

TRENCHLESS ASIA 2004 Debuts to Success in China

TRENCHLESS ASIA 2004, the third in a series of specialized exhibitions focusing on trenchless technology to be held in the Asian region, made its debut in Mainland China April 20-22 at the Shanghai Exhibition Center in Shanghai.

TRENCHLESS ASIA 2004 provided a timely focus for this modern technology in China and the centrally located Shanghai Exhibition Center provided an excellent venue for the impressive range of equipment and services that were displayed by 96 companies from 13 countries.

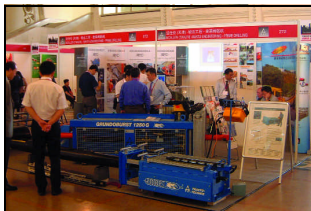


Balama Prima-Vermeer was one of many exhibitors.

Exhibitors showcased a host of technology used in the installation, repair and refurbishment of urban utility pipelines.

The nearly 2,000 visitors to the show had the added benefit of being able to see live demonstrations of equipment displayed on the adjacent outdoor exhibition area.

Among the 96 exhibiting companies were: American Augers, Astec Underground, Australasian Society for Trenchless Technology, Balama Prima-Vermeer (China) Co. Ltd., Barbco International Inc., Case Construction Equipment-China, ColliDrill Far East Inc., CUES, Danby International, Digital Control Inc., Ditch Witch China, Drill to Trenchless Co. Ltd., epros GmbH, Herrenknecht AG, IBAK, IDS, IPCO Insituform (S.E. Asia) Pty. Ltd., Kem-Tron, McElroy Mfg., Naylor Drainage Ltd., per Aarsleff A/S, Prime Drilling GmbH, Radiodetection Ltd., RibLoc Australia Pty Ltd., Robbins GmbH, Scandinavian No-Dig Center, TT Asia Pacific Pty. Ltd.



Tracto-Technik displayed its latest drills.

Hong Hao, deputy secretary general of the municipal government of Shanghai, officially opened TRENCHLESS ASIA 2004. Welcome messages were also provided by Dec Downey, representing the International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT) and Sheng Daojun, chairman of China Shanghai Society for Trenchless Technology (CSSTT). High-ranking dignitaries from Shanghai's municipal gas, water, telecommunications and highway departments were in attendance, in addition to senior representatives of the Australasian, German, Guangdong, Hong Kong and United Kingdom Societies for Trenchless Technology.

The opening ceremony was held in bright sunshine within the impressive surroundings of the Fountain Square and was staged in grand traditional Chinese style, complete with a Dragon Dance.

The three-day exhibition was complemented by an international conference featuring presentations on a range of trenchless techniques and case studies. CSSTT deputy chairman Gong Jie Hua made the opening keynote presentation. Gong's presentation highlighted the increasing use of trenchless technology in Chinese cities, due to the significant predicted expansion of new utility services, as well as the need for refurbishing ageing pipelines.

Dr. Sam Ariaratnam, associate professor at Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering at Arizona State University, provided the keynote presentation, giving a report on the latest research and development of trenchless techniques in United States and around the world.

Conference presentations were held on the first two days of the event, followed by a site visit program featuring horizontal directional drilling and relining projects in full swing.

The TRENCHLESS series of events are organized by U.K.-based No-Dig Conferences & Exhibitions Ltd.

At the close of the event, Richard West, the show's managing director, said: "I am gratified by the extremely positive reaction we have received from exhibitors, many of whom have reported that they estimate high levels of business will come as a direct result of their participation.



Insituform had a strong showing at the conference.

"The specialization of this event means that we are aiming at a very focused market. We recorded an attendance of nearly 2,000 visitors, 85 percent of whom came from Mainland China, with the remaining 15 percent from the Asia Pacific region and further afield," West said. "I also wish to recognize the invaluable assistance of our Shanghai-based partner company, Shanghai Technology Convention & Exhibition Co. Ltd., which did a great job with the logistical arrangements."

Organizers also announced that TRENCHLESS ASIA will return to Shanghai in 2006. TRENCHLESS ASIA 2004 was organized in association with the CSSTT and ISTT.