

# THE LAST WORD...

## IPBA Launches Major Effort To Grow Application Of Pipebursting In North America

by The IPBA Marketing committee a division of NASSCO

A group of contractors, manufacturers, and experts in underground construction are breathing new life into the International Pipe Bursting Association (IPBA). This organization, a division of NASSCO, is focused on growing the application of pipebursting technology by increasing the understanding of this technology and its advantages to engineers and system owners.

At a kickoff meeting in January during the UCT Show in Tampa, FL, a group of 12 contractors as well as manufacturers and others mapped out a plan for a "new" IPBA and kicked off the process with planning and actions by a number of newly designated committees. Each committee is to present their five year plan at the upcoming May meeting.

Officers for the group include: Chairperson Brian Metcalf, Hammerhead Trenchless Equipment; Vice-Chairperson George Malaklis, TT Technologies; Secretary/Treasurer Jarrett Cowden, Hammerhead Trenchless Equipment; Past Chairperson Collins Orton, TT Technologies.

Committees and their chairmen include the Marketing Committee, chaired by Matt Timberlake, vice president of Ted Berry Company Inc.; Specifications Committee, chaired by Troy Freed, director of Trenchless Technologies for WRS Compass; Training and Education Committee, chaired by Mike Woodcock, owner of Portland Utilities Construction LLC; and Government Relations Committee, chaired by Collins Orton, TT Technologies.

The group's next meeting will be Sunday, May 2, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., at the Connection Room in the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel & Conference Center, during the No Dig Show in May in Schaumburg (Chicago), IL. Any parties interested in learning more about this new effort are invited to attend. Contractors involved in pipebursting or interested in entering this market segment are especially urged to attend the meeting to learn about efforts underway to grow this market and how they can participate. The IPBA also includes municipal members and would like to encourage even more to join. Learn more about the meeting details by sending an email to: [ipba@nassco.org](mailto:ipba@nassco.org).

The purpose of the group is to develop



resources and a program for educating system owners and engineers about pipebursting technology, its advantages and applications, to grow the use of this technology for pipe replacement. They also plan to improve standards for pipebursting work and develop means by which relative experience and levels of application exper-

tise of pipebursting contractors can be determined. These standards will be written specifically for the applications which pipebursting is primarily used for which include sanitary sewer, municipal water, gas, lateral and/or small diameter bursting and include standards for both static and pneumatic pipebursting which are the two primary methods used worldwide. A clear specification set with input from equipment manufacturers, contractors, engineers and system owners will result in better project execution and will be available to all members of the utility industry through the IPBA. These specifications will become the standard for pipebursting in North America.

For more than 20 years, the pipebursting method has experienced exceptional growth in use, both in North America and worldwide. Pipebursting is a method where the existing pipe is fractured by applying outward pressure inside the pipe, expanding the annulus and pushing the cracked pipe into the surrounding soil while at the same time pulling in new pipe. This technology was born out of the necessity in the United Kingdom to replace aged gas mains in inner cities and neighborhoods where building and traffic congestion made open cut replacement logistically difficult and cost prohibitive. Over time, the method was adapted there to the water and sewer industries to replace mains as old if not older than the gas mains being replaced. Today, in North America and around the world, pipe bursting is being used to replace gas, sewer and water mains, as well as for bursting of sewer laterals using the same technology.

### Efficient technology

Pipebursting technology, which is highly efficient, minimizes surface disruption, allows increased flow capacity by increasing the pipe size, and uses the old pipe path to install a new pipe, is still not fully understood or accepted by system owners and

engineers in some areas of North America. In addition, pipe bursting is primarily used for sewer applications in North America, with very large growth potential in water and gas. This is contrary to the case in Europe where water and gas have been the more traditional applications. With the millions of feet of leaking underground pipes in North America and a growing concern about their environmental impact as well as the waste of resources often associated with traditional open cut construction, the future of pipebursting looks very bright and the new IPBA group is dedicated to increasing the understanding and appreciation for this technology. Advances in alternative piping materials now allow for materials such as HDPE, PVC, ductile iron and others to be installed although fused HDPE is still the primary material utilized for water, sewer, and gas applications.

The marketing committee is working to develop pipebursting marketing material that will be used in national engineering and trade publications showing the benefits of the technology and in turn promote the use of IPBA specifications and contractors. Updated webpage development will also help by leading web surfers to our association and will be able to be used as a resource for those looking for reliable information.

The education committee is working to develop in depth training programs that can be brought to national and regional conferences where our potential customers and utility engineers gather. Sometimes as an industry we are very good at education ourselves on our technology and advancements in applications, but as an association we will need to be more active in educating the utility community.

Contractors, manufacturers, engineers, consultants, utility owners, and others who share an active interest in the market for pipebursting in North America are urged to join the efforts of the IPBA. Together through responsible promotion, good project design, and successful project execution this technology can be used to its potential to help serve the needs of the failing utility systems buried beneath our neighborhood streets and provide a reduced construction footprint which will very quickly gain the public's backing and support. For the IPBA and the pipebursting industry the time is now so let's get to work!

### FOR MORE INFO:

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