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Quality Connector Systems utilized to complete the largest underwater pipeline repair in Gulf of Mexico history.

Quality Connector Systems (QCS) has announced that the Company's subsea pipeline connector system has been successfully utilized to facilitate repairs to a 42-inch diameter portion of the High Island Offshore System (HIOS) pipeline, the largest natural gas pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico. Owned by Enterprise Products Partners L.P., HIOS incurred damage during Hurricane Ike, requiring the removal and replacement of more than 200 feet of line. QCS provided two of its GripLock™ mechanical end connectors and two FlangeMate™ misalignment ball connectors to facilitate the installation of the replacement pipe section. These connectors are employed to join together the two cut ends of the pipe after the damaged section has been removed.

Once mechanical activation of the connectors is completed, the structural and pressure-containing integrity of the pipeline is fully restored, allowing the resumption of natural gas transmission service. The on-bottom, non-welded connector system allows the pipeline operator to complete the repair faster and more cost-effectively than alternative repair methods. A major portion of the cost savings is realized by significantly reducing the amount of "downtime" on the system.

"The time and cost reductions on the project were made possible because the pipeline owner made the forward-looking decision in 2004 to purchase the QCS Emergency Pipeline Repair System (EPRS) in advance of the need," said Lee Avery, President of Quality Connector Systems. "Connectors of this size can require almost a full year to manufacture. By purchasing the connectors and storing them for future use, Enterprise guaranteed their ability to respond quickly to an actual pipeline damage occurrence."

Quality Connector Systems LLC is a privately owned designer and manufacturer of proprietary underwater connector products and services for the international offshore pipeline industry. Services include pipeline repair and new construction tie-ins of new pipelines using the Company's piggable wye fittings, hot tap fittings, swivel ring flanges and misalignment ball connectors to reduce overall project time and cost.

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