TTC’s New Cost Data Report Ready for Publication

Over the past year, the TTC has been compiling information to update its 2000 report Survey of Bid Prices for Trenchless Rehabilitation and Replacement of Pipelines and Manholes. Originally scheduled for release during the summer of 2002, the data collection and analysis has extended through the fall. Jadranka Simicevic, the author of the report and analysis software, observes that, “municipalities continue to contact the office to have their data included in the report and the more data we receive, the more comprehensive our report.”

The former report proved an invaluable tool for the industry and the public works agencies involved in utilities rehabilitation and renewal. This latest version includes a much larger data set: a total of 310 bid tabs or bidding summaries have been collected from 67 municipalities in 39 states. In addition to the methods for pipeline and manhole rehabilitation, the report also covers several trenchless installation methods and will hence be titled Survey of Bid Prices for Trenchless Technology Methods.

The report, which comes with the analysis software (Microsoft Access) on CD-ROM, will be available for purchase from the TTC at the end of December. It will cost $200 for commercial companies, $100 for public agencies, and be free for public works agencies and participants who contribute their bid tabs in either this or future surveys.

TTC Director Travels in Support of Worldwide Trenchless Development

Dr. Ray Sterling, TTC director and chairman of the International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT), travels frequently to promote the benefits of trenchless technology. Since becoming ISTT chairman last May, he has made extended visits to the United Kingdom on sabbatical leave. While abroad, Sterling visits ISTT member societies and regions where interest in forming new societies is prevalent.

Always one to be active in spreading the word on the benefits of trenchless technology, Sterling recently traveled to the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Italy and Germany. His travel schedule will remain active well into the spring 2003.

This coming March, Sterling will visit Japan and will make a presentation on behalf of the ISTT at the World Water Forum. 2003 is the “U.N. International Year of Freshwater,” and as such, the aim of the World Water Forum in Japan is to follow up on the resolutions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit), which was held in Johannesburg in August 2002.

Sterling’s lecture, titled “Waste Not-Want Not: Rehabilitation and Installation of Underground Water Pipelines,” will form part of the “Water and Cities” session, which is convened by Mr. Kalan Ray of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Sterling’s participation in the World Water Forum offers a significant and unique opportunity to promote trenchless technology to governments worldwide. Several thousand delegates are anticipated to attend in Japan. There will be more than 300 presentations covering 35 themes and several large exhibitions in the Forum. Furthermore, the event will be staged simultaneously in three centers in Kyoto, Osaka and Shiga. The Forum will culminate in a Ministerial Conference with the release of a Declaration.

Soon after his trip to Japan, Sterling will head to the United States to participate in the Trenchless Research Colloquium in Phoenix, Ariz. Later in the spring, he plans to visit Greece, eastern Europe and the Russian Federation to promote trenchless technology and meet with member societies. Next fall, Sterling will visit France for “Cities without Trenches” and then later he will be in Dubai for Trenchless Middle East.

La. Tech AGC Student Chapter Hosts Annual Golf Tournament

On Oct. 31, the AGC’s La. Tech Student Chapter hosted its second annual golf tournament. This fund-raising event was organized to support the student chapter’s annual activities. A total of 18 holes of golf were played at Calvert Crossing Golf Course in Calhoun, La. The brisk fall day proved to be ideal for the tournament and it encouraged more than 20 representatives from area industries, as well as members from the local AGC chapter in Shreveport and Monroe to participate.

Brian Reynolds, AGC student chapter president, headed the planning committee for the event. He expects that hosting such events will encourage future students to take part in the La. Tech chapter of the AGC and its companion organization at Tech – the NASTT Student Chapter.

As a result of the event, the AGC student chapter is well on its way to achieving its fund-raising goal for this year. Thanks go to the following companies for their support: B.A.S. Construction Inc., Blazer Construction, Hertz Equipment Rentals, Regions Bank, Ruston Building & Loan, Ruston Glass & Mirror, Steel Fabricators and United Rentals.

18 Trenchless Technology Center Newsletter
10th Anniversary Celebration and IAB Meeting were a hit

In mid-October, TTC hosted its 10th anniversary celebration in conjunction with its fall 2002 Industry advisory Board (IAB) meeting. Both events took place in Ruston, La., and set a positive tone for TTC's future.

The IAB meeting offered members the opportunity to visit TTC's offices and tour the center's testing facilities. Members were also introduced to professors who are conducting research that has trenchless applications. La. Tech University administrators were also present to meet the IAB members and to be updated on TTC's activities.

The anniversary celebration dinner was a festive event that offered the opportunity for TTC staff and IAB members to reflect on the past challenges and events that have helped to shape the TTC. Ray Sterling was delighted to have a formal opportunity to thank everyone for his or her efforts.

"Our members are the reason that we are able to conduct this valuable work," he said. "We are working together towards a common goal: to enhance the use of trenchless technologies. It is wonderful to be a part of this movement and to thank our supporters for their assistance."

In addition, Sterling's speech for the event included important TTC events and offered guidance for center's future. A short review of the center's history, written by Sterling, was recently published.

The event also marked the occasion for TTC to introduce its Second Decade Campaign, a fund-raising drive to secure TTC's future for the next 10 years and beyond. The November issue of Trenchless Technology featured an article by its publisher, Bernie Krzys, that highlighted TTC's achievements and its needs for the future.

The next IAB meeting is planned to take place in conjunction with the UCT Conference in Houston, Texas, in mid-January 2003. Should you wish to obtain further information on becoming involved with TTC, please contact our offices.

Municipal Users Forum Update

The TTC recently completed hosting its fall 2002 Municipal Users Forum program. Seven forums in total were held throughout the country and were met with the usual enthusiasm by the participants. TTC's two new Louisiana regional forums, the ARK-LAMISS and the Baton Rouge programs, experienced excellent kickoff meetings. TTC director Ray Sterling was pleased by the response. "We are working to advance this valuable program and it is a pleasure to see the demonstrated interest on the part of the municipalities," he said.

The goal of the Municipal Users Forum is to bring together public works employees for an information-sharing session on trenchless technology issues and applications. Over the years, the program has proven to be an asset for municipalities and industries alike. TTC is thrilled that support for this outreach program continues and that the enthusiasm of the participants has prompted representatives from neighboring municipalities to attend meetings as well.

Currently, TTC staff is preparing the spring 2003 Municipal Users Forum schedule, which will run from March through July. The Colorado Forum will meet on March 26 in Westminster. On April 10, the Columbus Forum will be held in Cleveland. Soon to follow, the Northwest Forum will be held on April 17 in Tacoma, Wash., and will address pipe ramming and bursting issues. The Midwest Forum will meet at the end of April in either the St. Louis area or in the Quad Cities area of Iowa and Illinois. The ARK-LAMISS Forum meeting will occur on May 14 and highlight pipe ramming and ground penetrating radar (GPR) issues. Later that month on May 29, the Gulf Coast Forum will discuss the topics of locating services and private property issues during its meeting in Baton Rouge, La. The Texas Forum will complete the spring program in July with its meeting in Austin on May 31.

TTC thanks all of its Industry Advisory Board members for their support of the Municipal User Forum program. Their participation in the fall 2002 meetings is also greatly appreciated. In addition, TTC extends its thanks to GC, T and Jabar Construction for providing the special support needed to expand the forum program.

If you would like additional information on any of the Municipal Forum Programs or if you are a public works employee and wish to attend a meeting, please contact TTC.