

Information Sheet: Curapipe

The Vision

An effective, affordable technology that repairs leaks in underground assets.

We know water is a precious resource and through our engagement with customers we know that we need to go further than the traditional economic level of leakage. However, we also know that our customers want and need stable, affordable bills. We have worked collaboratively with the supply chain to bring new technology to the sector.

Curapipe is a trenchless automated leakage repair solution. Established in 2007, it is a pioneering and innovative leak curing solution for underground pipelines. Curapipe is one of the tools that will help us deliver a 25% leakage reduction in our South Staffs region and a 15% reduction in our Cambridge region, along with satellite and drone, live network and traditional techniques.

Our customers said...

“If there is a chance we’re going to start running out of water, then how can we afford to lose that much? Surely that’s something that’s got to be addressed immediately... It’s a necessity.” – household customer, WRMP workshop

“Not only do they need repairing but they need repairing quickly!”

Key Facts

- A company within the broader South Staffordshire Plc group has an exclusive agreement for Curapipe in the UK for the duration of the next planning period.
- It seals leaks with a gelatinous pig that hardens when in contact with air forming a permanent leak repair.
- The technology only requires entry and exit excavations – reducing both customer impact and cost of repair.
- The pig is a composite material containing a polymer resin, hardener, mineral and organic additives.
- The material hardens completely to an inert solid phase after three to four hours.
- New to the UK market – used elsewhere internationally for a number of years.
- Already has DWI approval.
- We have already built a trial rig at our in-house training facility – we are currently undergoing assessment to move from innovation to a business as usual application.
- We believe there are two distinct applications – water mains and supply pipes.

What next?

We are targeting field-based trials in 2018, with a view to it being another solution in the leakage toolbox in 2019, and into the next planning period. Once established and available as a scalable offering, we will make it available to the rest of the sector to help other companies tackle their leakage challenges.