Updating the TTC Strategic Plan

Every organization needs to know where it is going and the TTC is no exception. The TTC strategic plan is updated every few years with extensive input from the center’s Industry Advisory Board. The latest update of the strategic plan was completed at the October IAB meeting with the aim to determine the most effective role for the TTC in support of:

- Solutions with minimum public and environmental disruption and the lowest overall life cycle costs
- Buried infrastructure owners and their support organizations that strive to build and manage utility systems the most cost-effective manner
- The trenchless technology industry that designs and develops the technologies, systems and products
- Louisiana Tech University in terms of its own development and contribution to economic development in Louisiana

The discussions led also to an ambitious but practical vision for the TTC in 2010:

- It will stimulate encourage and support innovation in the trenchless technology industry.
- It will be the place that private industry and government agencies come to develop ideas into working prototypes.
- It will offer a unique test facility and access to faculty expertise and technical resources unavailable in one integrated group anywhere else.
- It will be the place that cities turn to for research and education support in using trenchless technology.
- It will have a hands-on educational facility coupled with a distance learning program that will allow engineers, operators, inspectors and others to learn how to create successful trenchless projects.
- It will be a knowledge base for problems, solutions, technology and market information related to trenchless technology.

Key aspects of achieving this vision are already underway, including the creation of the National Trenchless Technology Research Facility described in the last newsletter and the increase in funding for research and education programs.

If you think the TTC can help you solve problems related to the design and construction of buried infrastructure, the creation/testing of equipment and systems, please contact us.

WERF Project on Sewer Laterals Nears Completion

The two-year TTC project undertaken for the Water Environment Research Foundation’s (WERF) project on sewer laterals nears completion with expected project completion by the end of December. The project involved a technology demonstration, evaluation, and economic analysis of trenchless rehabilitation technology for various sewer lateral pipe materials. The project will impact current and future sewer system maintenance practices.
Dr. Erez Allouche named TTC Associate Director

The TTC is pleased to announce that Dr. Erez Allouche has been named Associate Director of the TTC. Allouche has already made major contributions to the TTC in his relatively short stay at Louisiana Tech University. Those who have had a chance to interact with him know that he is a researcher with a wide range of talents who is both extremely motivated and has a clear vision of how to help the center and its industry and public works partners be successful.

Baroid Supports Rheology Education Lab Development

As part of the development of the Trenchless Technology Research and Education Laboratory (TTERL), the TTC has created a hands-on training laboratory for students and short course participants that will allow them to become familiar with the properties of various types of drilling and lubrication muds and the testing procedures for such muds. Baroid Industrial Drilling Products was a key industry donor in the creation of this laboratory — donating several sets of rheology characterization equipment, as well as a wide range of supplies including bentonite and polymer based drilling fluid products and various specialized additives.

Perhaps the most significant contribution was the extensive technical assistance in the form of technical input to the laboratory manual and assisting in the first use of the laboratory as part of the trenchless technology graduate class offered in the fall quarter. The TTC is especially grateful to Frank Canon and Curtis Allen for giving their valuable time and helping to arrange the equipment donations.

TTC Welcomes Parsons Brinckerhoff as an IAB Member

Being involved with the TTC is clearly an addicting experience. Rob McKim, former Louisiana Tech faculty member and TTC associate director, has joined the group again — this time as the Industry Advisory Board member representing Parsons Brinckerhoff. Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) is an international consulting firm with a significant presence in the trenchless technology and underground construction field (Three PB engineers, Richard Thomasson, Bill Gray and Glenn Boyce, have already held the chairman position in NASTT). PB is already assisting in the creation of additional municipal forum locations for the TTC trenchless technology forums and their efforts will allow the municipali-

ities can best approach the issue of whether to embark on a systematic program for the rehabilitation and sealing of private sewer laterals and, if this is cost-effective, then how to select rehabilitation methods and to do deal with the financing and legal issues that accompany working with the privately owned portions of the sewer system.

Updates on the project progress are available to WERF subscribers at www.werf.org and others can find some examples of data gathered to date at the TTC Web site. The survey of municipalities was recently brought to a close with 56 cities responding and providing an excellent and representative picture of the current situation with regard to sewer lateral systems and rehabilitation approaches. The WERF report should be available from WERF shortly after the end of the project in May.

One surprising aspect of the study has been the variety of ownership patterns and attitudes toward dealing with private lateral issues across the United States and even within the same metropolitan area. For example, the pie chart shown indicates the variation in the extent of private ownership of the sewer lateral.