

TTC LEADS THE WAY

by Dr Tom Iseley and Saleh Behbahani, TTC at LA Tech

The LA Tech's TTC is leading the way to establish a total solution for meeting the needs of underground infrastructure, issuing a global call to action to the Trenchless Technology industry.

The Louisiana Tech University (LA Tech) Trenchless Technology Center (TTC) was established about 30 years ago by Dr Tom Iseley to advance the science and practice of underground infrastructure (UI) solutions. Dr Iseley is leading an initiative for a global call to action for the Trenchless Technology industry. This call to action requires more than just talk. We cannot wait for the government to solve the problems with decaying UI. This vision is critical to attract the awareness and respect of policy makers and political decision makers.

Much has been accomplished during the past 30 years, but now the time has come to advance to the next dimension. TTC is offering a total solution for meeting underground infrastructure challenges through three programs.

TTC UIC

TTC has obtained approval from the university to expand on the current facilities and space to establish a world-class comprehensive campus dedicated to all aspects related to UI, including Trenchless Technology, subsurface utility engineering, pipeline condition assessment and integrity management and more. The next structure to be built on the Underground Infrastructure Campus (UIC) will be the Barbera Underground Infrastructure Research and Training (BUIRT) Facility.

BUIRT FACILITY

TTC honours the past while driving the future through the establishment of the BUIRT Facility. This facility honours the past through the recognition of the contributions of the Barbera family (Leo and Jim) to the trenchless industry.

It drives the future of the industry through the establishment of a world-class field training and research facility. This facility will be available for research, development and

training for the entire Trenchless Technology industry, including TTC Specialty Schools such as the Auger Boring School and Utility Investigation School.

In addition, it will be available for international equipment and material manufacturers and technology providers for research and development and technology validation. This facility will replace the facility that was previously used for the Auger Boring School.

It will be 46 by 46 m, with a state-of-the-art video screen and sound system. It will be dedicated to field training for undergraduate and graduate students, work force development and professional development.

The first use of BUIRT will be for the third five-day Auger Boring School on 12-16 November 2018. It is modelled after the school that Leo Barbera established when he owned American Augers.

The inauguration ceremony for the BUIRT Facility at LA Tech will be held on 13 November 2018, where Leo and Jim Barbera will be presented with TTC's first Lifetime Achievement Awards for their contributions to the trenchless industry for more than 50 years.

LIVING LAB

TTC has entered into an agreement with the City of Ruston Department of Public Works to establish a Living Lab that will permit the initial and long-term evaluation and validation of most technical solutions involved with UI challenges.

These programs are essential to allow the industry to advance to meet the ever increasing challenges of UI. This cannot be accomplished through our many wonderful professional and trade associations, our universities and research institutes, technology providers, consultants, UI owners, contractors, and so on. It requires industry leaders in every segment of the industry to

join together to embrace this paradigm shift.

TTC is still seeking sponsors for the construction of BUIRT, which will receive maximum recognition, publicity and visibility. Every donation, big or small, is tax deductible and important as TTC continues to lead the way to advancing the industry to meet the challenging demands of the future.

So far, TTC has achieved sponsorships for the BUIRT Facility totalling US\$170,000 of its US\$300,000 goal – including sponsors from US, China, Japan, and Colombia. There are five tiers of sponsorship available, ranging from US\$500 to US\$100,000 and above.

All sponsors will be recognised on the entrance monument of this world-class research and training facility. LA Tech is very excited about its UIC vision. Dr Les Guice, who was the department head of Civil Engineering in 1988 when he hired Dr Iseley and assisted with the establishment of TTC, is now the president of the university.

This commitment all the way to the top helps. Dr Iseley is serving as the chair of this coalition. We would like to invite industry organisations to visit TTC to see how this facility and the National Trenchless Technology Research Facility can be used to assist their mission.

For more information please contact Dr Iseley at dtiseley@latech.edu.

BAMI-I CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING IN ASSET MANAGEMENT (CTAM) 2018 TEXAS WORKSHOP

The Buried Asset Management Institute (BAMI) was established in the Department of Watershed Management (DWM) for the City of Atlanta in 2003 as a result of the leadership and inspiration of Mayor Shirley Franklin and DWM Commissioner Jack Ravan.

In 2004, BAMI transitioned to BAMI-International (BAMI-I). BAMI-I is a non-profit corporation whose main purpose

is to educate and assist those who have an interest in applying best buried asset management practices to extend the life and efficiency of their assets.

In 2006, BAMI-I was selected for US Environmental Protection Agency Cooperative Agreement (CP 83 282901-1), which was completed in 2008. As a result, BAMI-I launched the CTAM 100-400 program. It consists of four online courses plus a two-level certification program: Associate Water Asset Manager and Professional Water Asset Manager. So far, individuals from 16 countries have enrolled in the CTAM program.

BAMI-I President Dr Tom Iseley was invited to give a lecture on the CTAM program during the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) National Conference. This session was held on 26 April where experiences and tools utilised by expert asset managers were presented to harness the insights of the seasoned asset managers in the network towards the creation of a CTAM for small systems.

BAMI-I has teamed up with the Underground Construction Technology Association – North Texas to hold the third classroom format of CTAM workshop on 5-8 November 2018. The four-day workshop offers an exclusive four part series in asset management coursework for water infrastructure and certification. The workshop covers one course level per day.

Upon completion of the four courses, participants receive designation as an Associate Water Asset Manager and 30 hours of profession development hour credits. The workshop will be held at the Upper Trinity Regional Water District's Administration Building and Water Conservation Garden in Lewisville, Texas.

For more information please visit www.bami-i.com and contact Dr Iseley at dtiseley@latech.edu

TTC SUPPORTS MASTT

In summer 2016, Dr Tom Iseley established the exchange internship program with Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). In summer of 2018, TTC sent two students enrolled in Construction Engineering Technology (CET) from LA Tech to Hong Kong PolyU.

Students Reagan Futch and Samuel



A: The Barbo Facility in East Canton, Ohio. L-R: Saleh Behbahani, Jim Barbera, Dr Tom Iseley and Gabbo Ching.
B: Logan Clay Products' 8 inch (203 mm) No-Dig Pipe.

Kingsley Aggrey were originally from Louisiana. TTC also hosted two students – Gabbo Ching and Jeffrey Cheung – from PolyU. On 24 July, Mr Ching had the opportunity to attend the Mid Atlantic Society for Trenchless Technology (MASTT) seminar in Pittsburgh along with Dr Iseley and Saleh Behbahani, where they met with MASTT Executive Director Leonard Ingram.

Dr Iseley presented on two topics at the seminar, 'Overview of Trenchless Technology and NASTT Education Efforts' and 'BAMI-I and Certification of Training in Asset Management Program'.

On 25 July they visited the Barbo Facility in East Canton. Barbo is a worldwide

manufacturer of auger boring machines, directional drills, guided boring machines and advanced tunnelling equipment and has been the primary sponsor for the five-day TTC Auger Boring School.

They were also invited by Logan Clay Products Business Development Manager Steve Matheny to visit the plant in Logan, Ohio on 26 July. Logan makes one of the most durable sanitary sewer pipe available in the industry.

The benefits of the clay pipes is resistance to the kinds of corrosive compounds that can critically degrade other materials. Because it is inert, clay has a natural resistance to chemicals from hydrogen sulphide to solvents such as ammonia, acetone and turpentine. ❶