

“If you guys would just buy the equipment, we would probably give you trenchless work...”

A fruitless debate

Often, when trenchless contractors and potential clients, usually municipal and utility engineers, get together, a rather fruitless debate ensues.

When the engineers are challenged why they do not commission more trenchless work rather than digging up our towns' streets, they explain that they are in no position to call for tenders for trenchless work if no-one is able to do the job. They urge prospective contractors to go out and buy trenchless equipment. Of course the contractors are less than eager to fork out small fortunes for equipment on the off-chance of getting work for the machines.

Picking up the gauntlet

SASTT News has learnt that one of our members appears to have accepted the above challenge and has put its money where its mouth is.

A new tool for a long-time practitioner of trenchless technology

One of SASTT's founding corporate members, Trenchless Technologies cc is led by Sam Efrat and Sagee Moodley, both of whom have previously served as members of the board of SASTT. Trenchless Technologies undertake trenchless construction work, such as pipe bursting and upsizing, CIPP lining, sliplining, CCTV inspections, horizontal directional drilling, pipe ramming, pipeline cleaning, and grouting.

It took delivery of its first Terra-Jet 1712 B Directional Drill in 1997.

In addition to trenchless contracting, Trenchless Technologies have been the South African agent for Terra-Hammer products since 1993.

There was much excitement recently when Trenchless Technologies took delivery of its new Terra-Jet 7520 D Directional Drill. Dietmar Jenne, the CEO and owner of Terra AG had come all the way to South Africa for the event. He commissioned the machine after he had driven it out of the freight container onto the proud owner's trailer.

The new Terra-Jet 7520 D can drill bores up to 400 metres in length and 800 mm in diameter. It comes equipped with a rock-percussion head and rock backreamers, automatic drill-rod loading, an automatic drilling and backreaming system and several other sophisticated functions.

Efrat told *SASTT News* that Trenchless Technologies will be using the Terra-Jet 7520 D for its own and sub-contract works: servicing the civils industry for water, sewer, gas and slurry-pipe installations, as well as fibre-optic and power installations. In fact it lost no time in getting to work with the new machine. It installed two 630 mm OD HDPE pipes under railway lines in Sasolburg, one of 27 metres and another of 40 metres long. The job was completed in one week.

"The machine worked exceptionally well", remarked Efrat.

Below are some pictures of the delivery of the machine and of the Sasolburg job.



The first glimpse of the new drill still in its container



“Take it easy. Careful now!”



“Relax – I’ve done this before to-day”



Ready to roll



On site in Sasolburg: the 800 mm backreamer in action



The final pull-in of the 630 mm diameter HDPE pipe

WHY DIG TRENCHES WHEN YOU CAN GO TRENCHLESS

Conference announcement: The first international conference on utility management and safety: ICUMAS 2009: Hong Kong

This conference will take place from 1 to 4 March 2008. It has the support of an impressive array of international organisations, not the least of which is the China Hong Kong Society for Trenchless Technology. The conference will include a session on trenchless technology.

If you would like a copy of the announcement and registration form, please drop the editor a line or contact Amy Tsoi at conference@uti.hk.

How does the global credit crunch affect you?

The next issue of *Trenchless International* is likely to carry a survey of how its international readership is experiencing the credit crunch.

Apart from this international survey, it may be interesting if readers of *SASTT News* could share their views with other readers, anonymously if need be. It would make a fascinating newsletter!

Please let the editor have your views regarding the following issues:

- How do you think the trenchless market in our country is going - either anecdotally or using any statistics you have?
- Has the global credit crisis affected the outlook for trenchless projects?
- Is the government (particularly local government as well as the utilities) in our country taking any particular action that will benefit the trenchless industry?

Talking of which...

Did you receive the inaugural issue of *Trenchless International*?

All the affiliated members of the ISTT are entitled to receive its official journal, which is now *Trenchless International*.

The inaugural issue was a very impressive effort indeed. Editor Chris Bland has certainly set himself a high standard. Not least of which included a comprehensive article on the Klipspruit basin sewer upgrades in Johannesburg!

If you did not get the magazine, please tell Joop van Wamelen, at director@sastt.org.za.

The annual general meeting of SASTT

Tuesday 17 February 2009 at 15:00

Please diarise this important annual event at which you the members have an opportunity to express your views regarding SASTT's doings, such as the SASTT award of excellence and the development of standards for trenchless technology, if not *SASTT News*!

The (tentative) venue is the training centre at the Midrand, Gauteng regional office of Johannesburg Water (Pty) Ltd, corner of New Road and 6th Road.

Best wishes for 2009

On behalf of SASTT, the editor wishes all readers a new year full of peace and good health.