

## WRc completes first European SmartBall® Survey

WRc complete successful SmartBall® survey for Irish Water to identify sections of pipe most at risk of failure in order to target investment and prolong the life of the asset.

### The Challenge

WRc's specialist pipeline condition assessment team, has completed the first SmartBall® survey in Europe on a waste water rising main. The inspection was completed on behalf of Irish Water, as a pilot condition assessment scheme. Two rising mains were inspected in County Clare in Ireland, 375 mm and 450 mm in diameter, made of cast iron and asbestos cement.

The objective of the pilot was to carry out an assessment of the two pipelines to identify sections most at risk of failure, and identify sections where remediation works are required to prolong the life of the asset.

### The solution

The SmartBall® technique was the most effective way to inspect the condition of the pipelines as it allows a number of inspection types to be carried out in a single deployment. SmartBall® not only locates crucial asset health data such as leaks and gas pockets but it can identify on metallic pipes whether leaks are occurring at the joint or barrel of the pipe; valuable information when determining the most cost effective remedial action.

### The outcome

Two SmartBall® deployments were performed, one on each pipeline, covering a total length of 10.2 km. Bill Nolan, Risk Management Specialist at Irish Water, comments "We are thrilled to have carried out the first rising main SmartBall® project in Europe. The team at WRc worked closely with the Asset Strategy and Operations teams at Irish Water together with Clare County Council and Response Group during the planning phase of the project to ensure that the deployment and retrieval of the SmartBall® went smoothly. This has reinforced our confidence in considering SmartBall® for further condition assessments of critical assets".

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