

The annual general meeting held on 21 February 2008 – the condensed version

The annual general meeting held on 21 February 2008 was attended by fifteen members, as well as two members who were represented by proxies. We also had three visitors. It has been some time since SASTT had a quorum at the start of an AGM! The full minutes are at:

http://www.sastt.org.za/agm_minutes_2008.pdf

Apart from the conventional items on the agenda of an AGM, this year we had a handful of special features, such as, in reverse order:

- the new board for 2008. Due to work pressure the president, Craig Burnie, resigned and Paddy Rowlings joined the board as the new *boytjie*. Before Craig stepped down, he presented his president's report full of positive stuff which makes good reading at: http://www.sastt.org.za/presidents_report_2007.ppt
You can meet Paddy and the other board members face to face at <http://www.sastt.org.za/boardmem2008.html>
- the SASTT award for excellence was awarded for a project which really demonstrated why TT is the technology of our urban future: it had largely eliminated disruption of traffic and damage to the environment, and had resulted in significant savings for the happy client.

Sagee Moodley of Trenchless Technologies cc; Bharat Gulab of Johannesburg Water (Pty) Ltd; Meghan Brinkley and Cedric Bessit of Vela VKE Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd and Craig Burnie, with the award certificate



Those who were not there missed a fascinating presentation on behalf of the award-winning team, but don't despair, we have been promised a newsletter soon! Oh, and for those at the meeting who were visibly envious of the prestige award – SASTT will ask for fresh nominations at the end of 2008. Sharpen your pencils in the meantime...

- readers are well aware that SASTT published an invitation for expressions of interest for writing TT standards. Well, the AGM gave the board a mandate to commission the development of a standard for sliplining. The standard will include design, materials and construction. The board was also told to follow on with the development of further standards – money allowing, of course

- the final special feature put out its roots two years ago: the SASTT newsletter flew a kite about preparing a code of conduct for the members of SASTT. You can refresh your memory at: <http://www.sastt.org.za/news02-2006.pdf>
This has now come to fruition. The result deserves a news item of its own.

The SASTT code of conduct

At the AGM, the first edition of the code of conduct was presented by Ian Venter and approved by the meeting. This code of conduct is intended to become a living document, subject to regular review.

Ian pointed out that a code of conduct is just a meaningless piece of paper, unless individual members and the heads of corporate-member firms stand up to be counted and expressly ratify the code. It has already been suggested that SASTT could have a column on its online lists of members, ie

<http://www.sastt.org.za/memcorp.htm>
<http://www.sastt.org.za/memindiv.html>

to indicate which members have written to the board to signify their commitment to the code of conduct. Indeed, one corporate member has already done just that!

The code is published below for members' perusal and to tease out debate. The editor looks forward to your responses.

Within the context of trenchless technology (TT), members of the Southern African Society for Trenchless Technology (SASTT) arrange their professional and business affairs in accordance with the objectives of the mission statement of SASTT, viz:

The Southern African Society for Trenchless Technology is aware of the necessity for maintaining a healthy environment and addressing the changing needs of the community. Our mission is to promote, from an ethical and neutral base, the use of TT for providing and maintaining underground services with a minimum of surface and environmental disruption.

This we do by:

- *making press releases*
- *arranging promotional activities*
- *advising on available solutions*
- *providing technical literature*
- *supporting research*

for the benefit of

- *the public*
- *authorities*
- *designers and specifiers*
- *suppliers of materials and equipment*
- *contractors installing and maintaining services.*

To this end, the members of SASTT will, *inter alia*, conduct their business with respect to TT in such a way that:

- they practice occupational safety in accordance with legislation and regulations
- they protect life on earth as well as the environment in a sustainable manner
- they arrange their work in accordance with appropriate standards or best practice
- they work to a system of quality management
- they re-use or recycle physical resources if possible and dispose of waste in an environmentally sound manner
- they seek cost-effective solutions for the benefit of their clients
- they do not get involved in conflicts of interest
- they do not accept sub-contracted work without the knowledge of the client
- in accordance with their capabilities, they strive to improve their own knowledge and skill in engineering technology, and TT in particular
- they enhance the understanding of TT among their clients and their peers
- only professional persons (ie persons on a par with PrEng or PrTechEng) draw up trenchless-technology specifications and such specifications are only made available to other registered professional persons, unless they are published under the auspices of SASTT
- they apply independent and impartial judgment at all times
- if an allegation is made to SASTT regarding a breach of this code of conduct, the alleged offending member shall consent to an investigation of such allegation in a manner to be decided by the board of SASTT and shall give his full co-operation. However, any censure on errant members shall be left to authorities such as the Engineering Council of South Africa, Agrément South Africa and the SABS
- unprofessional or dishonest conduct is reported via the appropriate channels
- SASTT or its members are not brought into disrepute.

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