

ISTT/SASTT masterclasses to be organised in Southern Africa: suggestions please

John Hemphill, the executive director of the International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT) has written to the honorary director of SASTT to begin discussions on a joint ISTT/SASTT trenchless training effort in southern Africa. This was one of the outcomes of the meeting of the board of the ISTT in Toronto, which was covered in *SASTT News* of May 2009. The ISTT is committed to make the event a success.

Some of the questions Hemphill put to SASTT were whether SASTT wanted to conduct a SASTT *No-Dig* conference and exhibition or something less grand such as a trenchless training seminar.

A national *No-Dig* would be around three days in length with an associated exhibition. It would include presentations of papers primarily from southern Africa plus training courses.

On the other hand, a trenchless seminar would be more limited in scope with courses on trenchless topics given by trenchless experts (which could also be part of a *No-Dig* event).

When and where would SASTT want to hold the event?

Was SASTT able to get local content, ie presenters and/or exhibitors?

For its part, ISTT would be glad to work with SASTT on the details, eg programme and budget; provide event instructors and ISTT representation; promote the event; and help with sponsorships.

The issue was discussed by the board of SASTT, where the following observations were made:

- SASTT has limited funds to spend on this effort.
- An opportunity to be explored would be to launch a pilot effort in the form of a pre-course on trenchless technology (TT) at the IMESA conference in October 2010 in East London. This could feature some regional lecturers and some from ISTT.
- Apart from the SASTT stand at the IMESA conference in Cape Town there were six stands which featured SASTT corporate members. Hence there ought to be no shortage of candidates for an exhibition on TT.
- As regards the support for previous TT seminars and courses, it was mentioned that:
 - the workshop held by TT Innovations in 2006 in Cape Town attracted 45 delegates who returned evaluation forms, as well as 16 sponsors who contributed up to R 5 000 each
 - the seminar roadshow held in 2007 had more than 70 delegates, spread over four venues, who earned CPD points
 - the annual course in horizontal directional drilling arranged by Vermeer Equipment Suppliers attracted approx 30 delegates in 2009. The course lasted four days
 - the Salvo Global course held in October 2009 was attended by approx 70 people.



A view of the SASTT stand at the IMESA conference in October 2009.

Photograph: Tony Stone, courtesy of 3S Media

- Enquiries would be made how the masterclasses could be aligned with the requirements of the South African Qualification Authority. Given such alignment, strong support for the masterclasses would be certain.

SASTT needs your guidance. This is a huge opportunity to put trenchless as well as your business on the map in the region.

The board would like to hear from the members: what would they like to **contribute** and what would they like to **see** in the ISTT/SASTT masterclasses?

Please let us have your views.

Distribution of *Trenchless International* to local authorities

The editor of the abovementioned magazine has written to SASTT to enquire how the magazine might be distributed more widely to stakeholders in South Africa. An important requirement of the editor would be that the circulation should be auditable - and that makes it difficult to help him.

After consultation with *Trenchless International*, *SASTT News* would like to know from members of SASTT with municipal contacts if they would like extra numbers of the magazine to hand out to selected managers who would benefit from it. Their names will be forwarded to *Trenchless International*. They will then receive additional copies of the magazine, to be passed to the local authorities. The municipal contacts, upon receiving the magazine, should feel free to request direct copies in future as well.

Please let's hear from you!

International trenchless technology conferences and training events

Readers who have been watching *SASTT News* have already been made aware of the decisions of the ISTT regarding the host cities for upcoming *International No-Digs*. For the sake of convenience, they are listed below together with some additional information:

- *International No-Dig 2010*: Singapore 8-10 November 2010.
The call for papers and applications for exhibition stands are already open. The deadline for the call for synopses of papers is 31 December 2009.
Exhibition space is already attracting an excellent line-up of international companies wishing to display their products to the Asian market. Early bird discounts are available until 30 November 2009.
The official website is <http://www.nodigsingapore.com/index.php>
- *International No-Dig 2010*: Berlin 2-5 May 2011.
This event will be held in conjunction with *Wasser Berlin International 2011*, a major exhibition on everything to do with water affairs.
Exhibition space is now on offer and early bird discounts are available, with 20 % reduction for bookings received by 31 December 2009 and 10 % reduction for bookings received by 30 June 2010.
Full information on exhibition and sponsorship opportunities is available from Klaus Beyer, executive director, GSTT at e-mail beyer@gstt.de or Ms Dagmar Eichhorn at e-mail eichhorn@gstt.de
The official website will be accessible soon at <http://www.nodigberlin2011>

National events

Apart from the *International No-Digs* there are a number of national (but not lesser) events to choose from:

- *No-Dig Poland 2010*, Kielce, 27- 29 April 2010.
The theme of this conference is *Trenchless technologies in underground infrastructure pipelines*.
During the conference the *EXPERT 2010 Statuettes* will be awarded. These prestigious trophies are awarded to companies acting in the field of trenchless technology for the innovations they made in products, as well as in technology for trenchless installation or refurbishment of underground networks. The organisers invite all companies as well as institutions to take part in this competition.
The official website is http://www.nodigpoland.tu.kielce.pl/eng/expert_eng.html
- *No-Dig Moscow trade fair and conference*, 1-4 June 2010.
The call for papers is at http://trenchlessinternational.com/news/no-dig_moscow_call_for_papers/004982/
Additional information is available from the conference coordinator, Ms Natalya Konovalova at e-mail konovalova@sibico.com