



Trenchless Technology Center Newsletter

December 1996



The PIM Corp. performed a pipe bursting demonstration in Houston.

Field Demos Conducted to Rehab Water Pipes

In mid-October, the TTC participated in a second round of field demonstrations for water pipe rehabilitation. The first demonstration was held in Chicago earlier in the summer and this second set of demonstrations was held in Houston. The project is being conducted by Roy F. Weston, Inc. and is funded by the AWWARE.

Alan Atalah from the TTC assisted in the monitoring of the demonstrations with regard to ground vibrations and ground movement produced by pipe

bursting and pipe upsizing. A demonstration of the "rolldown" process for pipe relining was also included in the Houston activities.

The data on ground movements and ground vibrations will add to those being gathered on a separate research project at the TTC involving a broad cross-section of the trenchless pipe replacement industry and funded partially by industry and partially by the Louisiana Educational Quality Support Fund.

TTC Initiates Trenchless Users' Forum

In response to the interest of several municipalities, the TTC is organizing a forum for the public agency users of trenchless technologies. This program has arisen out of a re-evaluation of TTC program directions that has been under way over the past year and is the result of discussion with many individuals in public works agencies that are using or trying to assess the potential use of trenchless technologies.

Most municipalities face many problems in assessing and using new technologies in general and trenchless technologies in particular:

- Undue reliance on manufacturer and supplier information can restrict competition unnecessarily and raise costs.
- To have each individual municipality and agency developing their own evaluation criteria for unfamiliar technologies and conducting their own tests is difficult, wasteful and time-consuming for both public works groups and inventors of new processes.
- A balance must be struck between encouraging new technology improvements and allowing untested products or systems to be used.
- Municipalities have few opportunities to share experiences outside of a public forum.

Participation in the forum will provide the following major benefits:

- A special forum organized on at least an annual basis at which municipal and public works personnel can share experiences and help set research and information needs related to trenchless technologies.
- Early access to the latest research findings, application experiences, and

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information on new technologies.

- A specific vehicle for cooperation on development of specifications, evaluation of products and processes, and development of new tools for infrastructure provision and maintenance using trenchless technologies.

- The ability to steer center research programs to those topics most of interest to municipalities—such as the avoidance of potential damage to installed plant through future trenchless installations or long-term performance of new products.

The TTC has just completed a new strategic plan for the center's direction that helps set priorities for the coming years, and that has stressed the importance of involving municipalities more heavily in participation and setting direction for TTC programs. The establishment of this forum is part of that direction and municipalities and public works agencies are encouraged to contact the TTC for further information (see the side panel for contact information). The cost of participation in the forum is \$1000 per year and an initial forum meeting is being planned for January 1997 to allow further input from the public partners in the detailed structure of the forum.

Broader Industry Participation

Also as part of its new strategic plan, the TTC is anxious to broaden its connection with industry. The existing Industry Advisory Board has served the TTC very well since its inception, but the cost and time commitment for participation in the Industry Advisory Board has limited the breadth of industry participation in the TTC. While the board will remain in a central role, the TTC is opening up other levels of participation to encourage broader involvement. The intent is not to create another membership organization but rather to offer the chance for additional support and direction to TTC pro-

grams, the chance to become more involved in the programs, and a chance to be recognized for support of trenchless technology research and development. In addition to the indirect benefits of contributing to the development and proper use of new technologies in the national interest, there are also direct benefits to individual participants:

- Early access to the latest research findings, application experiences and information on new technologies.

- The ability to help steer center research programs to those topics most of interest to the industry.

- Acknowledgment as a committed contributor to the development of better public infrastructure provision and maintenance—in TTC literature, on the TTC web site and through many other forums.

- The opportunity to leverage a small individual contribution with those of industry members, public works agencies, university commitments to the center, and with government and external research support. Historically, TTC industry support has been leveraged at over 5- to-1 with research project support, university funding and other support.

With the exception of the Industry Advisory Board members who each contribute \$10,000 to the center each year, there will be no set levels of contributions. Specific benefits are differentiated among those giving less than \$2000, those giving \$2000 to \$5000, and those giving over \$5000 but the intent is to encourage industry participants to help with the amount that they are able to afford and to encourage them to work with the TTC to build its research and information activities on behalf of the industry.

For a more detailed description of the request for support and the benefits provided, please contact the TTC (see side panel for contact information).

Omara Completes Research on Behavior of Cured-In-Place Pipe in Circular and Oval Host Pipes

Aziz Omara has completed and defended his doctoral dissertation "Analysis of Cured-in-Place Pipes (CIPP) Installed in Circular and Oval Deteriorat-

ed Host Pipes." Congratulations to Dr. Omara, who is now working in New Orleans with Waldemar S. Nelson and Co., Inc., Engineers and Architects.

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Auburn, Ala.



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The TTC Newsletter is published as a department within Trenchless Technology magazine. All newsletter materials are prepared by TTC. Communications should be directed to the center.