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The project, focusing on the design of a robotic platform for the inspection of unpiggable transmission pipelines and integration of an inspection sensor on it, is progressing well, despite an anticipated three month delay in the design effort. The delay is due to the selection of a sensor concept fundamentally different from that assumed in the proposal preparation phase. The new sensor concept will dramatically improve the performance of the system, but requires substantial changes in the platform, thus the delay.

Electronic components have been successfully pressure tested, while the drive wheels have been selected. The robot's lighting system has been selected and is based on the latest generation of high performance LEDs.

A multi-processor distributed electronics architecture has been defined for the entire system, and hardware components have been tested. This applies to all processors, imagers and compression-hardware, as well as wired and wireless communications media. The selected imaging system was tested to determine lighting needs and viewing distance, with very good results.

Automatika will continue to interact with the Sensor Provider, focus shifting now from sensor concept selection to the control interface between platform and sensor. Finally, launching/retrieval related design issues were considered, this effort continuing into the next reporting period through meetings with relevant vendors.