

Online information resources for trenchless technology

by Joop van Wamelen, honorary director, SASTT

Introduction

Due to the efforts of the International Society for Trenchless Technology, its affiliated societies as well as particular member organisations, a host of information on trenchless technology is available on the internet and in e-mail newsletters. Much of this information is there for the taking, primarily for ISTT affiliated members such as the members of SASTT, but also for non-members.

Some readers may already be aware of this, but for others this may be news. This newsletter is targeted at the latter category.

Below is a selection of information resources, in no particular order of preference.

The ISTT website

The ISTT website <http://www.istt.com/> has undergone a thorough revamp which was years in the making. It now contains a section called Trenchless Resource Centre (TRC), which initially will only be accessible to members.

The TRC follows the structure of the printed *ISTT Trenchless Technology Guidelines* which was published in 1998. It has nine sections such as asset management and work planning, costs and environmental issues and renovation, covering the full span of trenchless techniques in a descriptive style.

For each of the nine topic sections there's an introductory "Guideline" giving basic technology information and operating descriptions.

Each topic has links to sub-sections in a "Database" for those who need more specialised information. Initially this database will be a "task in progress" and it will increase in size over the coming months and years as additional data is processed and sorted.

The core of the TRC is the "Conference Papers" database. At present it contains 600 papers presented at the *International No-Dig* conferences from 2000 to 2004 and certain NASTT *No-Dig* events.

The papers have been sorted according to the nine topics and can be identified by searching for key words from their titles and abstracts. It is also possible to search for papers from a certain author or event.

The TRC login window is on the lower left of the ISTT website. Visitors can login by entering their e-mail address as held by the ISTT (or SASTT) and their ISTT membership number. SASTT members in good standing, ie those whose subscriptions are up to date, can obtain their numbers from the ISTT membership secretary, Mrs Pat Nolan at patnolan@istt.co.uk, or from the writer at director@sastt.org.za.

UNITRACC, the Underground Infrastructure Training and Competence Center

UNITRACC is the award-winning initiative of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stein & Partner GmbH, a consultancy based in Bochum, Germany. It consists of a concise e-mail newsletter and the

website <http://www.unitracc.com/>, an internet platform with information and service offerings in the form of electronic texts, animated and still pictures, as well as audio signals.

UNITRACC also offers further services such as software.

Prospective users can register on the website and request a free subscription to the newsletter. The newsletter is in English.

The UKSTT newsletter

This e-mail newsletter, published by the United Kingdom Society for Trenchless Technology, carries news about TT happenings and projects in the UK. The sample the writer saw, looked slick and professional. Prospective subscribers can contact the technical secretary of the UKSTT Peter Crouch at peter.crouch1@virgin.net.

The UKSTT *ETT* newsheet

Another electronic publication from the UKSTT is ETT, an electronic newsheet. The sample the writer saw, carried links to online information regarding the UKSTT membership, national and international technical events and publications. Prospective subscribers can contact Peter Crouch.

Trenchless-eNews

This is a high quality e-mail newsletter sponsored by the ISTT. It carries stories about trenchless projects all over the world and developments in TT.

The newsletter archive can be visited and prospective subscribers can register at <http://www.trenchless-eneews.com/>

Asset management, UK style

The readers who attended the SASTT annual general meeting for 2007 were impressed with the presentation by Josephine Parker MBE who related her involvement with modernising the management of underground assets in the UK. As part of her talk Parker listed a number of websites. The writer managed to jot down some of them. Here they are:

<http://www.ukwir.org/>

<http://www.mappingtheunderworld.ac.uk/>

<http://www.eswrac.org/>

<http://www.vistadtproject.org/>

<http://www.wsstp.org/>

<http://www.ectp.org/>

Productivity warning

This caution probably comes a bit late, but please don't visit everything that was listed above and don't subscribe to everything. You won't have time left to get any work done...