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Knowledge and skills – hard to gain, easy to lose
By Tom Sangster



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One of the things that really struck me while working on this month's edition is the urgent need to address the shortfall of skills and resources that the sector faces especially in light of what is likely to be rapidly increasing demand over the coming years.

In his ever-popular opinion piece, Tom Sangster discusses the vital importance of transferring skills and experience between generations to avoid losing them forever. In my interview with Jo Parker, she highlights some of the great work being done, particularly with young women and hard-to-employ groups, to provide a clear and defined path into skilled roles. While it is a complex problem with no silver bullet, for me, there are two major challenges that need to be overcome. The first is the practical challenge of ensuring the routes into the sector are established across as diverse a range of groups as possible, starting from a young age. A key part of this is helping people make the right choices in terms of their education to open up these opportunities. The second, and arguably the harder to achieve, is increasing people's awareness of the sector generally and the

amazing career and lifestyle opportunities it has to offer. Whilst both challenges can be met, it will require a well-coordinated approach and a high degree of cross-sector collaboration.

Next week, I will be heading over to Dubai and the fantastic Jumeirah Beach Hotel for Trenchless Middle East (5-6 November). This looks set to be an amazing way to cap off what has been a busy and highly successful year of events, which has included both Trenchless Asia and No-Dig Live. Thanks to all the sponsors, exhibitors, and speakers that make these events possible. Thanks also to the brilliant Westrade team, who do such an incredible job in delivering these outstanding events that enable our sector to showcase its innovation and excellence to such a wide and diverse audience. If you are in Dubai and want to find out more about Trenchless Works or share your trenchless news, it would be great to catch up - just drop me a line.

Enjoy the magazine!

Austen



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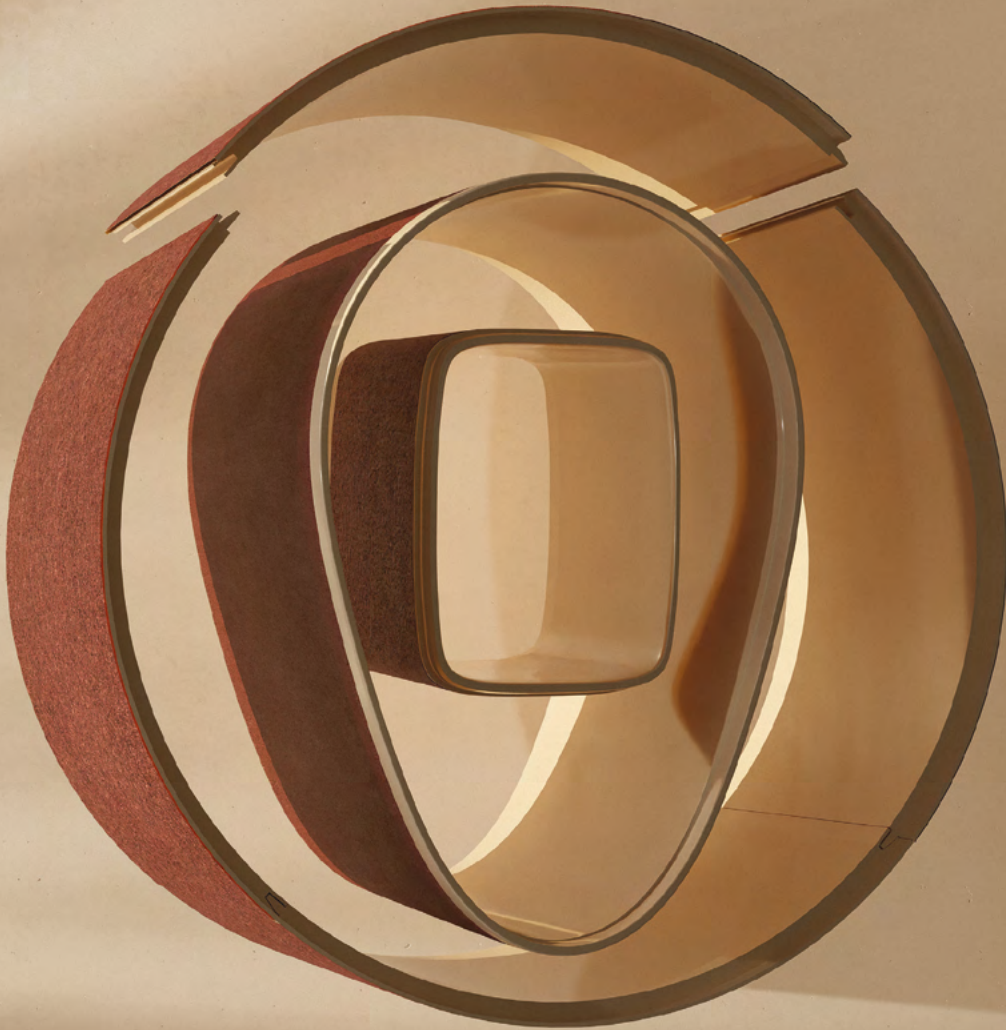
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Knowledge and skills – hard to gain, easy to lose

By Tom Sangster, Managing Director, Downley Consultants



Tom Sangster, Managing Director, Downley Consultants

2024 has been a sad year for the trenchless technology sector. Two great pioneers of trenchless technology, Bob Affholder in the USA and Dietrich Stein in Germany, have passed away. A third, my own mentor James Thomson, is over 90 years old and in poor health.

These pioneers innovated and their work, among that of others, established trenchless technology as we know it today. They are the giants on whose shoulders we all stand. Now they are gone, and their knowledge, wisdom, and experience are gone with them. Those who learned from them in the early days are also past or nearing retirement, and a further large swathe of knowledge will be lost.

Is this knowledge gone forever? How can it be captured or replaced? This is a critical challenge for our sector if

it is to continue to grow in the future. Experience is the strongest antidote to risk; would you prefer your open-heart surgery to be performed by an experienced professor who has successfully done the procedure 100 times, or by a newly graduated individual for whom you would be the first patient? Skills at the sharp end, for those on-site undertaking the work, face a similar problem. At the recent No-Dig Live exhibition in the UK, there was much talk of the significant increase in activity expected from the UK Water & Sewerage companies in the forthcoming AMP8 period. But there was one question asked by everybody: where will the skilled labour come from? There simply isn't the capacity or capability in the industry to meet the increased demand. This concern is not limited to the UK; across the world, the message is the same.



Bob Affholder



Prof. Dr. Ing. Dietrich Stein



The answers to this skills and knowledge shortage are far from clear. At the field skills level, employers do not invest enough in training to raise the level of skills. This results in poor site outcomes and increased costs. Similarly, at the professional level, there is minimal investment in training. Engineering graduates leaving university are not attracted to the sector; it is not considered appealing. We do too little in terms of defining career paths and professional development to change this and attract them.

This is a challenge that the sector cannot afford to ignore. One partial answer is to improve productivity, which is often woefully low. Technology, such as AI, can help and must be deployed, but it cannot entirely replace real human intelligence. An example is the AI software available for coding defects in sewer inspections. These tools are already taking away a tedious task from engineers, allowing them to be more productive on higher-value tasks. AI working alongside human intelligence can be a win-win in such cases, but human intelligence, knowledge, and experience are still very necessary.

Similarly, many tasks on site can be redesigned or automated, and new tools introduced that enable the scarce resource of skilled labour to be more productive. However, redesigning or automating to dumb down the level of skills required is not an answer. Take the example of CCTV inspection of sewers: poor camera work and recording of defects makes it all but impossible to make a worthwhile assessment of the asset; it is reduced to mere educated guesswork.



Alongside these measures, more training is also necessary. Training to improve trade skills, in-career training as part of the continuing professional development of engineers, and practical training in the use of new technologies are all needed across around the world. Much is available, especially from manufacturers of equipment and materials, and there are several impressive examples but not enough! Professional training for engineers is also widely available across all regions of the world to increase their capabilities, understanding, and knowledge. Many training providers work with experienced, possibly already retired, professionals to pass on their knowledge and insights. However, uptake is poor, especially in what are considered the more developed countries of Europe and North America.

Professional and skills training is an investment, not simply a cost. It more than recoups the investment through better processes, better productivity, better safety, and better, more cost-effective, outcomes. It also facilitates faster implementation of innovations that create better solutions. Many nod sagely and pay lip service, but few actually make the investment. Those few will be the winners.

To meet the ever-increasing demand for more reliable and serviceable infrastructure, the whole sector must rise to the challenge. It is not acceptable to bury one's head in the sand and hope the problem goes away, nor to pass the buck and say this is somebody else's responsibility. It is everybody's responsibility. Whether you are a utility, contractor, consulting engineer, equipment manufacturer, or product manufacturer, this means you!

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Could missed targets help boost trenchless uptake in the UK?

By Austen Lees, Editor Trenchless Works

Recent reports indicate that water companies in the UK have fallen significantly short of achieving the ambitious target of a 16% reduction in leakage rates by 2025.

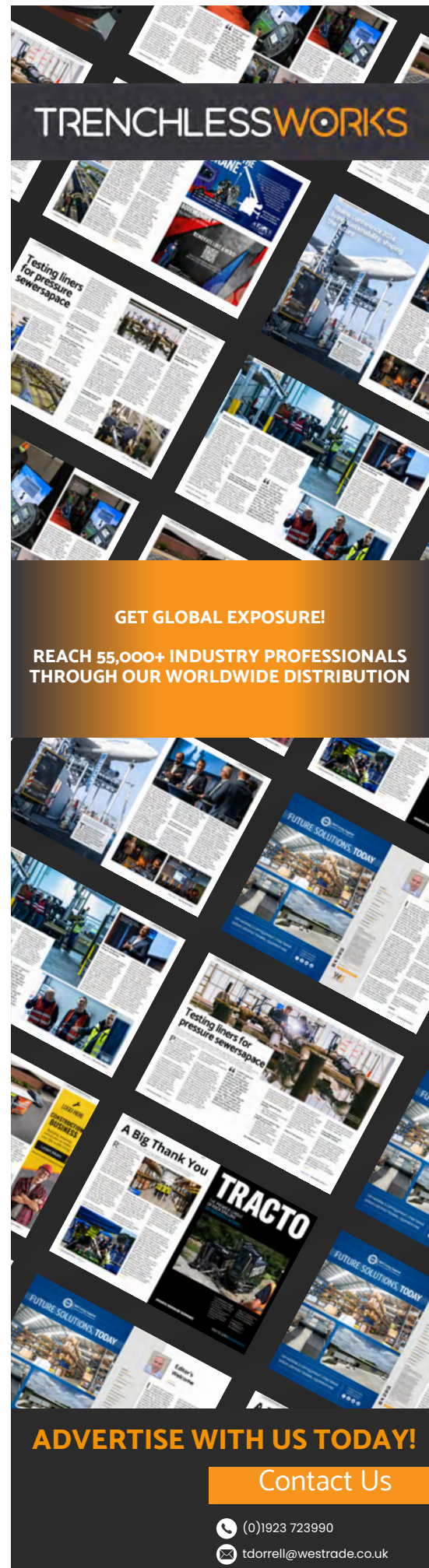
A report from the water regulator Ofwat found that while some progress has been made in cutting leaks, the overall annual reduction across all companies stands at just 6%. This shortfall poses serious implications for both the environment and consumers, underscoring the sector's urgent need for more innovative solutions. A separate report from the Environment Agency further emphasised the issue, revealing that nearly a fifth of water supplies are lost through leaks before they even reach customers' taps.

The challenges faced by the water industry in meeting leakage reduction targets are multifaceted, stemming from a combination of ageing infrastructure, the complexities of leak monitoring, and the increasing pressure on water resources. In light of these ongoing struggles, there is likely to be growing attention on trenchless technologies and their potential to be a transformative and potentially game-changing solution in leak detection and repair.

One of the primary reasons for this optimism is trenchless

technology's ability to benefit users throughout the process. This includes effectively and efficiently conducting remote inspections and utilising advanced data analytics to pinpoint leak locations. Further benefits are unlocked by employing appropriate repair and remediation solutions, which deliver a host of environmental, social, and commercial advantages.

Although several factors, such as the need for enhanced training and adaptation within the workforce, continue to hinder a more rapid adoption of trenchless technologies, the mounting pressures of water scarcity and increasing public scrutiny of water companies are creating a strong case for leveraging trenchless benefits. On this basis, it feels like a critical time for the trenchless sector to ramp up its PR and marketing activity to encourage water companies to act decisively in embracing these solutions. This presents an opportunity to both improve leakage performance and develop a more sustainable and resilient water infrastructure for the future. The call for action is clear: it is time to turn missed targets into opportunities for innovation.



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Trenchless Middle East 2024: Innovating underground infrastructure

The highly anticipated Trenchless Middle East event is the region's largest trenchless technology event and one of the fastest-growing underground infrastructure shows globally, the 13th instalment promises to be an unmissable opportunity for everyone involved in the sector.

The surge in infrastructural development in the region is evidenced by two major projects currently underway the Tasreef Project and the Centennial Sewerage Projects. These initiatives aim to enhance water and wastewater treatment processes and upgrade the sewerage infrastructure to meet the demands of the city's growing population. Both projects will incorporate trenchless technology, providing

modern solutions that perfectly align with Dubai's sustainability objectives.

Key supporters and exhibitors include industry leaders such as Vermeer Middle East, Bwell Technology, Applus, Bron, Channeline, Herrenknecht, RSM Lining Supplies, and Underground Magnetics. Their participation underscores the importance of the Middle East market and the need for collaboration and innovation in tackling the challenges facing the water and wastewater sectors.

Delegates will hear from many of the sector's leading luminaries providing updates on the latest trenchless projects in the UAE and across the Middle East.

Highlights are certain to include keynote presentations from the Dubai Municipality, Dorsch, Prof. Sam Ariaratnam and many more.

Additionally, visitors are encouraged to take part in the trenchless training programme led by the Westrade's associate partner, JBP. These sessions will provide a free-to-attend introduction to various trenchless technologies and methods available, catering specifically to newcomers to the sector. For those with hands-on experience, more detailed technical training will also be offered.

In a notable highlight for the event, Trenchless Middle East has been selected by the International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT) to host its International Council Meeting, bringing together representatives from ISTT's associate member societies to discuss critical industry developments.

The Trenchless Works team, including our editor Austen Lees, will also be in attendance. They would love to connect with you at the event to hear about your trenchless news and help you learn more about this dynamic digital platform.

As we approach what is sure to be the biggest and best event yet, the Westrade team looks forward to welcoming you to Trenchless Middle East 2024.



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SAERTEX multiCom[®] hosts 10th Saerbeck Pipe Symposium

Last month, SAERTEX multiCom welcomed an international audience of experts from the trenchless rehabilitation industry to its 10th Saerbeck Pipe Symposium at its headquarters in Saerbeck. Under the motto “The Future is Trenchless,” the focus was on three central topics: sustainability, digitalisation, and the further training of professionals.

Over 300 participants, approximately 50% of whom were international guests, took part in the event. The symposium, which is recognised as an IK Bau NRW training event, offered a varied programme consisting of a full-day conference, a trade exhibition with live demonstrations, and exclusive guided production tours.

“Our focus topics this year reflect the key developments in the trenchless rehabilitation of wastewater and supply pipes. I am convinced that our visitors were able to take away not only exciting impressions but also practical solutions

for their own projects. We at SAERTEX multiCom also learned a lot from the discussions and exchanges with the industry experts and are taking away valuable ideas for our further development,” explains Kai Diecks, Global Managing Director at SAERTEX multiCom.

As part of the conference programme, eight speakers highlighted the three central topics of the event in engaging presentations. This was complemented by a panel discussion in which industry experts discussed various aspects of tenders a topic of great relevance for future rehabilitation projects.

In addition, 25 renowned exhibitors offered participants insights into the latest technologies and innovations in trenchless rehabilitation. From engineering offices and equipment manufacturers to rehabilitation companies, many of the latest and most advanced methods were on display. The practical live demonstrations, which showcased solutions for smooth processes on

construction sites, were particularly impressive.

This also included the presentation of the new 36,000-watt UV unit from SAERTEX multiCom, which enables a faster curing speed and makes rehabilitation projects even more efficient. SAERTEX multiCom also presented the new conveyor belt “SAERTEX multiBelt,” which is more stable and powerful than the previous model and, thanks to its higher speed and optimised folding support, enables larger and heavier liners to be pulled in.


Another highlight was the factory tours of the SAERTEX multiCom main plant. Visitors were given an exclusive insight into the individual production steps of a GRP liner—from the fibre to the ready-to-install product. For the first time, there was also the opportunity to visit the production facilities of the parent company, SAERTEX. SAERTEX is globally active in the production of textile reinforcement materials made from glass, carbon, natural, and aramid fibres. These materials are used in high-quality structural components, including rotor blades for wind turbines, aircraft wings for Airbus, and boat hulls. “We also use these years of NCF expertise for our SAERTEX-LINERS to offer our customers reliable and high-quality rehabilitation solutions,” explains Diecks.

The event concluded with a beach party, which provided the ideal setting for networking and exchanging ideas.



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“ We feel very honoured to receive confirmation from an acknowledged institution such as Bureau Veritas that the performance of the viDoc® is exceeding requirements for accuracy within its class.

Sidon Futterknecht, CEO and Founder of vigram®, explains: “The viDoc is the first of its kind. As a multi-measurement tool that fits in your foreman’s pocket it defines a new category in surveying and documentation as a complementary choice to the existing tools. Its unique form factor enables easy handling and fast, precise results with RTK accuracy. Construction companies can scale up their surveying process by generating accurate 3D scans and points onsite just in time.”

The viDoc® can be combined with various apps, making it one of the most flexible measuring instruments on the market. What’s more, its operation can be explained in just a few minutes. Quantity determinations for

simple cubatures and the resulting documentation take only seconds to minutes. Downtimes and waiting times on construction sites are thus reduced to a minimum. Costs for expensive CAD add-ons can also often be saved. In fact, there are a multitude of potential uses, such as line construction, laying fibre optics, road stock, sewer and pipeline construction, bridge repository excavated material, and many more.

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“Quality is key for us. This is why the viDoc® is designed, developed, and made in Germany,” adds Sidon Futterknecht. “We feel very honoured to receive confirmation from an acknowledged institution such as Bureau Veritas that the performance of the viDoc® is exceeding requirements for accuracy within its class.”





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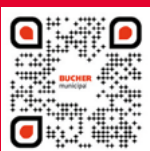
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Vacuum extraction: The next evolution in Microtunnelling

The trenchless technology industry is no stranger to innovation. When microtunnelling first emerged, many doubted its potential, but pioneers like Stuart Harrison knew it was the future, and history has proven them right. Now, with the recent decision by the International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT) to update the definition of microtunnelling to include vacuum extraction, the industry is once again on the cusp of a technological shift. Leading this revolution is AdaptX, the latest evolution of trenchless microtunnelling machines, developed by Harrison.

The legacy of Stuart Harrison

Stuart Harrison, CEO of OptionX Group and founder of Edge Underground, has been at the forefront of groundbreaking developments in microtunnelling for decades. His invention of the Vermeer AXIS microtunnelling system set new standards for precision and efficiency, and now, with AdaptX, he is pushing the boundaries even further. AdaptX provides more adaptability and performance across various ground conditions, and boasts many patented features designed to reduce the chance of failure and breakdown. >

“AdaptX isn’t just about vacuum extraction, it’s about giving contractors the flexibility to choose the best method. But when it comes to vacuum, AdaptX really shines.”



OptionX Group's AdaptX machine.



"With AdaptX, we're building on everything we learned from the AXIS system," says Harrison. "The flexibility and power of this new machine are unmatched, allowing real improvements to existing systems, too."

Vacuum Extraction: A game-changer for Microtunnelling

While AdaptX represents the latest in trenchless technology, vacuum extraction is not new to the Australian market. Contractors have successfully used this method for years, especially in challenging ground conditions. However, it's only now that vacuum extraction is gaining global recognition.

Vacuum microtunnelling offers significant advantages,

particularly in consolidated ground or rock. It immediately removes broken material from the bore, leaving a dry, stable tunnel and reducing the forces required to advance the pipe. "The beauty of vacuum extraction is that it clears the path for the pipe, so you're only dealing with skin friction," explains Harrison. "In rock, it's even better you eliminate regrind and reduce wear, saving time and money."

Although vacuum technology has been widely used in Australia, its global adoption has been slower. But with the ISTT now recognising vacuum extraction as a key method, the global industry is catching up to what Australian contractors have known for years.

AdaptX leading the charge

AdaptX is uniquely positioned to take full advantage of this new definition. It can switch between various methods vacuum, slurry, auger boring, or pipe jacking depending on the ground conditions, making it the perfect choice for contractors.

"AdaptX isn't just about vacuum extraction," says Harrison. "It's about giving contractors the flexibility to choose the best method. But when it comes to vacuum, AdaptX really shines."

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The AdaptX includes several features to reduce the chance of failure.

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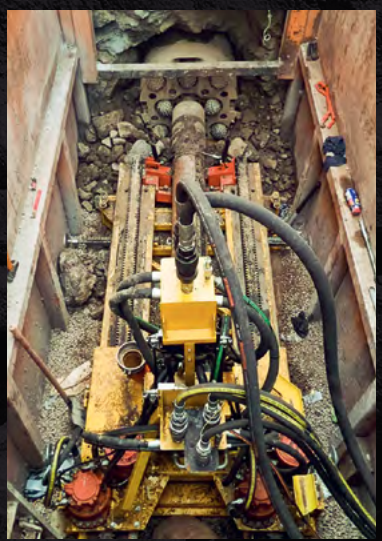
Excels in vacuum extraction, the new industry standard for efficiency.

Innovative Design

Created by trenchless technology expert Stuart Harrison, AdaptX offers flexibility to switch between trenchless methods as needed.

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RELINE is the first liner manufacturer in the world to receive an EcoVadis award of sustainable commitment to the environment and society

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EcoVadis, the leading independent rating agency in the field of sustainability, measures companies against international sustainability standards, including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the UN Global Compact, and ISO 26000, thus promoting comparability.

RELINE was the first manufacturer of GRP liners in the world to successfully complete the EcoVadis assessment process for the second consecutive time. It is particularly noteworthy that the expert in trenchless pipeline rehabilitation, headquartered in Rohrbach in the Rhineland-Palatinate region of Germany, received an above-average rating in all four areas assessed – environmental protection, work processes and human rights, ethics, and sustainability

in the supply chain – and is among the top 35% of all 130,000 industrial companies assessed by EcoVadis.

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“Trenchless pipe rehabilitation with GRP pipe liners is our answer to the pressing water problem. As a global market leader, it is our vision to tackle this challenge with sustainable solutions for reliable water networks – because water is life,” says RELINE CEO Marc Stiebing. “The globally recognized EcoVadis award encourages us in this. At the same time, it enables our business partners to understand the extensive measures we implement in our daily activities for the benefit of people and the environment.”

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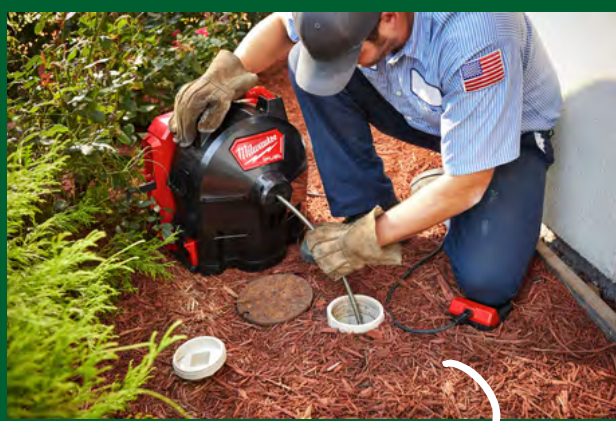
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Innovative trenchless solutions

Overcoming pipeline challenges beneath a live runway

McBreen Enviro UK successfully installed a 95-metre-long liner beneath a live air traffic runway, facing the challenge of a complex diameter transition - from 900mm at the inlet to 750mm approximately 60 metres down the line. The project required detailed site assessments, precision CCTV surveys, and thorough preparation, including robotic cutting, to address the pipe's deterioration and avoid puncturing the liner during installation. The skilled lining technicians and project management team devised a trenchless solution to avoid disruption to runway operations.

The pipeline was severely compromised, showing significant displacements, cracks, and collapses, which required a solution that could accommodate the diameter change without sacrificing structural integrity. McBreen Enviro UK employed a custom-designed UV-cured CIPP liner, which, due to its size and weight, was winched into position. The liner was then capped, inflated, and cured using UV light to ensure a durable bond with the host pipe.

This method minimised disruption to surrounding infrastructure and reduced project downtime, addressing



the technical challenges posed by the site. By leveraging innovative trenchless technologies and advanced equipment, McBreen Enviro UK delivered a robust and long-lasting solution.



Bridging time: Trenchless technology restores Spoleto's legendary landmark

Spoleto is an ancient city in Umbria, Italy. It is surrounded by hills and vineyards and is famous for its churches and magnificent bridge. The fourteenth-century bridge called Ponte delle Torri (Bridge of the Towers) was derived from a Roman viaduct and is the symbol of Spoleto, as well as one of the city's most panoramic points. It was, in fact, first an aqueduct, originally built by the Romans and then rebuilt (or expanded, according to some sources) in the 12th century. It spans the deep ravine and ensures a reliable water supply to Spoleto.

Connecting the hillside to the city's high point, both ends of the bridge feature a fortress: the Rocca Albornoziata on the city side and the Fortilizia dei Mulini on the other. These two fortresses, with battlements and towers, gave the bridge its name. The Rocca is the highest point in Spoleto. The bridge is 230 metres long (787 feet) and nearly 80 metres (262 feet) high,

featuring nine graceful arches. The top of the aqueduct has a walkway outlined by a parapet and is open to foot traffic.

Underneath this walkway, drinking water pipes were buried in the 1890s to carry water from one side of the ravine to the other. Years of use resulted in heavy leakage that began to damage the viaduct. It was decided that the historic structure needed to be protected, and consequently, the pressure pipes, which operate at 3-4 bar internally, were relined.

As traditional digging was not an option WPR, the expert relining company in Italy, and ASOE cleaned the pipes using pigging, and then the hose lining was pulled into place and sealed at each end with pressure couplings. The lining took a few hours and allowed the pipes to be completely sealed, reopening the viaduct to the public. Two lines of over 350 metres each were installed in one pull.



Thames Water attended the site with their Tier 1 contractor, Cappagh Contractors Construction (London), to evaluate the project and explore the opportunity to use this technology within the Thames Water area. They were pleased with the materials, installation techniques, pressure testing, and handover. Dean Hansford, Trenchless Contracts Director for Cappagh, said: "It's been great to see the simple and efficient method of installation and the range of options that this product offers. We will definitely be looking for opportunities to collaborate with ASOE in the UK with our current and future clients."

Michele Libraro, CEO at WPR, commented, "The project had been challenging but was completed ahead of time." Deon Pohorille from NUFLOW and ASOE also commented saying: "This was another monumental project for ASOE, and we are looking forward to supporting Thames Water and Cappagh with their challenges and future installations in the UK."



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PIPA awarded Qatar project

Water pipe assessment technology manufacturer PIPA has been awarded a year-long project working alongside SUEZ in Qatar. The company's Hydrocam™ and Flowrider™ systems will be used to assess water mains of all sizes to confirm pipe condition and locate leaks on numerous pipeline schemes.

The Hydrocam™ is a pressure-rated push camera system with a range of 200 metres from a hydrant entry point and offers real-time CCTV, acoustic leak detection in all materials, and pipe tracing.

The Flowrider™ system uses PIPA-designed Hydrochutes for long-range floating pipe inspections up to 1000 metres, utilising water flow. The

Hydrochutes also include a remote collapse system for safe retrieval.

All PIPA systems include a chlorination housing and are approved for safe use in potable water networks. The camera sensors include ultra-bright COB lights, an HD camera sensor, and an ultra-responsive hydrophone. PIPA sensors are rated for 20 Bar pressure.

The project in Qatar will utilise buried fire hydrants and removed air release valves as camera insertion points, along with many other types of valves and pressure fittings installed directly on top of water mains.

PIPA Representative Fabio Orlandi said: "This is an exciting time for PIPA, with a record-breaking sales month in



September! We are proud to be working with SUEZ in Qatar, which started out as a potential Flowrider project and has now developed into a combined Hydrocam project to cover smaller-sized mains as well. The project starts in October, and we will be over in Qatar to train and support SUEZ on the initial surveys.

The Hydrocam and Flowrider systems are what the water industry has been waiting for: a complete DMA and trunk main inspection system package that is simple to use and covers a wide range of pipe sizes. The systems are van-based or portable where required, quick to set up, and are excellent options for all water company leakage teams and contractors to add to their toolbox!

PIPA has developed the widest range of pressurised pipe inspection products commercially available in the world and has worked with the majority of UK water utility companies, as well as a wide range of clients overseas."



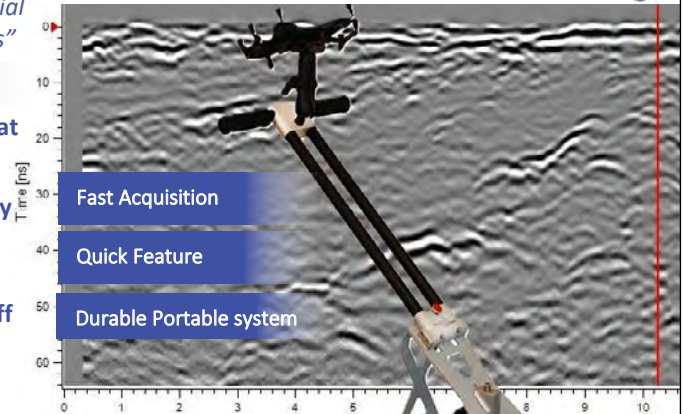
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ADVANCED TRENCHLESS TECHNOLOGY

Training course launched to aid post survey decision making

Current drain and sewer inspection systems are almost unrecognisable from those of 40 years ago. Today's tools range from pole cameras and push-rod systems to high-definition cameras mounted on tractor units, floats, and even drones. While the challenge of getting a CCTV camera into and along a pipe has largely been solved, the age-old problem of accurately and objectively interpreting what the images portray, in terms of asset condition assessment, remains paramount.

To support the upskilling of the UK water industry, WRc now offers a one-day Awareness Training course for individuals engaged in operational maintenance and sewer rehabilitation, as well as engineers, consultants, and regulatory officials who need to understand the findings of sewer CCTV surveys. This course provides technical knowledge

on sewer deterioration, the use of CCTV condition surveys, and their application in sewer rehabilitation planning. Covering the key aspects of sewer inspection, attendees will gain an overview of the MSCC coding structure, learn to recognise key features, and understand the correct use of the codes and how the associated condition grading is generated using the WRc SRM methodology.

WRc created the first image coding structure in 1980, setting the standard for interpreting key defects and coding them in a consistent format. This initiative resulted in the publication of the Manual of Sewer Condition Classification (MSCC) coding structure, now in its fifth edition. However, there remains a critical need to train surveyors in interpreting captured footage and correctly coding and classifying observed defects according to the MSCC. This knowledge ensures a

pipe's internal condition can be consistently assessed and graded to prioritise repairs, maximising investment and maintenance budgets.

It is essential that high-quality training at all levels is implemented and maintained to ensure accurate coding of defects and that the generated reports reflect a reliable condition assessment of the drain or sewer under review. Operators should seek the OS19X certification in coding CCTV defects, and all those involved in an inspection must have a robust understanding of how the survey was conducted, how the codes were attributed, and how the internal condition grade is calculated. This knowledge, alongside familiarity with the standards, is crucial for making well-informed decisions regarding any necessary remedial actions.

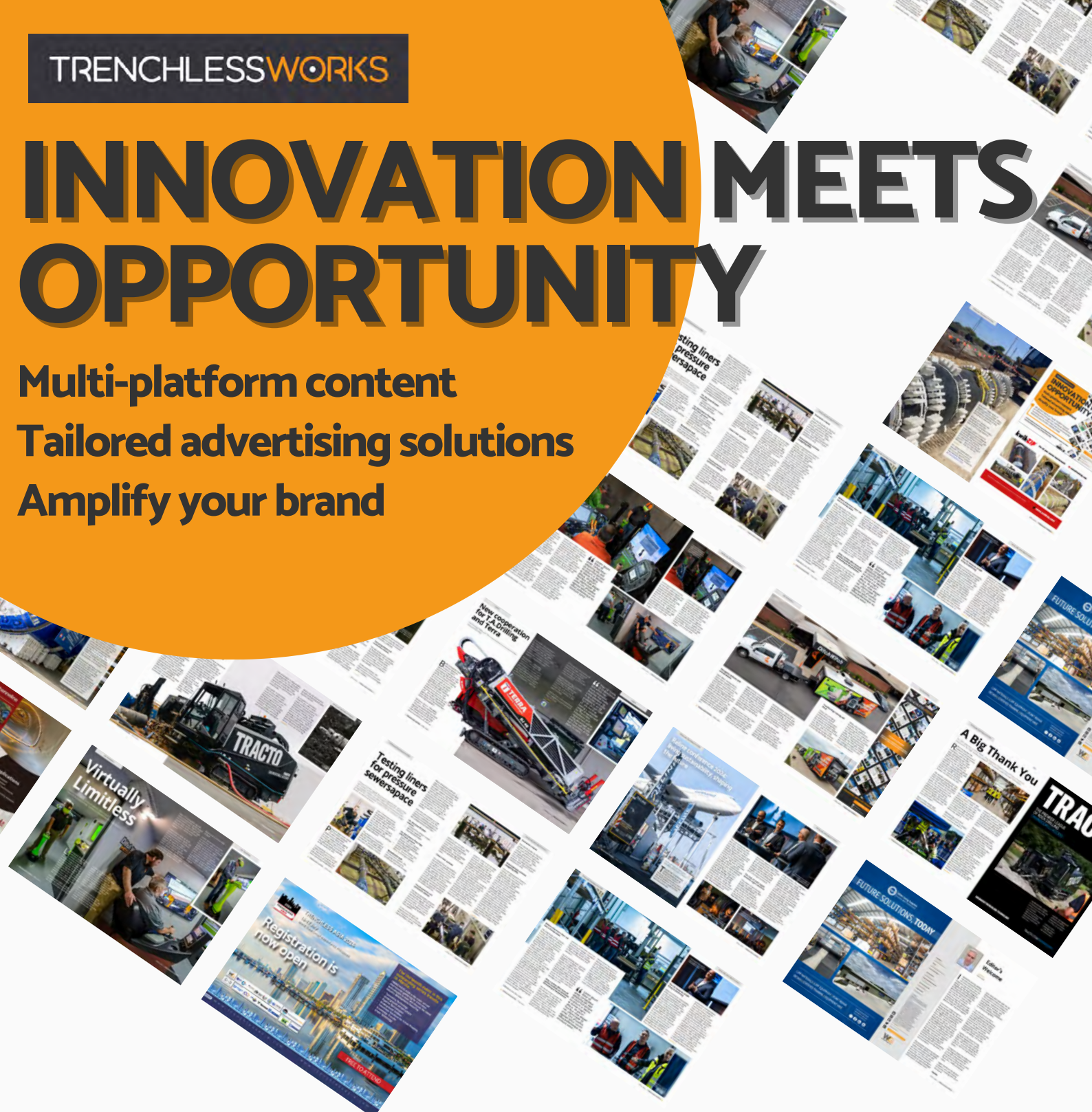
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Overcoming pipe obstructions with the Picote Grabber

Gel Engineering successfully remove a stubborn pipe obstruction using the innovative Picote Grabber, avoiding costly shutdowns and excavations.

By Andy Simpkins, Senior Project Manager at Gel Engineering

Gel Engineering encountered a challenging situation when tasked with removing an obstruction from a pipe. The obstruction, an inflatable bung (stopper) with a hose attached, had wedged itself into the opening of a smaller pipe, causing potential flow disruptions and blockages in the system. The contractor needed a reliable solution to remove the obstruction efficiently and avoid costly shutdowns and excavations.

Challenge

The inflatable bung (stopper) was located approximately 20 meters from the end of the pipework, posing accessibility and retrieval challenges. This obstruction also posed a significant threat to the facility's operations, risking further blockages and complications. Gel Engineering needed a solution that could reach and remove the obstruction without causing additional damage or disruptions to the system.

Solution

Gel Engineering opted to utilise the Picote Grabber, along with an additional extension piece, to effectively retrieve the obstructing inflatable bung (stopper). Picote is recognised for their innovative pipe cleaning and rehabilitation tools, and S1E Ltd were able to supply this crucial tool by

working collaboratively with Keyline's Reading Branch to have the Grabber ready for contractor collection. This tool was designed to reach deep into pipes, effectively grasping and removing obstructions without the need for extensive excavations. The combination of a jetter to clear debris and maneuvering the grabber behind the bung (stopper) proved instrumental in dislodging and removing the obstruction.

Outcome

The coordinated efforts involving the Picote Grabber and extension piece, the Gel Engineering team achieved their goal of removing the obstruction swiftly and efficiently. By avoiding the need for excavation through a second filter bed, they minimized downtime and ensured minimal disruption to operations. The successful resolution of the pipe obstruction demonstrated the effectiveness of Picote's innovative solutions in overcoming challenging pipe maintenance issues, as well as S1E's commitment to provide quality customer service on time sensitive challenges.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the assistance provided by S1E Ltd and Keyline. The Picote Grabber, along with the extension piece, proved to be invaluable in removing a stubborn obstruction from



our pipework. Without this innovative tool, we would have faced extensive downtime and costly excavations. Thanks to S1E, we were able to resolve the issue swiftly and resume normal operations, saving both time and money. I highly recommend the Picote Grabber for its efficiency and effectiveness in tackling complex pipe obstructions."

“ Thanks to S1E, we were able to resolve the issue swiftly and resume normal operations, saving both time and money. I highly recommend the Picote Grabber for its efficiency and effectiveness in tackling complex pipe obstructions.

Applied Trenchless Workshops and training for the Middle East



Frank Reilly
Director JBP's Trenchless,
Training Programme

Hot off the heels of the success of No-Dig Live 2024, at Stoneleigh Park in the U.K., JBP is gearing up to deliver another programme of Applied Trenchless Technologies workshops, at Trenchless Middle East in Dubai!

No-Dig Live provided a platform for us to explore specific topics that, while relevant to the wider international trenchless community, were of particular interest in the U.K. We hosted two great roundtable panel discussions focusing on meeting the skills requirements to support the next five years of investment in the U.K.'s water and wastewater infrastructure, and the impact and application of standards. On the day, there was great discussion among the panelists and in the Q&A sessions afterwards. One of the objectives of hosting and organizing these sessions is not only to inform those who

can attend on the day but hopefully to provoke an ongoing discussion on issues that matter to all professionals working across the sector.

At Trenchless Middle East, we'll shift focus toward the challenges and innovations specific to the Middle East. The workshops will feature presentations from leading technology providers including BKP Berolina, Uhrig (Quick-Lock), SWP Systems, and Picote Solutions, as well as regional contracting companies like Licuas, Applied Pipeline Services, and International Foundation Group.

These sessions will offer invaluable insights into real-

world applications of trenchless systems and technologies within the region.

In addition to industry presentations, the workshops programme will be further enhanced by expert sessions from Prof. Sam Ariaratnam of Arizona State University, covering Horizontal Directional Drilling, and Clive Key a project manager at Dorsch with 15 years' regional experience in the field of network rehabilitation and extensive experience in the Middle East, who will speak on Good Practice and Data Quality in Pipeline Inspection.

We are also excited to welcome En. Faizal Othman, president of the Malaysian



APPLIED TRENCHLESS TECHNOLOGIES WORKSHOPS @ TRENCHLESS MIDDLE EAST 2024



Prof. Samuel T. Ariaratnam
Arizona State University



Dr. Dec Downey
President & Past Chairman - ISTT



Mr Clive Key
Projects Manager



Mr David Stones
International Foundation Group



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SWP-Systems GmbH GmbH & Co. KG



UHRIG Group – Quick-Lock



Mr Anto Arun Jeyoslin
Licuas Trading & Contracting



Mr Graham Howard
PICOTE SOLUTIONS



Mr Rany Zein
Applied Pipeline Services



En. Faizal Othman
MATT

Trenchless Technologies Association, who will share a comparative perspective from Southeast Asia, rounding off a comprehensive workshop programme.

While we're thrilled about the educational opportunities at Trenchless Middle East, we are aware that not everyone can attend in person. This challenge fuels our ambition to extend the reach of trenchless training and we're working on overcoming these limitations for future events. Also, in collaboration with Westrade and other partners, we are also planning to bring trenchless master classes to the Middle East and Southeast Asia in 2025

and 2026, ensuring that no one misses out on this valuable knowledge.

So keep an eye on this space! We eagerly look forward to keeping you informed of the trenchless training opportunities and initiatives ahead! In the mean time I wish everyone able to attend Trenchless Middle East in Dubai a very product, informative and

Next issue: How much do we want our customers to know?

www.trenchless.training





No-Dig Live: A resounding success for the trenchless technology industry

The recent No-Dig Live exhibition at the NAEC has proven to be a monumental success, solidifying its position as the world's largest trenchless technology exhibition and one of the fastest-growing events in the underground utilities market. Attendees were treated to an exceptional visitor experience, featuring a stellar conference programme expertly curated by the UK Society for Trenchless Technology (UKSTT).

As an industry, it is our responsibility to showcase and promote trenchless technologies and their numerous environmental, social, and commercial benefits for the underground utilities sector. Events like No-Dig Live are crucial in helping us achieve this objective, providing an international platform for knowledge exchange and innovation.

Adding to the event's success was the on-site presence of the Trenchless Works team, who generated fantastic digital content and engaging articles for future editions of the magazine. Enhancing its media profile is vital for promoting our sector, further elevating the visibility and positive impact of trenchless technologies.

As always, a highlight of the event was the immensely popular UKSTT Dinner and Awards ceremony, attended by over 500 guests celebrating excellence in innovation, people, and the implementation of trenchless technologies. Congratulations to this year's winners:

- **Innovative Technology:** Glanville Environmental / South West Water / Reinhert-Ritz for "Quick-Pig Makes Its UK Debut on Tresco."
- **Detection, Location & Inspection:** Electro Scan UK Ltd / ARAMCO for "FELL Technology Approved by Saudi ARAMCO to Find Hard-to-Find Leaks in Non-Metallic Pipes."
- **New Installation - Large Project:** Peter McCormack & Sons / Galliford Try / South West Water for "Exmouth 900mm 800m Sea Outfall."
- **Renovation - Large Project:** Clancy Group / Onsite for SCS JV for "Thames Water Critical Asset Programme for HS2."
- **Renovation - Small Project:** Public Sewer Services for "Uckfield Residential Subsidence Rectification."
- **Small Scheme:** Cappagh Group of Companies / Thames Water / S1E / Tom Sangster for "Cappagh Group of Companies: The Hedingham Road Project."
- **Young Professional:** Jordan Van Beek - Project Engineer - Wessex Water.



Congratulations also to Jo Parker and John De Rosa for their well-deserved Trenchless Woman of the Year and Lifetime Achievement awards.

A special thank you must also be extended to the awards' sponsors, including MRMS, RSM Lining Supplies, Tracto, and UIS.

Westrade's Managing Director, Paul Harwood commented on the event's success: "Firstly, I wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors and exhibitors at No-Dig Live. Your input and the magnificent array of equipment and products on your stands are what truly makes No-Dig Live the global showcase for everything trenchless! There is no doubt that your efforts delivered an unrivalled visitor experience and injected a dynamic energy into the entire

event.

Moving the location of such a large and established event can be daunting; however, feedback from both visitors and exhibitors has been overwhelmingly positive. Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate returning to NAEC Stoneleigh from Tuesday, 29 September, to Thursday, 1 October 2026."

But the UK won't have to wait until 2026 for the next trenchless event; mark your calendars for the No-Dig Roadshow in Belfast at the Crowne Plaza on 19 March 2025. Stand bookings for this popular event will open soon, so keep an eye on Trenchless Works and our social media channels for updates.



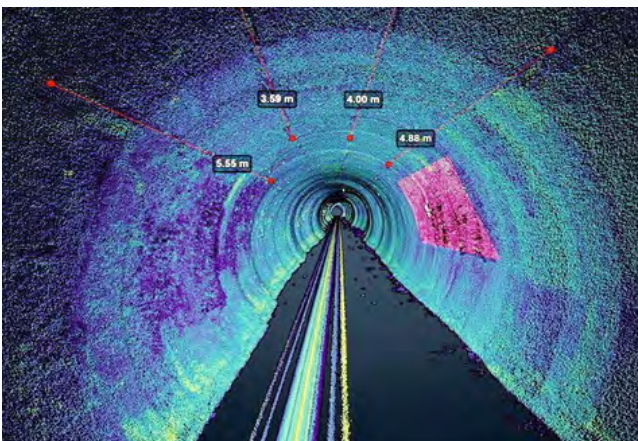


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A message from the Chair

As the newly appointed Chair of the UK Society for Trenchless Technology (UKSTT), I am both honoured and humbled to take on this responsibility. I extend my sincere gratitude to all our members, the council, and our industry patrons for their continued support to the society.

It is a privilege to lead an organization that has been at the forefront of promoting trenchless technology for public benefit and industry advancement for over 30 years.

Trenchless technology plays an essential role in modern infrastructure development, offering sustainable and efficient methods for installing and maintaining underground utilities. As we face global challenges such as urbanisation, climate change, and the need for sustainable development, the adoption of trenchless solutions is more important than ever. Minimising surface disruption, reducing environmental impact, and ensuring the safety of communities are all core benefits that trenchless methods bring.

In the coming year, our focus will be on strengthening UKSTT's role in encouraging people "New to Trenchless" to make their careers in our trenchless world.

Our primary goals include increasing awareness of trenchless methods, providing valuable resources and training, and enhancing collaboration with stakeholders across the public and private sectors. By working together, we can help make the benefits of trenchless technology more widely recognized and understood, ultimately delivering value to our members and the communities we serve.

I am also committed to building on the solid foundation laid by my predecessors and furthering UKSTT's mission of promoting best practices, advancing education, and enabling innovation in trenchless technology. We will strive to continue our initiatives, including masterclasses, webinars, and workshops, which will enable our members to stay at the cutting edge of industry developments.

Furthermore, we aim to enhance our engagement with government bodies, regulators, and local authorities to advocate for the increased adoption of trenchless methods in infrastructure projects, especially as sustainability becomes a priority.

We also look forward to continued collaboration with our academic and industry partners in education, research and development. By highlighting innovative projects, we can help advance trenchless technology, making it more efficient, versatile, and accessible. This will not only benefit the industry but also have a significant positive impact on the environment by reducing the carbon footprint of construction and maintenance activities.

As we move forward, my vision for UKSTT is to foster a stronger, more connected community of trenchless professionals who share a commitment to sustainable infrastructure development. Together, we can continue to demonstrate that trenchless technology is not just an alternative to traditional methods, but often the best choice for building a resilient future.

Graham Howard

SOCIETY

Society News brought to members by Trenchless Works
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Graham Howard, Chair, UKSTT

UKSTT holds 2024 Gala Dinner & Awards ceremony in association with Westrade

The UK Society of Trenchless Technology (UKSTT) held its 30th Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony on October 2nd 2024 at the NAEC Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. The event was hosted by Chair Ian Ramsay and Cleric, Broadcaster, Writer & Former Communiard Reverend Richard Coles.

The dinner had an 80's theme with arcade games, rubik cube lights and an 80's style photobooth.

Once again, UKSTT decided to hold their Awards and Gala Dinner during the popular No-Dig Live event in association with leading event management company, Westrade Group. The dinner was attended by over 400 VIP's and guests with entries into the awards from 47 companies.

The show was opened with an impressive and energetic performance from aerialist Rachael Kean before Ian took to the stage.

Ian's welcome speech included a number of thank-yous to award sponsors, award judges, award entrants, the UKSTT Council, Lynn, Linda & Tammy and all the guests who supported the event. It was followed by the acceptance of the Lifetime Achievement award winner John De Rosa and Trenchless Woman of the Year Jo Parker.



INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

SPONSOR



WINNER

Quick-Pig makes its UK debut on Tresco

GLANVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL / SOUTH WEST WATER / REINHERT-RITZ



Facing the unique logistical challenges found on the Isles of Scilly meant digging deep into the innovative toolbox to construct and maintain South West Water's infrastructure. Following the repair of a failing asset, Glanville Environmental and South West Water saw the opportunity for Quick-Pig to make it's UK debut and avoid the requirement for jetting and tankers on Tresco, one of the most environmentally sensitive islands in the Archipelago.



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Picote Xpress Coating System

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The Picote Xpress Coating System is a fast and cost-effective method for the trenchless rehabilitation of cast iron pipes. Whether it's underground infrastructure or stack pipes inside buildings, the Xpress Coating System offers a safe and versatile solution that adapts to various environments. Suitable as a corrosion barrier, or by building layers as a semi-structural repair. Can also be used as a hybrid method alongside CIPP Lining or as a point repair. Designed to navigate multiple bends with a smooth finish for good flow. Soaks into the porous fabric of cast iron pipes for a stronger repair.

COMMENDED

AI Sewer CCTV Image Repository

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WRC along with United Utilities and other UK partner water companies have delivered a world's first through a collaborative approach that aims to remove a key blocker in the adoption of AI as a tool in the data analysis of the trenchless technology of CCTV sewer inspection through the creation of an open data source repository of images. The library can be used to improve the accuracy of AI algorithms in the assessment of critical condition data of our wastewater networks leading to significant operational efficiencies and environmental benefits for the UK and global water industry. >

DETECTION, LOCATION & INSPECTION

SPONSOR



WINNER

Fell Technology Approved by Saudi ARAMCO to find hard to find leaks in Non-Metallic Pipes

ELECTRO SCAN UK LTD / ARAMCO



Electro Scan was contacted by ARAMCO to discuss a possible trial to assess the FELL technology on what defects it could find and how accurate the equipment was at finding them. After months of planning and meetings, Electro Scans UK team was deployed to KSA in January 2024 with the ES-400 push rod equipment to conduct the trial. The trial consisted of two sections of buried pipe, one being a metallic pipe with a cement mortar lining and the other being a non-metallic pipe (GRP) Both pipes had been administered defects by members of the ARAMCO team and the defect locations kept with them to see what we would pick up.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Valve Trak

UIS TECHNOLOGIES LTD / CADENT GAS

Introducing ValveTrak by UIS, a groundbreaking solution born from the need for enhanced safety and efficiency in the utility industry, inspired by the Grenfell Tower tragedy. ValveTrak leverages IoT technology to provide real-time, 24/7/365 visibility of underground assets like

valves, which often become inaccessible due to debris, landscaping, or other obstructions. In emergencies, quick and accurate asset location is crucial. ValveTrak enables engineers to precisely pinpoint asset locations, including vital information such as valve cards. This innovative

tool not only optimizes asset management but also significantly enhances safety and operational readiness for utility engineers.

NEW INSTALLATION – LARGE PROJECT

SPONSOR



WINNER

Exmouth 900mm 800m Sea Outfall

PETER MCCORMACK & SONS / GALLIFORD TRY / SOUTH WEST WATER



An 800m sea outfall from Sandy Bay Cliffs in winter with a challenging timeframe. The site on one of the UK’s largest & busiest holiday parks. 4m from a blue flag beach. The team challenged themselves to forward ream a 48” Bore and then push a 900mm PE out to sea. Nothing like this had ever been attempted in the UK. Requiring an HDD rig not operating in the UK. Targeted delivery included: Exemplary Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental record. Completion ahead of programme. On budget. Recycle 100% drilling fluids reducing carbon emissions. The Team smashed all targets set.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

VolkerTrenchless Solutions – Anglian Water Strategic Pipeline Alliance

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VolkerTrenchless Solutions (VTS) is delivering 62 trenchless crossings, involving over 12km of SDR11 pipe (160mm-710mm diameter), as part of Anglian Water’s Strategic Pipeline Alliance (SPA) project to construct 350km of potable

water pipelines across East Anglia. We work to Project 13 principles in an Enterprise environment to plan, mitigate key risks, add value with technical knowledge, and deliver on time a complex programme of 62 crossings. We

use industry leading logistics and safety management to utilise resources efficiently over a huge geographical area, whilst minimising disruption to local communities and keeping staff safe and well, despite the intense drilling programme. >

RENOVATION – LARGE PROJECT

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Thames Water Critical Asset Programme for HS2

CLANCY GROUP / ONSITE FOR SCS JV

Clancy is committed to delivering the best solutions that cause the least disruption while delivering the highest quality outcome through strong supply chain partnerships. Working on the prestigious HS2 contract for SCS we were able to do just that with Onsite Central when awarded the programme of works to ensure primary assets impacted by the tunnelling works were maintained operationally and improved for future generations to use for many years to come. Cost efficient, flexible, and cooperative planning with a dedication to achieving the highest quality delivery and minimising disruption for client, customers and stakeholders was everyone's priority.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Endwell Rd, Sewer Crossing Rail

MCALLISTER BROS LIMITED / THAMES WATER

Working within the utility environment is something that McAllister have been doing for the past 53-years, so installing 140mtrs x 600mmØ of ultraviolet liner into a sewer should be business as usual.

Endwell Rd needed a different approach; the rehabilitation was for Thames Water; it was a critical sewer running direct under and parallel between 4no railway lines on a busy commuter route into London. The installation location had controlled access and limited working window, the overpumping was designed to manage flow at road level to bypass the railway and therefore was extensive and the sewer included a bend with limited available CIPP products.

COMMENDED

Manderville Rd

MCALLISTER BROS LIMITED / SCSJV (HS2)

McAllister uses expertise and full understanding of industry product range to develop a solution outside of the "go-to" solutions. When a gravity syphon, under significant rail infrastructure, 15mtrs deep, needed to be lined, McAllister went to a hot water cured CIPP composite pressure liner as the solution. Considering the wider design requirements as opposed just the pipeline itself, allowed us to think outside the box. The pressure liner provided the support needed to withstand the hydrostatic head for the inversion and curing process, while allowing for a liner thickness 70% thinner than a comparable gravity liner and able to negotiate the syphon bends.

RENOVATION – SMALL PROJECT

SPONSOR 

WINNER

Uckfield Residential Subsidence Rectification

PUBLIC SEWER SERVICES

A residential property in Uckfield faced significant subsidence issues, particularly affecting their conservatory. Public Sewer Services (PSS) was called upon to diagnose and rectify the problem. An intensive investigation revealed that the issue stemmed from a collapsed pipe beneath the resident's conservatory. Traditional excavation methods would have required dismantling the conservatory and could have adversely affected neighbouring properties. Instead, PSS employed innovative trenchless technology to resolve the issue efficiently and cost-effectively. This approach not only addressed the immediate problem but also reinforced the area to prevent future issues, demonstrating PSS's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and community care.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Drilling Disruption – Thames Water GRP Sectional Lining

THAMES WATER / CAPPAGH / JTS / Iline

Drilling Disruption! - Third-party HDD into the side of a 1200mm Victorian Brick Sewer within Richmond Upon Thames, resulted in a 10m³ void developing beneath the carriageway. Working with Cappagh and their designers JAMTech Solutions to rapidly deploy a solution to enable the road to remain open, a temporary bridge was installed immediately prior to Christmas. Optioneering resulted in the procurement and installation of bespoke GRP sections, facilitated via specialist sub-contractors, iLine Technologies. This enabled operative sewer entry, providing a permanent repair and safety of those involved. Tidal windows, listed buildings and restricted access were but few of the challenges!

COMMENDED

St. Pancras Sewer Rehabilitation

THAMES WATER / ONSITE RAIL

Thames Water identified that the flow from three properties needed to be diverted away from a sewer which was likely in need of abandoning due to a collapse. While multiple discharge points were considered, the preferred solution was to gravitate the flow via a new sewer. Rather than abandoning the asset, OnSite Rail managed to maintain it by identifying, through a CCTV survey, that the sewer had not collapsed as previously thought. It was, however, severely cracked in areas. Installation of a new manhole also provided Thames Water with access to the sewer outside of customer's properties. >

SMALL SCHEME

SPONSOR



WINNER

Cappagh Group of Companies: The Hedingham Road Project

CAPPAGH GROUP OF COMPANIES / THAMES WATER / S1E / TOM SANGSTER



Pitch fibre pipes have become a significant concern for Thames Water and their customers, particularly in one neighbourhood where extensive pitch fibre was discovered in multiple properties. This issue caused restricted flow capabilities, resulting in multiple external floods, three CEO-level escalations, and a CCW complaint. We addressed this challenge by combining civil engineering and trenchless methods, effectively protecting against pollution and blockages while eliminating the need for extensive excavation. We re-routed and fully lined 140 meters of misshaped pitch fibre sewer pipe.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Cambridgeshire Lining Project - Clancy

CLANCY / ANGLIAN WATER / SCHUR BPH

As the water industry comes under increasing pressure to overcome the challenges it faces it falls to their pioneering infrastructure partners to provide innovative, sustainable solutions that deliver efficiency. This is demonstrated within the scope of works used to

repair a collapsed sewer 6 metres underground in Cambridgeshire. Choosing spray lining over other methods drove maximum cost and time efficiencies and reduced carbon emissions. Our people were exposed to less harmful gases too. The client got a

fast and effective delivery that regenerated the asset for safe use for years to come. All for less than £70,000.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

SPONSOR



WINNER

Jordan Van Beek

WESSEX WATER



As a dedicated and driven individual, I have consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and a passion for excellence in my field. This is evident in my sewer rehab projects in Somerton and Bedminster, where my innovative approach, utilising CIPP, and my continued commitment to refinement have contributed to their successful completion, being on time and within budget. Winning the Young Professionals Award would be a personal honour, and it would also serve as a testament to the hard work and dedication I have put into my career with the mentorship at Wessex Water. Thank you for considering my application.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Kiran Alya Khan – Gate-Keeper

CAPPAGH GROUP OF COMPANIES

For three years, one neighbourhood faced persistent blockages, ongoing mitigation efforts, and extensive work, primarily due to deteriorating pitch fibre pipes. This situation presented a formidable challenge for Thames Water and

their customers. By employing a combination of civil engineering and trenchless methods, we successfully rehabilitated 140 meters of deformed pitch fibre pipes. This comprehensive approach alleviated pollution and blockages, minimised the

need for extensive excavation, significantly reduced costs for the client, and enhanced the longevity of their asset. >

UKSTT's TRENCHLESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

SPONSOR



AWARDED TO

Jo Parker MBE BSc, MBA, C Eng. FICE, FIWater, FCIWEM



UKSTT's LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SPONSOR



AWARDED TO

John De Rosa



UKSTT AGM



The Council of the United Kingdom Society for Trenchless Technology (UKSTT) held its Annual General Meeting on 10 October 2024, at Camden House in Kenilworth.

Associate Director Lynn Maclachlan, acting as the Chair's dedicated officer, presented the Chairs, Treasurers and Auditors reports and made the accounts from 2023 available to everyone.

Among the report highlights was the Society's intention to continue working on

relationships with the UK Utility Companies.

Steve Butterworth, Richard Swan, Phil Steele, & Ian Ramsay have all completed their year term of office and all except Richard Swan are standing again for election. Simon Marsh & Peter Cheers left earlier on in the year & Scott McMurray resigned last week. Richard Swan is standing down and agreed to be a specialist advisor with regards to industry Standards. This leaves seven places available.

Chair Ian Ramsay expressed his thanks to Scott, Peter & Simon and thanked them for their contribution over the years.

After completing his extended and second term as Chair, Ian Ramsay handed the position over to newly appointed Graham Howard, Picote Solutions.

The new appointments to the Council this year are Frank Sweeney, Clancy – Jason Barnes, Vermeer & Peter Guilliat, Volker Trenchless. Graham Howard

presented them with their Council Member badge and welcomed them to the Council. Graham Howard (Chair)

Tim Sargent (Vice Chair)
 Ian Ramsay (Immediate Past Chair & Treasurer)
 Claire Gowdy (Honorary Secretary)
 Dawn Greig (Chair of MS Subcommittee)
 Leon Woods (Chair of MS Subcommittee)
 Iain Naismith (Chair of T&E subcommittee)
 Jim Albarella
 Shauna Herron
 Phil Steele
 Andy Gundry
 Stephen Butterworth
 Peter Henley
 Jill Tickle
 Roger Wahl
 Jason Smith
 Frank Sweeney
 Jason Barnes
 Peter Guilliat



Resourcing the future of trenchless technology: An interview with Jo Parker

By Austen Lees, Editor of Trenchless Works magazine



With a remarkable career spanning over 50 years in the water industry and active involvement in trenchless technologies since 2000, Jo Parker MBE stands out as a leading figure in promoting these innovative methods for the installation and maintenance of buried infrastructure. Her significant contributions include a pivotal role in the National Underground Assets Register, a nationwide system that offers a comprehensive view of all buried assets, providing invaluable resources for designers in pipe and cable projects.

During the recent No-Dig Live conference, I had the opportunity to speak with Jo, who was honoured as the UKSTT Trenchless Woman of the Year. Our conversation focused on her presentation that highlighted the critical need to attract young talent - especially young women - into the trenchless sector.

Overview of the Presentation

Jo's presentation highlighted the projected surge in renovation needs for our buried infrastructure. "One would hope that much of this work will utilise trenchless technology as

there are so many advantages," she stated. However, she emphasised the necessity of a significant increase in resources to meet this anticipated demand.

Attracting young people to the sector

When discussing strategies to draw more young people into the trenchless sector, Jo noted several existing initiatives. One noteworthy programme is supported by the National Association of Drainage Contractors (NADC) and run by DRBi, which aims to engage hard-to-employ individuals through boot camps that are free of charge to attend. These boot camps focus on providing essential skills in drainage repairs, as well as vital work skills such as interview techniques and CV writing. The NADC are also supporting the development of apprenticeships with their members.

Jo also referenced the ongoing efforts by organisations like Engineering UK, the Women's Engineering Society, and the Royal Academy of Engineers, which are actively working to attract talent to technical roles. Specifically, the Women's Engineering Society has several initiatives designed to support women in technical pathways, from subject choice to mentorship.

Where to find more information

For those seeking resources, Parker recommends starting

with a Google search for the Women's Engineering Society and keeping an eye out for events like Tomorrow's Engineers Week (11-15 November). Organisations such as the NADC, Engineering UK, and Royal Academy of Engineers also provide valuable online resources.

Furthermore, Jo emphasised the importance for businesses to establish stronger connections with schools and higher education institutions, raising awareness of the benefits and opportunities within the trenchless sector.

Promoting trenchless technology

Jo pointed out a common challenge within the trenchless industry: the invisibility of the work itself. Many potential candidates may not encounter trenchless technology in their daily lives, making it crucial

for the industry to amplify its promotional efforts. "We have to do a better job showcasing the advantages of trenchless technology compared to other well-known technical industries," she advised.

Opportunities and challenges ahead

Looking ahead, Jo sees significant opportunities alongside challenges as the water industry shifts towards addressing ageing infrastructure. While regulatory hurdles exist for trenchless technologies, she believes these can be overcome if the water and trenchless sectors collaborate to provide evidence of the value of their innovative solutions to customers and the broader community.

Moreover, parallels can be drawn to advancements in energy and telecommunications, such as Project Gigabit, which

aims to deliver gigabit-capable broadband nationwide. "The sustainability advantage of trenchless technology with its lower carbon footprint and minimal disruption to local communities is a distinct benefit and makes it the obvious way to go," she stated.

Inspiring the next generation

Finally, I asked Jo about her recent honour as the UKSTT Trenchless Woman of the Year. She encourages women to engage in the industry not only within their companies but also through broader organisations like the UKSTT and ISTT. "Participating in these groups has enriched my career and allowed me to forge meaningful friendships and professional connections," she shared. "It's essential for us to cultivate and support the next generation of women in the sector we all have a role to play in this journey."



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EUROPEAN NO-DIG 2025



TRENCHLESS MIDDLE EAST 2026

Dubai 2026



EUROPEAN NO-DIG 2026



NO-DIG LIVE 2026

29th September – 1st October 2026

NAEC Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire



TRENCHLESS ASIA 2026

Bangkok, Thailand



NO-DIG ROADSHOW SERIES 2026

FUTURE EVENTS

TRENCHLESS VIETNAM | NO-DIG SOUTH AFRICA





International Society
For Trenchless Technology

SOCIETY NEWS

ISTT News brought to members by Trenchless Works

A message from the Chair



Keh-Jian (Albert) Shou,
Chairman, ISTT

You may be aware that we had many national, regional, and international No-Dig events early this year, and will have more in the year 2025, so please do not forget to check the ISTT event calendar in the ISTT website. As you may remember, since late last year, I have attended the No-Dig events in Berlin, Jinan (China), Baotou (China), and Paris.

Through the regional events, the organising societies successfully attracted the spotlight by integrating the governing sector, consultants, contractors, suppliers in trenchless business, also created more cooperation between the affiliated societies in their region. Obviously, the demands and challenges in different regions also create different good opportunities. I strongly suggest you consider attending the regional No-Dig conferences as it will be the major trend in the next few years.

I would like to remind you that we will have our International Council meeting during the Trenchless Middle East 2024

in Dubai, we will discuss our strategic plan for the next 5 years and will launch our newly built website. We will soon have more new ISTT educational webinars, please do not forget to check the notice and register in ISTT website. I would like to point out that ISTT keeps improve our services to our affiliated societies, please feel free to give us your precious comments or suggestions.

With My Best Wishes!

Keh-Jian (Albert) Shou
Chair, ISTT

New approaches to the life cycle management of wastewater infrastructure



ISTT Webinar

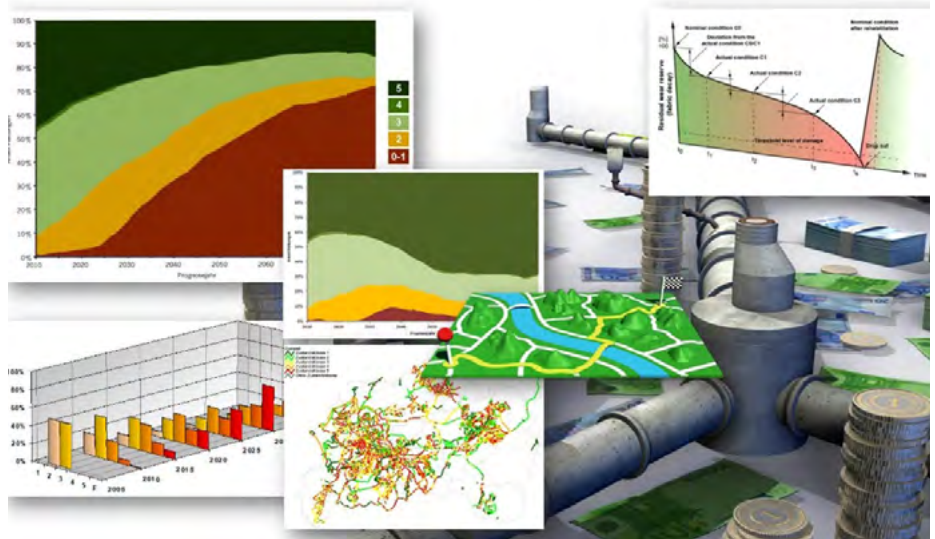
Category: Asset Management

Presenter: Dr.-Ing. Robert Stein

Organisation: Stein & Partner GmbH/STEIN Ingenieure GmbH, Germany

Date: 18 November 2024

Time: 4:00 GMT, 09:00 US EST, 15:00 CEST



Over the past 18 years, there has been a paradigm shift in the asset management of urban drainage systems in Germany. It was realized that the technical and financial data used for asset management was insufficient for developing efficient investment and rehabilitation strategies to maintain the value of urban drainage systems. Specifically, there were quality deficits in technical data related to damage and condition assessments and in financial data related to book values and remaining book values.

The webinar introduces a new approach to asset management that allows for a differentiated economic analysis to develop efficient, demand-specific rehabilitation and investment strategies. By fully assessing the economic impact of rehabilitation strategies, this approach facilitates consensus among all technical, financial, and political stakeholders involved in the decision-making process.

About Dr.-Ing. Robert Stein

Dr.-Ing. Robert Stein is the Managing Associate of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stein & Partner GmbH and Managing Director of STEIN Infrastructure Management GmbH. His business activities include the provision of integrated services in the areas of municipal finances, fees and investments. He and his team develop, optimize and implement integral asset management concepts, methods and systems and their monitoring for municipal infrastructure systems. So far, he has helped more than 40 municipalities to administer and manage their water and wastewater infrastructure systems. The total replacement value of these systems is estimated at 80 billion €.

Since 1995, he has published more than 100 publications,

reports, expertise, and feasibility studies. He is the author of the reference book "Wertermittlung von Abwassernetzen (Asset Valuation of Sewer Networks)," Trenchless Technology for Installation of Cables and Pipelines – 2nd Volume: Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), of the chapter on pipe jacking works (ATV DIN 18319) and co-author of the 4th edition of the international bestseller "Instandhaltung von Kanalisationen" (Rehabilitation of Drain and Sewer Systems) as well as of various technical articles.

[Register here](#)



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Launching ISTT's new website

The International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT) is on the brink of launching a new website, a transformative project led by the ISTT Website Subcommittee, under the direction of Trevor Gosatti, ISTT's Executive Director and also the Chair of the website subcommittee and the outreach and marketing committee. This initiative promises to enhance the global trenchless community's connectivity and access to resources. The success of this project is also attributed to the dedicated members of the website subcommittee, whose invaluable contributions have been instrumental in bringing this vision to life.

In the following paragraphs, you will find messages from each subcommittee member, sharing their insights and experiences throughout this journey.

Website subcommittee members

Trevor Gosatti

Leading the ISTT's website subcommittee has been both a privilege and an invigorating challenge. As we approach the launch of our new website, I am immensely proud of what we've accomplished together. This project is more than just a website update; it represents a strategic overhaul designed to enhance the connectivity and resource-sharing capabilities across our global trenchless community.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire website committee for their dedication and innovative contributions. Their collective effort has been crucial in realizing our vision. Our goal was clear from the start: to build a digital platform that is as user-friendly as it is comprehensive, catering to the

diverse needs of our Affiliated Society and their members worldwide. We have integrated new features such as virtual booths and advanced resource materials that promise to enrich the user experience and provide enhanced value to our Affiliated Society members.

Jenna Hale

I'm so excited for the launch of the new ISTT website, designed with the needs of our affiliate societies and members in mind. This new platform brings a modern, user-friendly interface and a range of enhanced features aimed at improving engagement and collaboration within the ISTT and the global trenchless community. I am especially excited about the introduction of the Virtual Booth/Sales Office feature, which opens up incredible opportunities for member companies to connect with a broader audience.



Trevor Gosatti
Executive Director of ISTT, Chair of website subcommittee and the outreach and marketing committee



Jenna Hale
NASTT North American Society for Trenchless Technology



Mike King
SASTT- Southern African Society for Trenchless Technology



Lynn Maclachlan
UKSTT - UK Society for Trenchless
Technology

In this global community, reaching new partners across different regions is essential for business growth and the sharing of ideas. The virtual booth feature will serve as a powerful tool, enabling member companies to showcase their products and services in an interactive format. I hope this feature will help everyone increase their network and strengthen relationships in our society.

Mike King

Coming from one of the smaller and remoter societies, I can hope that the new website will bring societies closer together. My involvement with ISTT emanated from a need to make a strong motivation for trenchless technology pipe rehabilitation in one of the many countries that are unfamiliar with pipe rehabilitation in general and trenchless technology in particular. Using the trenchless technology resources on the ISTT website made the task easier but also highlighted the



Yasin Torun,
TSITT- Turkish Society for
Trenchless Technology

opportunity for improvement.

Since then, I have been assisting ISTT in developing those resources, which includes the trenchless chart and the method descriptions. The new website will be using these resources to showcase the trenchless technologies for both members and the public.

Another exciting feature is a new ISTT webpage that will be a central directory for links to all societies own trenchless resource documents. From here one can be connected to the many international guidelines and standards that are available.

None of this would be happening without it being orchestrated and conducted by ISTT Program Director, Kyoko Kondo. She has led the website subcommittee in its interactions with Event Magix the developers, as well as implementing ISTT's specifications and exploiting the many opportunities presented

by Event Magix. Kyoko, as always, has been on the ball, professional in all respects and a pleasure to work with.

I encourage members to explore the new ISTT Website, use it and refer others to it.

Lynn Maclachlan

It has been a privilege to be a part of the ISTT website-subcommittee with Yasin Torun (TSITT), Mike King (SASTT) and Jenna Hale (NASTT) under the expert guidance of Event Magix, a software developer and event management team, who oversaw the project as well as ISTT's Executive Director Trevor Gosatti & Programme Director Kyoko Kondo.

It has been interesting to learn how differently all of the 28 ISTT affiliated societies manage their ISTT membership database and the challenge it presented to be inclusive for all while maintaining a user-friendly platform for the future.

A new exciting addition to the website is the inclusion of a free members page to all members but also comes with an opportunity to upgrade. An upgrade turns this members page into a 3D Virtual Booth. Depending on the package taken out this booth provides the member with an opportunity to showcase their products and magazines in an interactive fashion.

I'm looking forward to the launch in November and the training that ISTT will be providing. This website is on phase one and more functions can be added in the future to enhance the communication between ISTT and the Affiliated Societies if required. >

Yasin Torun

Being a member of the Outreach and Marketing Committee has given me the opportunity to join the Website Subcommittee.

It was not easy for me to maintain the weekly meetings of subcommittee. However, the synergy created among the subcommittee members brought creative ideas during the meetings. For this reason, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Trevor, Kyoko, Lynn, Mike and Jenna.

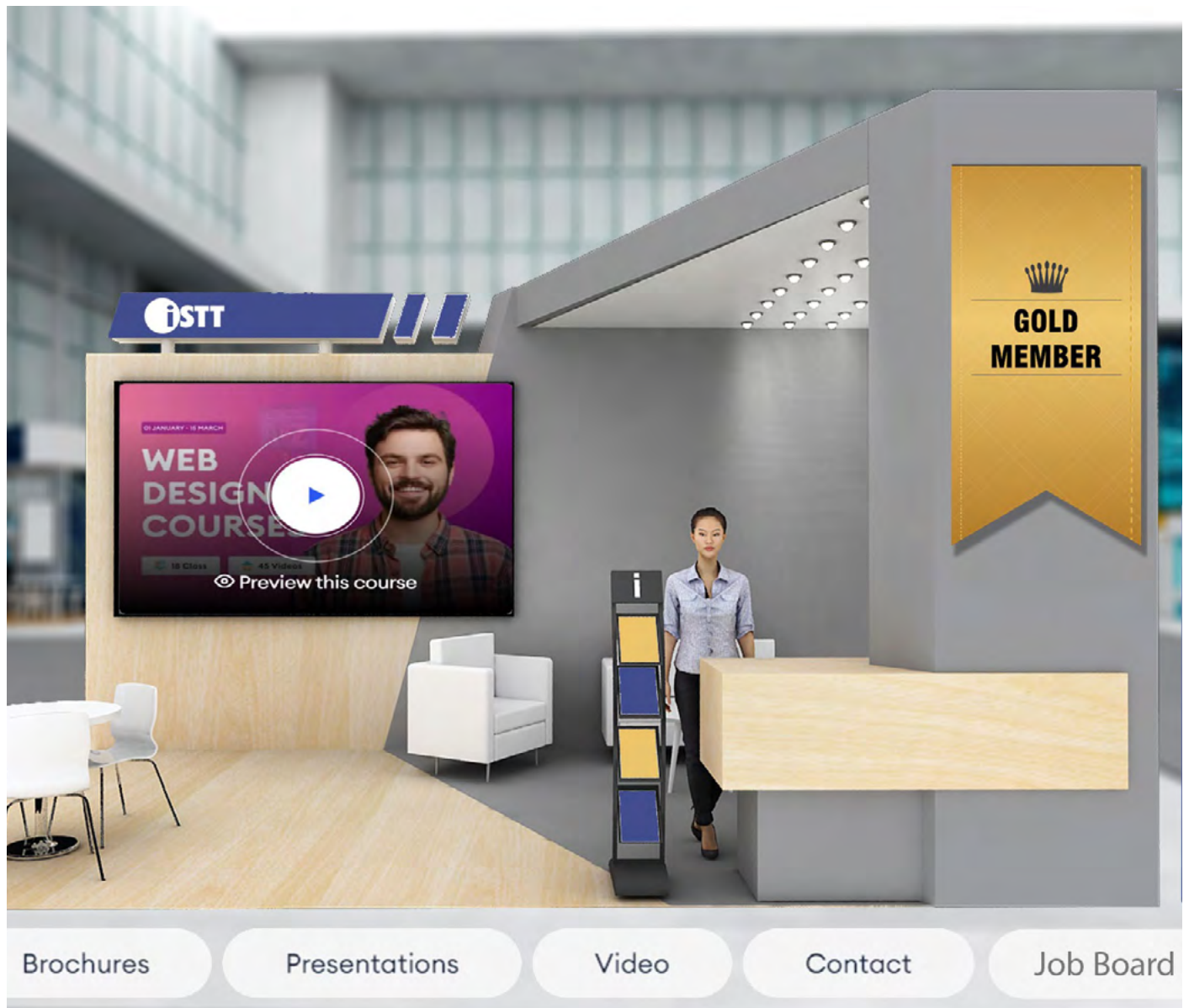
First impressions are the most lasting. Thus, ISTT must constantly keep its website

up to date. I believe the new website of ISTT will provide fantastic first impressions to its visitors. Besides, virtual booths may be the most appealing feature of the new website. Several parts of the new website may also assist affiliated societies to increase the benefits of ISTT membership.

I hope the new website of ISTT will have ever-growing website traffic figures. In this respect, the contribution of affiliated societies will play a significant role. Affiliated societies should encourage their members to visit the new website of ISTT to benefit from the advantages provided by ISTT.

Towards a Digital Future

The launch of the new ISTT website, scheduled for late October to early November 2024, marks a significant milestone in ISTT's commitment to enhancing global collaboration and access to trenchless technology. The efforts of Trevor Gosatti and the website subcommittee promise to usher in a new era of digital engagement and community building for ISTT's members worldwide.





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Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

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1053 Hyde Avenue, Eldoraigne ext 1,
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Phone: +27 (0) 82 551 7458
Email: director@sastt.org.za
Web: www.sastt.org.za



Singapore Society for Trenchless Technology (SgSTT)

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Scandinavian Society for Trenchless Technology (SSTT)

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Trenchless Romania Club

Roma Street, No. 16, Ap.2, District 1
Bucharest Romania
Phone: + 40724 550 830
Email: maria.nae@trenchlessromania.ro
Web: www.trenchlessromaniaclub.ro



Turkish Society for Infrastructure and Trenchless Technology (TSITT)

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Ukraine Association for Modern Trenchless Technology (UAMTT)

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Web: www.no-dig.odessa.ua



United Kingdom Society for Trenchless Technology (UKSTT)

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Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1TH, UK
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Email: admin@ukstt.org.uk
Web: www.ukstt.org.uk

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

2024

October 31-November 1 First No-Dig Asia Pacific International Conference & Exhibition 2024:

Chiang Chen Studio Theatre, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Email: CHKSTT24@nhetravel.com

November 5-6 Trenchless Middle East 2024:

Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Dubai
www.trenchlessmiddleeast.com

November 28-29 First Ecuadorian Congress of Trenchless Technology:

Convention Center - Hotel La Quinta by Wyndham Quito, Ecuador

Email: dir.ejecutiva@lamstt.org

<https://1ercongresoecuadorianotsz2024.lamstt.org/en/>

May 21-22 Trenchless Asia 2025:

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia

October 2 No-Dig Roadshow and UKSTT Awards:

Location to be confirmed

www.nodigroadshows.co.uk

October 27-29 International No-Dig 2025:

Vancouver Convention Center

Email: info@istt.com

November 5- 6 No-Dig Turkey 2025 Conference and Exhibition:

WOW Convention Center

Email: yturun@akated.com

www.nodigturkey.com

Autumn 2025 Trenchless Middle East 2025:

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

2025

January 11-12 Italia NO DIG Live 2025:

Parco Esposizioni Novegro (Segrate - Milan)

Email: iatt@iatt.info

www.iatt.it/en/home-page/

February 5-6 The Finnish No-Dig Conference 2025:

Vanajanlinna, Hämeenlinna, Finland

Email: info@fistt.fi

<https://fistt.fi/save-the-date-5-6-2-2025-fistt-kansallinen-vuosikonferenssi-2025/>

April 23-25, 28th International Trenchless Technology Conference:

Suzhou International Expo Center, China

www.cstt.org.cn/

If you have an event, course or meeting scheduled and would like to add it to this listing please forward details to: editorial@trenchless-works.com