

ISTT ROUND-UP

supplied by Contributing members of ISTT and its Affiliated Societies

20TH INTERNATIONAL NO-DIG COPENHAGEN 2002

We should have guessed that No-Dig 2002 Copenhagen was going to be good; but it would have been difficult to imagine that for 'good' we would quickly have to substitute 'outstanding'.

Delegates were to discover that since the previous visit of a No-Dig to the city in 1994, the authorities have taken the partnership between city and the environment several stages further.

In her speech to delegates at the Opening Ceremony on Tuesday 28 May 2002, Winnie Bernasdtson, explained how as a city Counsellor (Mayor), she was the peoples representative responsible for both energy and the environment. But the term 'energy' itself was an abbreviation because her portfolio now covered electricity, gas, district heating, water and wastewater, all of which had recently been amalgamated under the title Copenhagen Energy. Her task in the administration was to ensure that Copenhagen had both the very best utility services and a healthy environment.

She continued by saying that Copenhagen had the aim of becoming the Environmental Capital of Europe, with a particular emphasis on Central and Eastern European countries. Besides sponsoring regular conferences, Copenhagen was set to become an Environmental Development Centre with participation by other cities, organisations and universities in championing 'sustainable development'. Five cities had already joined and were benchmarking their environmental performance by measuring the impact of their decisions on their inhabitants; against Agenda 21 objectives and against 'EU Action in the

John Munro of Rib Loc Australia (centre) receiving the 2001 ISTT Award at the 20th International No-Dig event in Copenhagen.



City' targets. In Copenhagen itself the aim was to get ISO certification for all sectors of the city administration.

She then invited delegates to join her at the weekend for a swim in the harbour to celebrate the cleanliness of the seawater after many previous years of pollution. For the non-swimmers she recommended a visit to the harbour to see the 20 wind powered generators, 10 owned by the city, 10 by a private company. What was not visible she concluded were the 89% of city buildings and houses connected to the district heating system.

To close her presentation she congratulated the ISTT for holding the No-Dig to coincide with an Environmental Festival in Copenhagen during which communities would be involving children in activities to raise awareness of the environment with the theme 'Nature takes care of me; I take care of nature'.

Steen Gade, Director, Danish Environmental Protection Agency broadened the

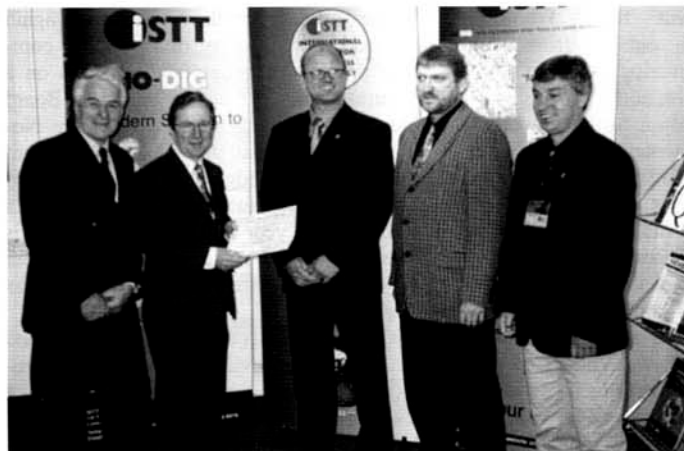
theme by commending the organisers on the title of the Conference 'Water in water pipes: waste water in sewers'. He felt that it was a very appropriate title with the focus on healthy water just as decision makers were starting their preparations for the Environmental Summit meeting in Johannesburg in the autumn.

The Summit group had recognised at least 10 years previously that the quality of life had to be in balance with the environment and that there were 3 sides to the triangle, social, economic and environmental. The summit would assess what progress had been made and then set targets for the next 10 years.

On a personal note he remarked that he had not at first 'seen' No-Dig in Denmark and had only become aware of trenchless techniques when he had visited a No-Dig project in Eastern Europe being undertaken by a Danish company as part of an economic aid programme. So he welcomed the delegates and wished them all a very enjoyable conference.

Ray Sterling, in his first speech since taking over as Chairman, ISTT, thanked the Mayor and the Director for their welcome. He congratulated the Mayor for having a modern, vibrant, city, in which they had installed modern utility services while at the same time preserving its historic heritage and maintaining the high quality of life which its inhabitants had come to expect. Many of the delegates had come to the No-Dig to hear how this difficult transition had been managed, in particular the way the city had developed voluntary quality assurance agreements between clients and suppliers.

He nonetheless warned the citizens that many difficult problems still remained



Ing Petr Holeš (centre), Ladislav Dokládál (second left) and Jiří Mikolášek (left) of Wombat s.r.o. receiving the ISTT Certificate of Merit for the company's ISTT Award 2001 entry from Ray Sterling (ISTT Chairman) and John Castle (ISTT Executive Secretary).