THE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTRUMENTED PIGS IN BRAZIL

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Abstract. Instrumented pigs are the most useful tools for pipeline inspection and structural integrity assurance. These systems travel into pipelines using the pressured fluid pumped and work on critical conditions, like high pressure, high speed, high friction and long distance. Taking measurements along the lines, saving a large amount of data, the pigs turn into a complex tool, where a good confidence is required. For more than 10 years, these tools have been developed in Brazil, on a project leaded by PETROBRAS Research Center, together with some Brazilian universities. The history of these long-term projects will be present, detailing the most important technical subjects, the results already achieved and the plans for the future.