Benefits of Trenchless Methods on Display

The HDPE Pipe Total Solutions Roadshow and Expo brought by the Alliance for PE Pipe drew about 103 people to McElroy’s Fulton campus on April 15. It was a spectacular turnout that far exceeded attendance expectations!

Attendees strolled under a heated tent as Team McElroy gave butt fusion demonstrations on many of our larger-diameter machines. A “GoPro” camera and video screen in the Technical Center shop made it easy to actually see the “bead-up” and other parts of the close-quarter fusion process.

The Alliance and McElroy were also able to accomplish a roadshow “first” this year with an in-ground pipe bursting demonstration conducted by John Newell of the Dallas-based DigTec and Ben Rogers of Hammerhead Trenchless Equipment of Oconomowoc, Wis.

The demonstration proved how relatively easy it is to upsize 6” cast iron pipe with 8” polyethylene pipe.

“In 2000, no one really knew what pipe bursting was, but engineers are now seeing the merit in it,” Newell said.
Newell said that pipe bursting is becoming more and more accepted by municipalities and engineers in recent years because there is less social disruption involved with a trenchless project.

Service connections can be pulled under roadways without having to excavate streets. It's much more economical because they don't have to replace concrete, sidewalks or driveways, and it's a lot faster.

Newell said that in one instance he installed 3,500 feet of polyethylene pipe one week and 2,500 feet the next week. An average contractor might get a few 100 feet a day using open-cut methods, he said.

Rogers said that engineers are starting to put pipe bursting in their specs now and he is starting to see more jobs in his Oklahoma sales area. Currently, he said he has plans for about 40,000 feet of nothing but pipe-bursting projects.

Soil conditions have a lot to do with how easily the job is accomplished. Newell said contractors look for a happy medium between dry and wet since dry soil makes it hard for the pipe to expand and wet soil can result in “pipe drag.”

Having worked with it for years, and seeing the great results of pipe bursting applications to replace antiquated pipe systems, it comes as no surprise that Newell is a fan of polyethylene.

“I think it’s a great product,” he said. “This stuff — I love it. You can bend it. The molecular components of this poly pipe allows it to stay flexible. This stuff over time will maintain its flexibility so ground movement and ground shifting doesn’t break it.”

While pipe bursting is becoming more accepted, Newell said there are still plenty of others who need convincing that trenchless applications can be a superior option.

“I get responses like, ‘My grandpa dug ditches and put in pipe, my daddy dug ditches and put in pipe, and by God if it’s good enough for them, it’s good enough for me,’” Newell said.

But Newell shoots back, telling them that we no longer use rolodexes and index cards, and the guy who used to make buggy whips is completely out of business.

“You know people — they don’t like change. They don’t embrace it,” Newell said. “They know how to dig ditches and put pipe in the ground. They don’t know anything about this. It scares them.”

But the fear of trenchless technology seems to be waning.
Rogers said he is seeing more HammerHead equipment sold as pipe bursting is becoming more acceptable in Oklahoma, especially Oklahoma City, and moving more into Tulsa.

“I’ve got three missed calls today from guys over in Oklahoma City bidding a pipe-bursting job right now. That’s how much more widely it’s becoming accepted,” Rogers said. “The city of Oklahoma City came to a demo day here a few weeks ago in Perry. They’re starting to incorporate pipe bursting in their work and maybe develop their own crews to do their own work. It’s growing every day.”

### PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

**DataLogger® Vault™**

The DataLogger Vault is a secure server available on the internet to store fusion joint data from not only the DataLogger 5 but also previous models such as the DataLogger 3 and 4. This new offering will allow users to store their fusion joint data and have access to a variety of analytical tools. Learn more by visiting the video link above, or visiting the [DataLogger landing page](#).

**Features include:**

- Quick access to joint records
- Quick and easy sorting and tagging of joint records by machine, joint, operator, device or job.
- No manual entry of data for storage
- Operator accountability and traceability through analysis and storage of joint records
- Permanent and secure storage of fusion joint data
The DataLogger® 5 from McElroy offers the ability to record and document the parameters of the pipe fusion process. The latest generation of the DataLogger is similar in size to the DataLogger 4, and like the DataLogger 4 has a rechargeable internal battery, and a pressure sensor with a 0 to 3,000 PSI pressure range. The FusionGuide® feature gives a faster "go/no-go" interpretation of graphs generated by the DataLogger. Trained inspectors can look at the FusionGuide data to determine if a fusion joint was fused with correct pressures and times according to supported standards.

**Features include:**

- FusionGuide which provides the user with a visual graphical interpretation
- Multilingual Support
- Supports many fusion standards
- Supports butt fusion, sidewall fusion and dual containment fusion
- On-screen coaching leads operator step by step to generate joint reports
- Flexibility to use your own pyrometer
- A GPS stamp thus making for easier and accurate location of fusion joint
- 2D Scanner to record bar coded information on pipe and fittings
- 5mp camera for pictures of fusion joints, jobsite, face-off and bead up
- Upload joint data to DataLogger Vault from the field

Click here to view the spec sheet.

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**NEWS AND EVENTS**

**In the News**

A Michigan wind farm is using HDPE conduit, butt fused with McElroy machines, to carry electrical cables.

Check out this interesting story in Utility Products.
McElroy fusion machines are pictured in an article about a water reuse emergency pipeline project for drought-stricken Wichita Falls, Texas.

Click here to read the story.

Our pictures this month come from Environmental Solutions with jobsites at the Sawgrass Country Club in Ponte Vedra, Fla., and the new Atlantic Beach Country Club, in Atlantic Beach, Fla.

If you have photos from a jobsite, we'd love to see them! Yours may be chosen for the next issue of McElroy Connections. Simply email your photos to marketing@mcelroy.com.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 14th</td>
<td>125 degrees, 3 miles underground sounds like a tough jobsite! Show off yours, get a free shirt <a href="http://woobox.com/pbmy8t">http://woobox.com/pbmy8t</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8th</td>
<td>New demo: Removing a fusion carriage from a McElroy QuickCamp™ is easy if you follow these steps <a href="http://ow.ly/wxjDi">http://ow.ly/wxjDi</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14th</td>
<td>Got your free QuickCamp™ t-shirt yet? Show off your most extreme-weather jobsite &amp; get yours: <a href="http://ow.ly/wv9cb">http://ow.ly/wv9cb</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5th</td>
<td>McElroy has been in business for 60 years! We’re celebrating by looking back at the development of some of our revolutionary products. Did you know … With the popularity of 36” PE pipe on the rise, McElroy needed a machine to bridge the gap between the too-small 24” fusion machines and the more expensive 48” fusion machines. The 1236 Fusion Machine was introduced to resolve that problem and offer a cost-effective option for fusing 35” pipe. <a href="http://ow.ly/wkFPY">May 2nd</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>May 8th</td>
<td>A Michigan wind farm is using HDPE conduit, butt fused with McElroy machines, to carry electrical cables. Check out this interesting story in @UtilityProducts. <a href="http://ow.ly/wkFPY">http://ow.ly/wkFPY</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 17th</td>
<td>McElroy is proud to welcome The Alliance for PE Pipe and nearly 100 guests to the HDPE Pipe Total Solutions Roadshow at our Fulton Campus today! <a href="http://ow.ly/vHKS1">Apr 15th</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 11th</td>
<td>Are you renting the most reliable fusion machines in the industry? Find your McElroy Certified Rentals today. <a href="http://ow.ly/vHKS1">http://ow.ly/vHKS1</a></td>
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**IMPORTANT LINKS**

- Alliance for PE Pipe
- WaterWorld
- Water Tech Online
- North American Society of Trenchless Technology
- Plastics Pipe Institute

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