

# **UK WATER INDUSTRY RESEARCH LIMITED**

## **Collaborative, Impartial Research**

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### **IMPROVING THE TESTING APPROACH TO NOVEL LINING MATERIALS FOR POTABLE WATER NETWORKS**

**DATE 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021**

**VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

*Chaired by Jo Parker, Watershed Associates and Dr Joe Sanders, RPS.*

Water companies have a number of significant ODI's and regulatory requirements, these are particularly challenging in the context of the UK's ageing water network and the drive to continually reduce operating costs. Although innovative technologies are being applied to target mains renewals programmes, large-scale renewal of the network is not economically viable due to cost. In light of this, the greater adoption of lining solutions is likely to be required over the next five to ten years, including the range of non-structural and semi-structural liners and similar products.

Previously water companies have relied on their own in-house testing and/or the respective manufacturers testing for evaluating new lining solutions. This is also supported by approval under Regulation 31 of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations. However, although Regulation 31 assesses the impact a material could have on water quality, it does not evaluate whether it is fit for its intended purpose, which potentially leads to repetition of the same research by individual companies when a collaborative approach would be a more efficient means of delivery. If not carefully evaluated, any lining material has the potential to cause widespread water quality and/or network performance issues, either immediately or as the material ages over time. An industry agreed standard approach to testing of new lining materials would lead to an improved understanding of each lining material longevity and help predict asset life more accurately.

This UKWIR workshop is being delivered on a virtual platform by RPS, and will bring together experts to share and discuss their knowledge and experiences in the testing of lining materials. The workshop will look at practice within the UK water industry, and also in allied industries such as oil and gas, in addition to global good practice in this area. The detailed outputs of the workshop will be shared to the benefit of the whole industry to help understand, assess and document current approaches to new lining materials, whilst identifying any potential further research required.

This workshop will be of interest to water company asset managers, leakage managers, investment planners and regulation managers and also lining materials manufacturers and contractors, regulatory and relevant industry bodies and operational and materials scientists.

