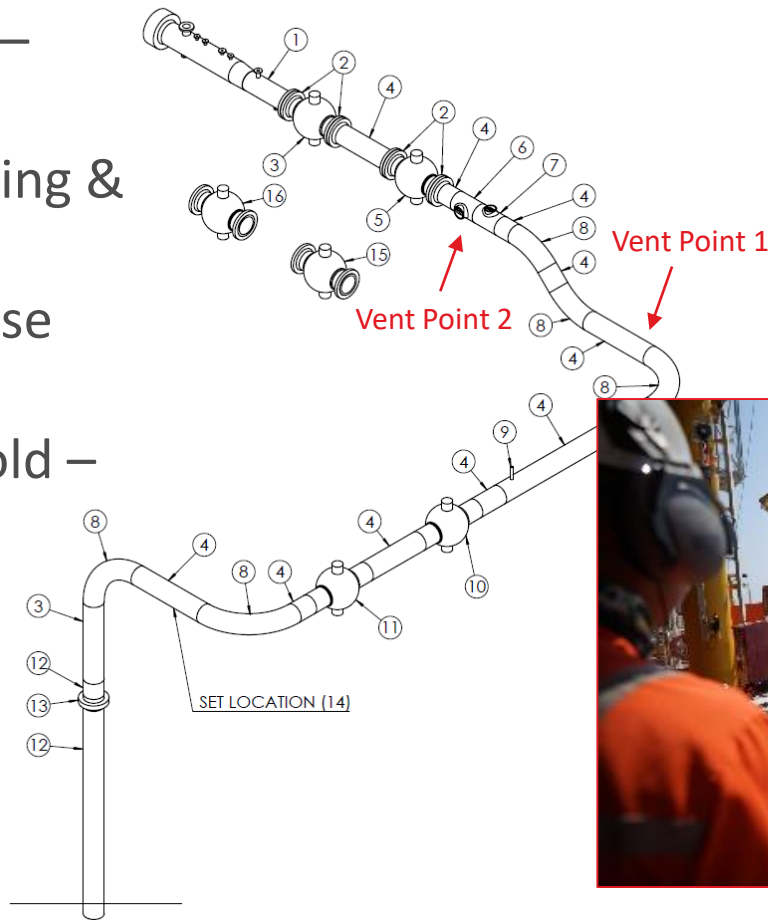
## Tool FAT – Acceptance Criteria

1. Demonstrated ability to locate pig & engage retrieval tool
2. Determine force required to retrieve pig using the Tool
3. Integrity of the pig body & Tool is maintained during retrieval
4. Offshore planning; recorded time for lance assembly, Tool/pig engagement & retrieval



## Preparation Activities

- Passing Launcher Valves – Ongoing monitoring
- Passing ESDVs – Monitoring & vent point required
- Scaffolding built – Increase working area
- Preassembly of Stronghold – Time reduction



# Offshore Execution



## Retrieval Activities

1. 09:20 Launcher door opened
2. 11:15 Complete Tool assembled & inserted in pipe
3. 11:20 Tool & pig engagement confirmed
4. 13:00 Pulling wire tensioned, start pulling operation
5. 16:15 Pig retrieved from launcher & door closed

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.





# PROJECT COMPLETE

---

**PIG RECOVERED SUCCESSFULLY  
TOTAL DURATION LAUNCHER DOOR  
OPEN = 7 HOURS**

