



Jan Ageheim – APEA LIFETIME ACHIVEMENT AWARD 2023

Introductory AWARD Speech:

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, and industry leaders,

Today, we gather to recognise an individual whose impact on the petroleum industry has been nothing short of transformative. Their groundbreaking work has forever changed the way we approach fuel transfer at petrol filling stations.

His journey began as an engineering student, with a profound realisation about the limitations of buried steel pipes. He recognized that corrosion and ground movement were impossible to control and were leading to frequent leakages of fuel. In response to these challenges, he embarked on a mission to explore alternative materials.

In 1969, at the age of 26, he boldly approached the Swedish "Fire & Explosion Authority" with a groundbreaking proposal: to replace rigid steel pipes with more flexible plastic alternatives. Although initially met with skepticism and laughter, his unwavering determination ultimately paid off.

Just over 10 years later, in May 1981, Shell Sweden gave the go-ahead to trial the first-ever installation of a plastic pipework system at a filling station: He called this pipe, UPP, or Universal Petro Pipe.

At the APEA trade-show and conference in 1989 he presented his first presentation on UPP pipe to the UK Market. The response was incredibly positive, and it was through this event that UPP gained recognition from Shell Globally and from investors and business partners.

You see, this visionary individual introduced the world to the concept of using plastic pipes for underground fuel transfer, a revolutionary shift that has made our industry safer, more efficient, and environmentally conscious. Thanks to their dedication and ingenuity, the UPP pipework system, a brainchild that emerged in the heart of Sweden, has now found its way into 170 plus countries worldwide.

But it wasn't just about innovation; it was about relentless dedication. This exceptional individual believed in the potential of their idea and worked tirelessly to spread this message globally. They understood that their pioneering work had the power to reshape the industry on a global scale.

Through sheer determination, they trained local installers across the globe and made it possible for their system to be specified and adopted worldwide. Their hard work not only opened doors for others but also paved the way for the universal use of plastic pipework in petrol stations.

Today, nearly the entire world utilises one brand of plastic pipework or another, all thanks to the dedication and pioneering spirit of this remarkable individual.

So, without further ado, I am honoured to present this prestigious award to a visionary who truly transformed the petroleum industry. Their legacy as a trailblazer in our field extends far beyond a single product; it's a testament to their vision, hard work, and the transformative impact they have had on our industry worldwide.

Ladies and gentlemen, the recipient of this distinguished award is the father of the plastic pipe ; Jan Ageheim. Please join me in congratulating him for his lifetime of groundbreaking achievements in the world of fuel pipework systems.

Bulletin Magazine biography:

Jan's impact on the petroleum industry is immeasurable. His pioneering work revolutionised the use of plastic pipes for underground fuel transfer at petrol filling stations. Recognising the limitations of traditional steel pipes, he embarked on a mission to find an alternative. In 1969, at just 26 years old, Jan boldly approached the Swedish "Fire & Explosion Authority" with a proposal to replace steel pipes with flexible plastic alternatives. Initially met with scepticism, his unwavering determination paid off a decade later, securing the first trial site in Sweden in May 1981.

Jan's visionary thinking was matched by his dedication to global impact. He trained local installers, navigated approvals, and made the system a global standard.

Today, the world widely employs plastic pipework, a testament to Jan's remarkable contribution. His legacy as the "father of Fuel Pipe" extends beyond a product; it's a tribute to his vision and hard work, transforming the global industry.