Collaborative Behaviours Case Study: FPS Pipeline Repair

Background
Repair of the Forties Pipeline System by INEOS FPS in December 2017 with the help of companies throughout the UK Oil and Gas Industry

Critical behaviours (tick all that apply)

Reasonable ☐   Aligned ☐   Strategic ☐   Learning ☒   Change ☐   Respect ☒   Accommodating ☒   Openness ☒

Description – how were critical behaviours exhibited?

In December 2017 a small crack was found in the Forties Pipeline System (FPS). This type of crack, located on a spiral weld, had not been seen before. Over a ~3 week period various technical solutions were developed and evaluated before a final solution was implemented. The repair enabled the re-start of the pipeline to take place 18 days after the crack was discovered. During the repair period some 80 fields in the North Sea were shut down.

In order to find the correct technical solution, INEOS FPS talked to many people around the world and was helped considerably by many companies across the UK Oil and Gas Industry and notably by customers who are served by the pipeline. This helped everyone involved to learn from the technical solution and to bring the pipeline back on line in a relatively short period. No body's views were discounted and everyone was given the chance to contribute.

Throughout the period of the repair, INEOS FPS communicated regularly with its customers and other stakeholders to provide an update. This included regular press statements on the INEOS FPS web site as well as telephone updates to its customers. These updates enable companies to carry out maintenance, plan their activities and enabled the pipeline to be brought back on line quickly. Moreover, INEOS FPS has shared with its customers the methodology of the repair so that all companies can benefit from this knowledge and prevent similar future events.

Outcomes – impact of collaboration
By working together INEOS FPS and its customers brought about a speedy return to production and shared the learning to prevent similar events happening in the future.