MAINLINE PIPELINES LIMITED

Mainline Pipelines Limited (MLP) owns and operates an underground high pressure fuel network across the UK.

The pipelines run at extremely high pressure and MLP is keen to ensure that third party users can enquire where the pipelines are located to ensure the safety of their works.

Every third party undertaking excavations must know where the pipelines are and follow MLP guidance to avoid significant safety implications.

Action

MLP has been a member of LinesearchbeforeUdig (LSBUD) for over ten years and it forms a major part of the asset protection strategy.

The LSBUD service filters through all the enquiries received across Great Britain and passes only the relevant enquiries across to MLP. This ensures that all enquiries are initially screened by the service but the MLP administration team only deal with enquiries that are pertinent to the MLP network saving them significant time and resources.

Resulting enquiries are then dealt with by the team at Fisher German who can then arrange technicians to attend site meetings or supervise work as necessary.

Encroachment follow ups

As part of the small number of encroachment investigations that MLP undertakes when third parties have worked in the vicinity of their pipelines without using LSBUD, MLP strongly recommends LSBUD to the third party as a learning point from each incident. This recommendation ensures that the third party can:

- Integrate LSBUD into their procedures
- Get the added benefits of finding out about other assets that could be within their future work areas
- Avoid future encroachments.

This cooperative approach from MLP ensures that it is not just the third party user that benefits but also all the other LSBUD Members for future works.

Outcome

- Many more enquiries checked against MLP's apparatus- now averaging over 150,000 enquiries a month.
- A user friendly system for third parties to check their works each time to ensure the safety of MLP's assets and the third party works.
- Filtered responses meaning the administration team only need to deal with those relevant to the MLP network.