



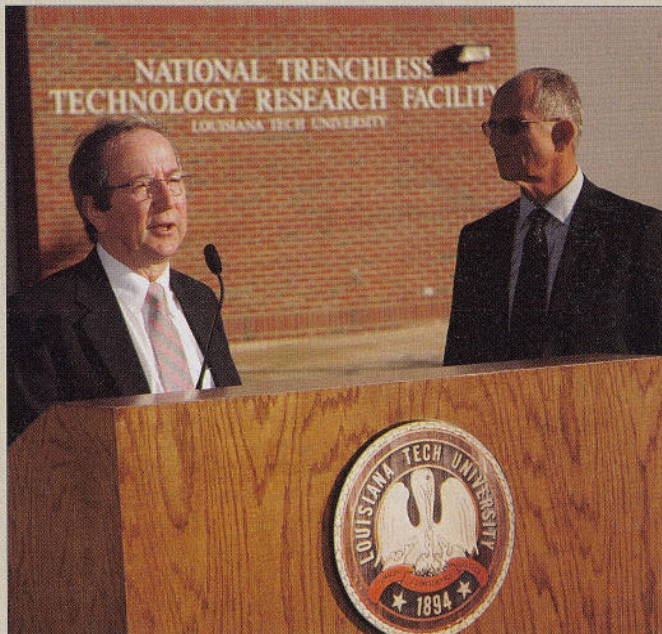
Trenchless Technology Center *Newsletter*

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National Trenchless Technology Research Facility Dedicated

On Nov. 7, Louisiana Tech University president Dr. Dan Reneau led the official dedication of the National Trenchless Technology Research Facility on the Tech Farm campus. This facility serves as the cornerstone of the expanding research facilities for the Trenchless Technology Center (TTC) at Louisiana Tech University and will provide the TTC with a high-bay research space with an overhead crane and strong floor testing configuration where large-scale experiments can be set up. In conjunction with the new facility, the National Science Foundation has funded a 20-ft by 20-ft by 11 ft deep soil test chamber where installation and repair methods can be tested under controlled conditions. The building itself cost approximately \$950,000 and the soil test facilities an additional \$350,000.

About 80 people attended the building dedication, including industry representatives from 17 states and Canada. Dr. Stan Napper, dean of the College of Engineering and Science, led off the dedication ceremony stressing the importance of dealing with infrastructure issues and not forgetting the "macro" problems we face in infrastructure facilities while we probe the new science of the "micro" world. Reneau described how this new building was part of a major expansion and refurbishment of facilities at Louisiana Tech and gave his special thanks to the trenchless industry for providing the major portion of the cost of this facility. Dr. Les Guice, vice president for research and development, recalled how the TTC was initiated in 1989 during his time as department head for civil engineering and stressed the importance of a strong interaction with the industry for centers like the TTC to be successful. TTC director Dr. Ray Sterling then gave specific thanks to the major donors for the facility and described how the facility would be used to support research



TTC director Ray Sterling (left) and Mike Garver address the attendees at the dedication ceremony.

on how to install and repair buried utilities in the most cost-effective fashion. Mike Garver, president of Garver Construction, one of the early leaders of the trenchless industry in North America, as well as the largest donor for the TTC building, described the importance of trenchless technology for the future of our infrastructure and his high regard for the research and educational activities of the TTC.

Immediately following the invocation for the building, given by Dr. Bruce Willson, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held with Reneau, Napper, Guice and Sterling, sharing the ribbon-cutting duties with Garver. A building open house followed with students available to explain their various research projects to the dedication attendees. Attendees were also able to view the commemorative tiles that thank the building contributors for their support, as well as all the current and past Industry Advisory Board members for making the TTC operations possible.

In addition to Garver, special recognition for major building donations were given to Bob Affholder, Michels Corp., the late Hugh O'Donnell, CMC Joist, Insituform Technologies, GCTA, NASTT and several Tech alumni. A total of 42 industry participants and alumni supported the building with donations. In the evening, the dedication attendees, faculty, students and other guests gathered at the nearby Squire Creek Golf Course for a celebratory dinner.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony followed the invocation of the building.

TTC Industry Advisory Board Meeting Held

Most the industry participants not only attended the building dedication but also stayed at the University on Nov. 8 and 9 for the annual Industry Advisory Board (IAB) meeting of the TTC.

During the meeting, faculty and students from the TTC described their research activities and projects and the IAB members provided critical feedback from an industry perspective as to how the research can be improved and more directly applied in real applications. The IAB has more than 35 members (see sidebar) with an approximately equal split among municipalities, industry firms and engineering consultants. Associations and media companies connected to underground infrastructure also participate on the TTC board and six additional companies support the TTC as annual sponsors.

The 1.5-day meeting was presided over by IAB chairman Joe Barsoom and started with introductions and updates from IAB members and guests, followed by a review of the TTC activities over the past year. The rest of the meeting was devoted to research project presentations by TTC graduate students and faculty. Presentations were followed by comments and discussion from the IAB members and guests. The presentations included topics such as TTC Numerical Simulation and Modeling Capabilities, the development and testing of a non-corrosive Terrabrupte joint and pipe cross-section deformation measurements.



Ceremony attendees learn about the features of the facility.



IAB meeting attendees, faculty and students pose in the new facility. The annual IAB meeting followed the dedication ceremony.

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