

LMI MYTH BUSTER

MYTH: Live Mains Insertion (LMI) is slower than Dead Mains Insertion (DMI)/alternative techniques

FACT: LMI can be faster and more efficient than DMI because it allows for the replacement of gas mains while the customer's gas supply remains uninterrupted during the insertion process, minimising disruption to customers and reducing downtime.

MYTH: LMI is only suitable for 2way fed mains and isn't suitable for short pushes

FACT: LMI can be used for both one way and two way fed mains which aligns with the 30/30 program currently underway. Typical insertion lengths range from 15 metres for road crossings, 50 metres for cul-de-sacs and standard mains replacements.

MYTH: LMI is not suitable for ductile mains replacement

FACT: LMI is a suitable replacement technique for ductile iron mains. This is due to the availability of the Steve Vick International Rapid Window and Rotary Cutters which allow easy access to the newly inserted PE, enabling efficient service connections. As a result, the process of transferring services is tightly controlled, ensuring that customers are reconnected to gas within the specified time frame.

MYTH: LMI is more expensive than Dead Mains Insertion (DMI)

FACT: LMI can be a more cost-effective method of replacing gas mains compared to DMI. Despite the costs associated with acquiring foam kits, the need for fewer purge and relights is a significant offsetting factor. DMI typically demands a higher frequency of purge and relights resulting in increased expenses.

In 2020, Wales & West Utilities reported that they replace over 50 percent of its gas pipes annually using Live Mains Insertion, the highest level of all gas networks in the UK. Using mains cutters has reduced the time to cut into gas pipes by over 60 percent and saved over £500,000 - savings that have been passed on to customers.*

On longer runs reinstatement is



greatly reduced compared to DMI because fewer insertion and exit pits are required.

With LMI, fewer excavations are open at any one-time minimising disruption and making it much easier to manage traffic and access to local properties.

MYTH: LMI isn't approved to be used on 90mm/4"

FACT: LMI is fully approved by all GDNs for 90/4" pipes and has an annular space equivalent to a 63mm bypass. This means that, compared to a 90/4" Dead Mains Insertion project, there is no discernible difference. However, the recent introduction of 90mm PE fusion Live Heads has made this size even more popular.

MYTH: You can't push through tees with LMI

FACT: It is possible to push through tees with Live Mains Insertion. While it's generally best practice to push from a tee, there are no restrictions on live inserting through a tee.

MYTH: The Hexi Trailer would not be of benefit to me as I only do short pushes

FACT: The Hexi Trailer is a pipe coil trailer that can be used for a wide range of projects, regardless of length. The trailer can carry and dispense standard coils up to and including 500 metres of 63mm, 75mm and 90mm and 150 metres of 125mm. The trailer is approved for use on Cadent, SGN, NGN and Wales & West Utilities networks. 🔥