



VR600 Clean for Scottish Water Springburn Park, Glasgow

Underwater robot technology has been used by Scottish Water to carry out routine cleaning and inspection work at a major underground water storage tank in Glasgow.

The innovative technology, which is operated by Scottish water quality engineering firm Panton McLeod, has been used to clean and inspect a huge underground reservoir at Springburn Park, which holds millions of litres of water for households in part of the north east of Glasgow.

Panton McLeod deployed a robot known as the VR600 - which resembles the Disney-Pixar character Wall-E – to carry out the routine work with no disruption to Scottish Water customers' supplies in the area.

The machine, which provides an alternative solution to draining the tanks and cleaning them manually, has been used occasionally by Scottish Water at water storage facilities elsewhere across the country including underground tanks in Dunoon and Campbeltown.

Barclay Smart, operations manager with Panton McLeod, said: "We've been using the VR600 for a number of years and it is now a very important part of our operations across the UK.

"Scottish Water has used our technology in the past on a number of facilities across the country. It's a very important piece of equipment because it allows us to inspect and clean huge underground tanks without having to drain them and take them offline first.

"Before we began using the robot, the only way this cleaning work could be carried out was by completely draining the facility and having engineers physically going into the tanks to perform the work.

"The beauty of our technology means we can carry out a thorough cleaning project whilst ensuring the supply through the reservoir is totally unaffected. Our VR600 robot – which looks like a bit like WALL-E – can clean the bottom of a storage tank and remove impurities in the water without causing any disruption to supplies or affecting the quality of the water.

"We are delighted to have provided our services once again for Scottish Water and look forward to working with them again in the future."

Panton McLeod's VR600 is a large-tracked robot that is manoeuvred along the floor of any water storage structure and removes any sediment or impurities in the water. It can also be used to inspect the condition of the water tanks, including checking the walls and pipework for corrosion or damage.

The machine is remotely operated from the surface and fitted with cameras and lighting equipment, allowing staff controlling the sub to assess the interior of the tanks. It is also used solely within clean potable water environments and is meticulously cleaned and disinfected prior to every use to ensure that it can be safely used in the public water supply, and Panton McLeod conducts rigorous tests before and after each inspection.

In recent months, the firm has used the machine to clean a range of water storage tanks and towers in Wiltshire for Wessex Water. Panton McLeod was also rewarded by the Pipeline Industries Guild with a special innovation award for the technology, after showcasing it at a special innovation day for the pipeline and water industry.

For more information:

Call Panton McLeod on 01835 822 835 or email info@pantonmcleod.co.uk