

Trenchless Technology Center Newsletter

March 1998

TTC Hosts First Int'l Research Colloquium

In January, TTC was host to 28 participants from six countries including the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and France. The purpose of the colloquium was to bring together academic researchers in the field of trenchless technology to discuss research issues and potential research collaboration. The colloquium was co-sponsored by the North American Society for Trenchless Technology and representatives from all member countries of the International Society for Trenchless Technology were invited to participate.

The colloquium began in Houston at the end of the UCT Conference. Two introductory sessions were held: the first with participants describing their own research programs and future research interests and the second with a panel of municipal engineers interacting with participants on their needs for research results to help guide municipal decisionmaking and design related to trenchless technology. Also, visits were made to a microtunneling project under construction by BRH-Garver, the Hobas Pipe USA manufacturing plant, the Baroid Drilling Fluids research laboratories, and the research facilities at the University of Houston.

Discussion Groups Formed

The second phase of the colloquium was held at TTC in Ruston, La., and involved the group splitting into two discussion groups focused on rehabilitation and new construction, respectively. The rehabilitation group concentrated on reviewing progress in the research programs and in

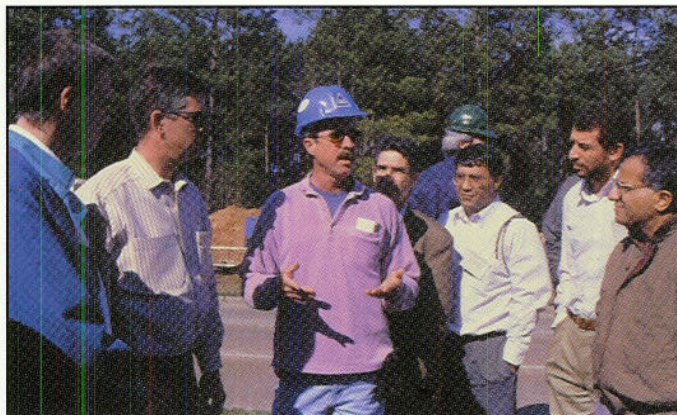
developing a communiqué on the design basis for liners placed in buried gravity sewers. The new construction group developed a consensus on important research topics across several areas of trenchless technology construction including the type of research that's needed to improve the technology and areas of interest for joint projects.

The third phase of the colloquium was held in New Orleans with a discussion of collaboration in trenchless technology education, continued sub-group discussions and a final session to review progress made and plan for future interactions.

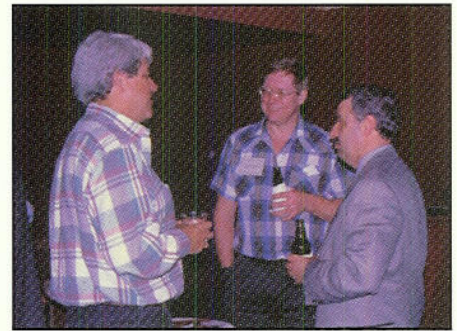
Participants found this type of relatively unstructured discussion meeting very useful as a complement to the format of major conferences. The group decided to hold similar format meetings on a regular basis with the next meeting tentatively planned in Nuremberg, Germany, in June 1999 hosted by the German research institute, LGA.

Other specific actions that will come out of the colloquium are:

A **web site** that will act as an International Trenchless Technology Research Forum, hosted by TTC. Research activities and past research summaries from academic institutions, industry research associations, national laboratories, etc.



Colloquium participants visit a BRH-Garver microtunneling job being carried out for the City of Houston during the colloquium.



From left: Cliff Tubbs, BRH-Garver; Robert McKim, CATT, Canada; and Joe Loiacono, CERIU, Canada; at the TTC International Research Colloquium.

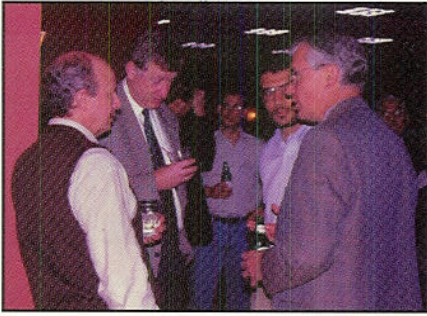
will be posted with links to the respective institutional sites for further information. The web site is already available in preliminary form at <http://www.latech.edu/~guice/TTC/forum.htm>.

A **bulletin board** for trenchless technology research topics also hosted by TTC: It will serve as an open discussion forum for trenchless technology research issues and is intended as a way to continue the research discussions started at the colloquium.

A **communiqué** on the Structural Performance of Close-Fit Non-Bonded Flexible Linings for Nominally Circular Gravity Systems: Agreed Basis for a Rational Design Methodology: This was the result of extensive discussions and represents a group statement on design requirements and future research needs.

The sharing of trenchless technology **teaching materials**: Course outlines, visual aids and other materials will be shared among interested participants. Dr. Fred Akl at TTC will act as the contact point.

Collaboration on proposals for the development of trenchless technology teaching modules that are suitable for use in distance learning; Coordinated proposals to funding agencies in participating countries will be developed. These will request funding for various multimedia teaching modules for trenchless technology that can be used on CD-ROM or via the Internet and can be incorporated in (cont'd on reverse)



(L-R) Mike Aldritt, NRC, Canada; Gerard Arends, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands; Alan Atalah, TTC and Rick Prentice, Reid Crowther & Partners, Canada at a colloquium reception.

(cont'd from p.29): various traditional or non-traditional educational courses.

Contact points for continued discussion and action on the above topics are: **International Research Web Page and Bulletin Board:** Dr. Les Guice, TTC. E-Mail: guice@coes.latech.edu.

Rehabilitation Research Activities: Dr. Jess Boot, University of Bradford, U.K. j.c.boot@bradford.ac.uk.

New construction research activities: Dr. Chris Rogers, Loughborough University, U.K. c.d.rogers@lboro.ac.uk.

Educational Collaboration: Dr. Fred Akl, TTC. akl@coes.latech.edu.

TTC Upgrades the Center Facilities

Visitors to TTC will notice a major difference in the center facilities following its January move to remodeled office spaces in the Engineering Annex Building across the street from its previous location in the main engineering building on campus.

The new facilities provide a much-needed expansion of space and grouping of center personnel into one facility. In addition to four offices housing the director, administrative offices, staff and graduate students, there is a conference/seminar room and space for a collection of special reference materials on trenchless technology and

Trenchless Technology Information Database

TTC is improving the creation and searching of its database on trenchless technology and its applications.

The database is being created as an application within Microsoft Access and special attention is being placed on the use of standardized keywords for data entry and retrieval. Typical

keyword searches or author/title searches are handled by the application. More complex searches can use the full query tools available in the Access software. When more fully developed, it is intended to make the database available on the TTC web site for remote access.

Industry Advisory Board Selects Leadership

The TTC Industry Advisory Board elected Joe Barsoom as chairman at its January meeting. Barsoom, director of engineering for the Wastewater Management Division of the City and County of Denver, has been actively involved with the board since its creation in 1992. Cliff Tubbs of BRH-Garver Inc. in Houston was elected vice chairman.



Joe Barsoom

Houston was elected vice chairman.

underground construction.

The reference collection houses a wide variety of books, papers, specifications, product information, etc. on trenchless technology and, in addition, contains the collection of materials on underground space use and underground construction formerly housed at the Underground Space Center at the University of Minnesota.

The reference is available for external use. The TTC staff will be pleased to help arrange accommodation for anyone wishing to use the collection for in-depth research.

Trenchless Technology Class for Spring Quarter

Louisiana Tech University will offer its first class specifically on trenchless technology in its spring quarter this year. The class is being offered as both a two-credit undergraduate class and with an additional credit of advanced instruction as a three-credit graduate class.

The class will allow a much fuller treatment of trenchless technology than is currently available within the

curriculum and the class will be a recognized option within both the civil engineering and the construction technology program. The class adds to the level of instruction relating to civil infrastructure offered at Tech which includes such classes such as Infrastructure Engineering and Management, dealing with life cycle design and management issues for civil infrastructure.

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Industry Advisory Board

Akkerman Inc.
Brownsdale, Minn.

BRH-Garver Inc.
Houston, Texas

CSR Pipeline Systems
Houston, Texas

Gulf Coast Trenchless Association
Houston, Texas

Hobas Pipe USA Inc.
Houston, Texas

Insituform Technologies Inc.
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Peninsula, Ohio

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Calgary, Alberta

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