

Trenchless Technology Center Newsletter

December 1999

CeTIS Proposal Selected for Site Visit

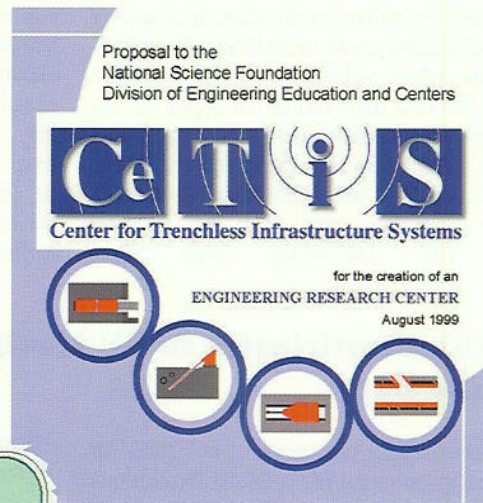
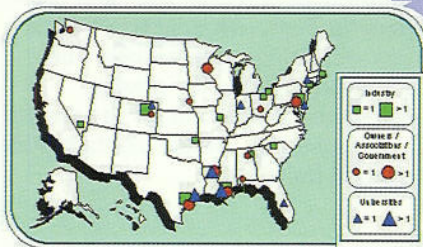
It was learned in late October that the TTC proposal to the National Science Foundation to create an engineering research center for trenchless infrastructure systems is one of seven proposals selected for a site visit.

Louisiana Tech University is the lead university with Louisiana State University as a core research partner. Southern University in Baton Rouge and Grambling State University in Grambling, La., are educational research partners. Six faculty at other universities (Colorado School of Mines, Georgia Tech, Univ. Houston, Purdue Univ., Univ. of South Florida, and Texas A&M) are participating as research outreach faculty in the proposed center. Sixty-five letters of support and commitment for the proposal were received from companies, associations, and government agencies.

The proposal requests \$16.6 million over five years for the center and was

able to commit over \$12 million in matching funds and effort – thanks to the support of the State of Louisiana, the participating universities, and industry and municipal contributions.

The site visit for the proposal will be held in mid-February. Additional participation from industry and municipalities in the center is welcomed. Please contact Ray Sterling, TTC Director, if possible, before the end of January 2000.



Above: Cover page of CeTIS proposal

Left: Map of participation for CeTIS proposal

International Activities

Meetings and Cooperative Arrangements

Ray Sterling recently traveled to Singapore, China and Hungary to participate in trenchless technology and underground construction meetings. In Singapore, he gave a keynote talk at a conference on underground space use. In China, he visited four universities and attended a conference on underground space use in Xian.

Sterling has been an advisory professor at Chongqing Jianzhu University and Tongji University for many years. Both universities have become active in trenchless technology and participate in the China Society for Trenchless Technology. Chongqing is a mountainous city and is underlain by rock at shallow depths in most parts of the city.

The faculty at the university are working on developing equipment for

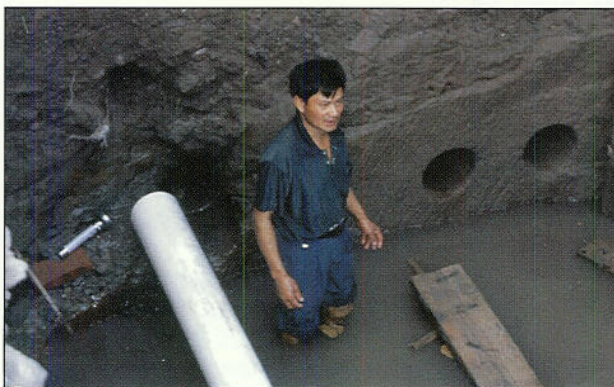
trenchless utility installations in rock. They also have an ongoing relationship with Professor Ian Vickridge at UMIST in the United Kingdom regarding trenchless technology development.

Shanghai, the home city of Tongji University, has very different conditions with very soft clay soils and high

water tables. The university has been involved in a number of pipe jacking projects and is interested in helping to develop a greater use of HDD in Shanghai and elsewhere in China.

Sterling was recently made an honorary professor at Xian University of Architecture and Technology and

Changsha Railway University. The Xian University of Architecture and Technology is more involved in urban uses of underground space for public facilities, transit, etc., and was the host of the 8th International Conference on Underground Space Use held Sept. 27-30. Changsha



Horizontal rock drilling for utility conduits in Chongqing, China

Statement of Need For Utility Locating Technologies

The TTC was asked to help in the development of a statement of need (SON) for utility locating technologies. The SON was the result of a request from a member of the American Public Works Association to the Federal Laboratory Consortium's (FLC) State and Local Governments Committee.

The SON addresses an issue of significant national importance – the current and increasing potential for damage to underground utility systems caused by other excavation and utility installation/repair activities. This SON seeks novel solutions to the problem of effective location of all types of underground utilities under the variety of site conditions found in urban areas.

The SON was distributed during the summer and can be viewed at the following Web site:

nal.usda.gov/ttic/utifnl.htm. Responses were received during August and September and a summary of the technology development directions was in preparation at the time of writing of this newsletter. The next step will be to bring together the groups that need the problem solved and the groups with potential solutions to form appropriate alliances.

For more information, contact Ray Sterling at the TTC. Also, a report – "Common Ground: Study of One-Call Systems and Damage Prevention Best Practices" – resulting from a congressionally authorized study involving over 160 participants was released in the summer (see www.cycla.com/opsiswc/wc.dll?webmain~toppage for further information).

McKim Participates in UN Meeting on Trenchless Technology

Rob McKim was invited by UNEP to participate in an IETC/SKAP Trenchless Technologies Roundtable in Katowice, Poland on Nov. 8-9. The focus of the roundtable was on:

- Selection criteria for determining appropriate applications of trenchless technologies, and

- Profiling of potential sites and partners for demonstrating two trenchless technology applications, one for water and one for sewage.

For more information on the results of the meeting, please contact Rob McKim at the TTC.

Recent Conference Participation

David Hall participated in a PRC symposium held Nov. 15-16, in conjunction with the ASTM meeting in Kansas City. The title of his presentation was, "Investigation of the Structural Response of Thin-Walled Plastic Pipe Liners."

International -concluded

Railway University, as the name implies, has a specialty in railway engineering but, due to the mountainous conditions in much of China, this also means strong programs in tunneling technology. The faculty group there is developing research and education activities related to trenchless technology.

Traveling on to Hungary, Sterling attended the ISTT Conference in Budapest as the international representative of NASTT. Other U.S. delegates were Trent Ralston, chairman of NASTT, and Bernie Krzys, NASTT board member.

Sterling Named as Vice Chairman of ISTT

At the Budapest meeting of the International Society of Trenchless Technology, Gert Fischer from Denmark assumed the chairmanship of ISTT (normally a three-year term) – taking over from Rolf Bielecki of Germany – and Ray Sterling was elected as the new vice chairman of ISTT. The vice chairman automatically rotates into the chairman position.

New TTC Sponsor

Raven Lining Systems, Tulsa, Okla., has become a TTC supporter at the sponsor level. Raven has been delivering protective coatings and grouts to the infrastructure rehabilitation and protection market for over 20 years.

Information on getting involved in and/or supporting TTC activities is provided on the TTC Web site or will be mailed upon request.

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