Center Funding Levels Remain Steady

As shown in the accompanying bar chart, total annual funding for TTC programs remained at approximately $600,000 for calendar year 1998.

The funding level is expected to rise somewhat in 1999 as new projects received in 1998 have reached their full level of activity in 1999. The financial support is provided partly by Louisiana Tech University in terms of facilities and the release of time of key faculty for TTC activities.

Research project income is the principal source of funding with project funding coming from federal agencies, state agencies and private industry. Earned income from conferences and sale of publications is a minor contribution to center funding.

The support of the Center's Advisory Board together with other industry support received is approximately equivalent to the University's contribution but is the key ingredient in making the center's programs possible.

As shown in the pie chart of funding proportions over the lifetime of the center, each dollar contributed by industry to the center has resulted in approximately $5.00 of total center activity.

Proposal to NSF for Center for Trenchless Infrastructure Systems

It was learned in April that a preproposal for the creation of a Center for Trenchless Infrastructure Systems (CeTIS) under the Engineering Research Center (ERC) Program of the National Science Foundation (NSF) is one of 29 preproposals selected for submission of a full proposal. There were 89 preproposals received by NSF across the many engineering disciplines and it is expected that 5 to 6 centers will be funded.

The proposed center funding will be around $3 million annually from NSF matched by a similar level of funding from participating universities, state agencies, industry, and municipalities. Louisiana Tech University is the lead university in the proposal with Louisiana State University as a core research partner. Southern University in Baton Rouge and Grambling State University in Grambling, La., are educational outreach partners.

The full proposal will be submitted in late August 1999, and a decision on funding is expected to be reached in April to May 2000. A key feature of the NSF center program is a strong industry participation in the research activities in each center.

The attached diagram is used by NSF to describe the expected components of an Engineering Research Center funded under their program. The center is driven by a system-level need (in the case of this proposal -- to provide integrated systems for installing, assessing, managing, rehabilitating and replacing underground utility systems with minimal...
Proposal -concluded

excavation and disturbance to existing surface uses and the environment. To
meet this need requires the development of enabling technologies and
these in turn require improved understanding in basic science and engineering
topics. The many barriers to the development of the basic science, en-
abling technology and system improvements must be addressed and the re-
sulting system carried into practice. Education of future engineers to deal
with interdisciplinary research issues is an important allied goal of the ERC
program.

The CeTIS proposal includes strong municipal participation in the research and guidance from the many national associations and research organiza-
tions connected with underground infrastructure. Companies, associations,
and public works agencies interested in participating in the proposal and the
research program are encouraged to contact Ray Sterling, TTC Director, be-
fore the end of July.

Field Testing Completed for SSET Project

Jadranka Simicevic, TTC research engineer, traveled to Santa Rosa, Calif., in
May to witness the final field evaluation testing for the Sewer Scanning and
Evaluation Technology (SSET) un-
der the evaluation program con-
ducted by the Civil Engineering
Innovative Technology Evaluation
Center (CEITEC) of the
Civil Engineering Research Foundation.
The TTC is cooperating in the eval-
uation with the CEITEC and the final re-
port of the evaluation is expected to be
completed during the summer. Thir-
teen cities have cooperated in the eval-
uation and the extensive field experi-
ence this work provided together with
the suggestions of the city engineers in-
volved have already resulted in im-
provements to the SSET technol-
ogy as it is introduced to the U.S.
market.
The wish to in-
clude the latest advances in the
technology in the evaluation led to
the additional testing in Santa Rosa. It
is an example of the cooperative ap-
proach to new product evaluation pos-
sible under this evaluation program.
Note: The SSET system was featured

Guidelines Work Starts for the Corps of Engineers

The TTC has recently started a coop-
erative project with the Waterways
Experiment Station of the U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers to prepare a set of
Guidelines for Pipe Bursting, Pipe
Ramming and Impact Moring.
These guidelines will be prepared in
a similar format to the guidelines de-
veloped during the Construction Pro-
ductivity Advancement Research
(CPAR) program and covering the top-
ics of microtunneling, mini-HDD, CIPP

New Supporter Welcomed at the Sponsor Level

U.S. Pipe in Birmingham, Ala. has
joined in supporting the research and
information programs of the TTC by
making a $2,000 donation to the center
in May. U.S. Pipe is a major manufac-
turer of ductile iron pipe in the U.S.
Information on getting involved in
and/or supporting TTC activities is pro-
vided on the TTC Web Site or will be
mailed upon request.

McKim to Stay at Louisiana Tech

The TTC is pleased to announce that Dr. Rob McKim who joined the faculty
as a visiting professor of civil engineering in December 1998 has accepted a
continuing appointment with Louisiana Tech University.
Dr. McKim will teach in the con-
struction and civil engineering pro-
grams in the College of Engineering
and Science and also will conduct re-
search with the TTC.