

Natural Tunnelling machine wins praise at UKSTT annual awards dinner

Society members and guests enjoyed an excellent evening of celebration and networking at the UKSTT Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony held again this year at the Holiday Inn in Birmingham on 27th April. Nearly 200 guests were impressed by the best of the 40 award entries shortlisted into 6 categories.



The event was again hosted by Chris Packham, the environmentalist. Chris and his 'guest', a half grown 35kg Albino Burmese Python, entertained the guests at the start of the evening. Staggering round the room Chris informed the audience that this was the perfect guest for our Annual Dinner as it was "one of the greatest tunnelling animals of all times". It is the 6th largest snake in the world and capable of consuming a small child. His "top tips" were

- Don't put it round your neck as it could have a bad day & decide to squeeze. If it does, my wallet was in my back pocket.
- If you get caught you need to "unwind him from the tail".

Amusing entertainment was provided by Abandoman with a series of topical and event related 'Raps', and during the course of the meal and after the presentations Pink Strings provided musical accompaniment.



The Chairman's Charity this year, in support of East Anglia's Children's Hospice, £1,567.00. The winner of the Kindle, sponsored by Ashington Associates, was Dave Burgess, Morgan Sindall.

Information on the short-listed entries for each category can be found below.

Renovation – Large (>£250k)

Sponsor: Wessex Water

Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions Ltd

Crowlas Gravity Main Replacement

The Crowlas gravity sewer installed in 1995 was in critical condition due to Hydrogen Sulphide attack. Refurbishment of this strategically critical sewer required innovative thinking to resolve logistical, financial and environmental obstacles to a tight timescale. The South West Water Alliance team (H50) established a construction solution to address each issue.



Lanes Group plc

Spa Town gets the Ultra-Violet Treatment

Shedding new light: Lanes used Ultra Violet (UV) technology to provide the quickest and most energy efficient solution for a £1.7 million sewer rehabilitation scheme in the historic spa town of Buxton; working within rigid time constraints, accommodating external considerations, and keeping disruption to a minimum.

Subterra, a division of Daniel Contractors

Subterra Sprints to Another Success – Rehabilitation of the Woodford & Finsbury Part Trunk Mains

Subterra's Subline system was used innovatively to rehabilitate a complex configuration of pipelines on the site of a major new international sporting facility development congested with other utilities, without interrupting their operation or impacting on other contractors working in close proximity on site, against a tight delivery schedule and budget.

Renovation – Small (<£250k)

Sponsor: Laing O'Rourke & Severn Trent

Castlebrae Drainage Services, part of the Lanes Group plc

Listed Building Sewer Repaired after Five Years

A sewer under a listed building in Glasgow had collapsed five years ago causing the ground floor to subside. It seemed the only solution was an expensive & disruptive full scale diversion. Meantime sewage was being tankered away. But Castlebrae Drainage Services said that a no-dig repair was possible as they repaired not just one, but two collapsed sewers, at 10% of the expected repair costs.

Winner



Onsite Central Ltd

Big Trouble in Little Athens

Schemes utilising trenchless technologies always impress clients and the public, and such was the case when a sewer collapsed in deep and difficult geology in a busy street in the south of England. An innovative solution was formulated to repair the sewer using the worlds first robotic 'Jack Hammer'.

Wessex Water, Onsite Central Ltd & Applied Felts USA

An American liner became the catalyst for change

A Victorian constructed, 7m high backdrop in Bath, posed pollution problems to a redevelopment and the potential for massive civils to effect a repair. Selective re-sourcing of an American liner as air freight by client and contractor in partnership, over came this onerous legacy creating a vision for the future.

New Installation – Large (>£250k)

Sponsor: Jacobs & UKDN Waterflow

J Murphy & Sons Ltd

Laleham to Twickenham 132KV Replacement Scheme - HDD

Murphy was appointed by UK Power Networks to undertake a 132kV cable replacement scheme on the Laleham to Twickenham project that included the requirement to undertake a major HDD installation, 371metres long, with a profile at 12metres deep and comprising of 2 shots of 1 x 250mm HDPE pipes.

Winner



Severn Trent Water

Gloucestershire Security of Supply

Severe floods in July 2007 crippled Severn Trent Water's Mythe WTWs leaving 350,000 customers without mains drinking water for up to 17 days. Following this we committed to provide greater security of supply for our customers in Gloucester and Cheltenham. The installation of a large diameter potable water main allows the Mythe WTW to be bypassed with an alternative supply.

Stockton Drilling Ltd

The Oyster 2 Wave Energy Machine in Orkney

The Oyster 2 wave energy machine in Orkney will be installed 600m offshore and will pump high pressure water up to a land based turbine. This required 2 pipes to be installed using HDD techniques passing deep under the rocky shoreline, to exit under 12m of water on the seabed.

Small Scheme (<£50k)

Sponsor: U Mole & Westrade (No Dig 2012)

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Lanes Group plc

Lanes Loves a Challenge – Upper Parliament Street

No one was willing to attempt a repair on a challenging section of sewer in Nottingham during a rehabilitation scheme. Lanes stepped in and the team came up with an inventive, workable and effective solution which helped keep the whole scheme on track — much to the delight of Severn Trent Water and the main contractor.



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Innovation

Sponsor: H5O

Oxford Electromagnetic Solutions Ltd (OXEMS)

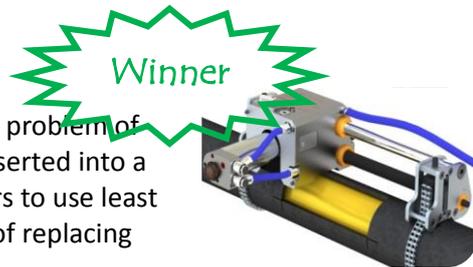
The OXEMS Underground Asset Management System

The OXEMS System is a revolutionary underground asset management solution linking data held on databases to actual physical points in the ground down to 2m in wet conditions. Based on advanced rFINDGoToTM technology it delivers quantifiable benefits to utilities, contractors and the wider community. Asset management through network visibility.

Pipe Equipment Specialists Ltd

Kent Precision Window Cutter

This innovative new product is the solution to the age old problem of how to safely access a PE pipe that has previously been inserted into a steel or ductile pipe. Its introduction now allows engineers to use least cost and least environmental impact trenchless methods of replacing non fractural and large diameter pipes.



Severn Trent Water

Gloucester Phase 1 – Quay Street Flood Alleviation Project

Severn Trent Water have invested £11.4M with AMP5 framework contractor Morgan Sindall to deliver a flood alleviation project in the centre of Gloucester that maximised the use of trenchless technology to ensure the project met cost benefit investment criteria whilst minimising customer, community and environmental impact during construction.

Young Engineer

Sponsor: National Grid

Alex Aulds, Wessex Water

Illuminating UV CIPP at its cutting edge

UV cured high glass content liners continue to gain acceptance in the UK and the increase of their procurement should be assisted by the recognition of their versatile characteristics which bring innovative solutions to seemingly impossible projects. Client engineers should not be limited by their experience, but exercise imagination.



Liam Macfarlane, Wessex Water

Renovating Hydrogen Sulphide attack

Sewerage assets should be designed to last a lifetime, a prerequisite often exceeded by the Victorians. So when a tunnel less than 30 years old was showing signs of distress, the culprit was evident by its odour. This is a story of saving that asset with modern, least cost techniques.

Daniel Jefferson

Boylestone, Ashbourne, Derbyshire

This scheme involved the renewal of 5km of water mains. The challenges in delivery of the scheme set out by Severn Trent Water and location of the works included single feed of clean water affecting supplies, a number of culverts/watercourse crossings and narrow highway infrastructure where access is required for the residents/farmers.