



## Tubular Ultrasound Wins \$1.5 Million DOE Contract

(The Woodlands, TX - May 9, 2001) Tubular Ultrasound, L.P., a provider of high-speed ultrasonic tubular inspection systems, has been selected to receive an award valued at \$1.5 million through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) NICE3 Program. An innovative cost sharing program, the NICE3 program provides funding to state and industry partnerships for the first commercial demonstration of industrial technologies that reduce energy consumption, waste production, and operating costs.

Entitled "A Method of Inspecting On-Stream Process Piping at Support Areas," the Tubular Ultrasound award calls for the assembly of EMAT-based (electro-magnetic acoustic transducer-based) ultrasonic inspection systems that analyze on-stream process piping in refineries and petrochemical plants, particularly at pipe support locations.

"The chemical process industry has identified the need for global, on-stream inspection technologies to identify equipment problems while the facility remains in operation," said Tubular Ultrasound President David Siverling. "Advanced technologies, such as the on-stream inspection techniques proposed in this contract, can assure the integrity of critical plant equipment. Ultimately, this will allow refineries to operate more efficiently, with less impact on the environment, and with an increased margin of safety."



EMAT inspection at pipe support.

The project director, Paul Davidson, has been involved in EMAT research and development for the past 20 years. He is President of WIS, Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The project is sponsored by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC). Host site industrial partners are DuPont and Exxon/Mobil.

Tubular Ultrasound, L.P., a Houston Advanced Research Center affiliate, maintains offices and manufacturing facilities on the HARC campus in The Woodlands, Texas. The company designs and operates high-speed ultrasonic inspection systems for the OCTG (oil country tubular goods) and petrochemical process industries.

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