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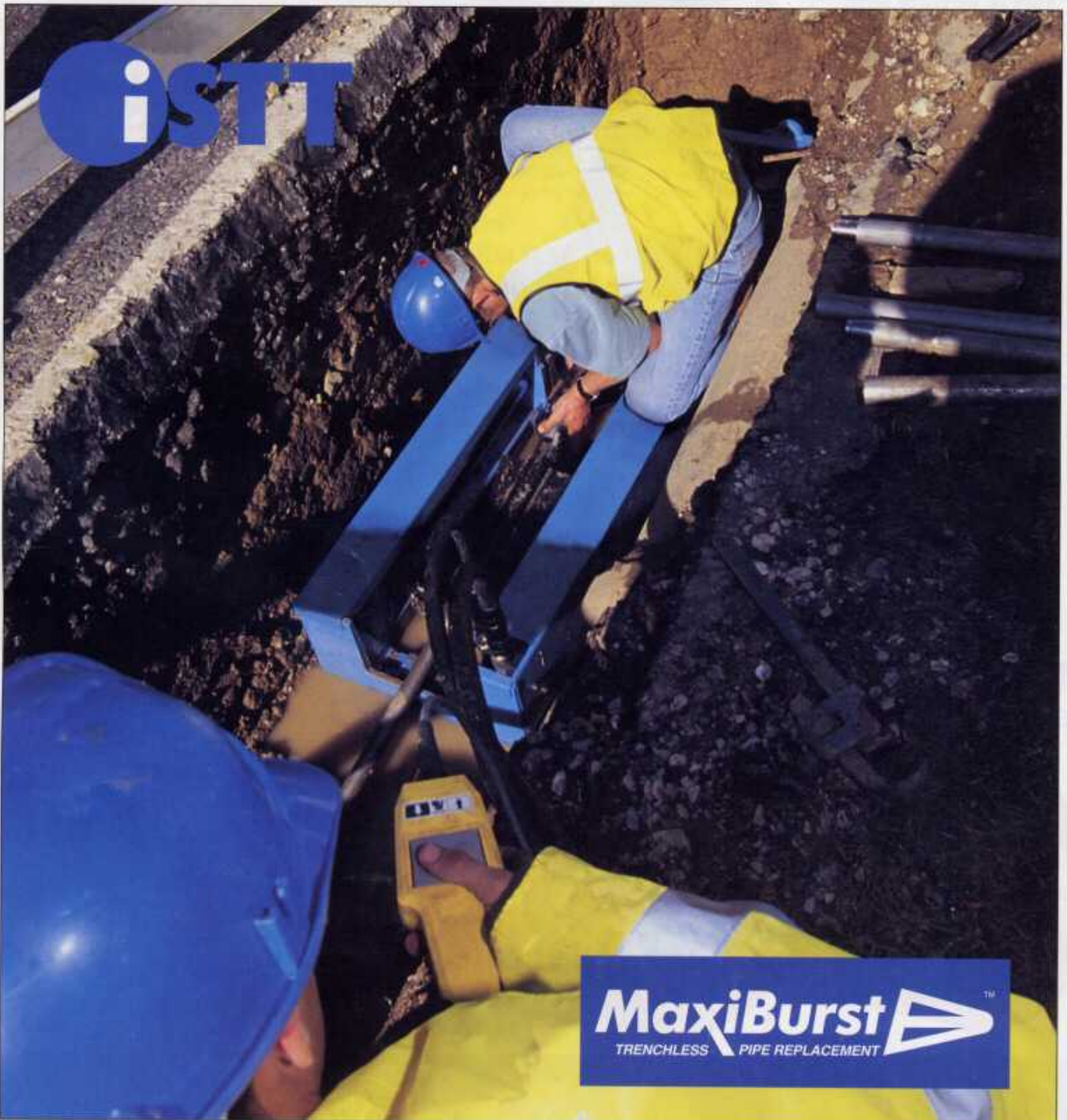
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EQUIPMENT UPDATE

CCTV ON CD

Most CCTV pipeline surveys are recorded on VHS tape using a standard VCR, enabling the client subsequently to view selected sections of the recording which show features or defects of particular interest. This is viable for small-scale surveys where the volume of data is relatively modest, but can be very unwieldy for major surveys involving many kilometres of pipeline and a seemingly equal length of video tape.

Waterflow Services Ltd, a company offering CCTV, pipeline cleaning and renovation services to clients throughout the U.K., is now able to solve this problem by transferring videotaped surveys to a writeable CD-ROM disc. This not only allows rapid access to any part of the survey without having to search through a long video tape, but also eliminates the deterioration of recordings which is inevitable with analogue media.

The process involves the compression of video (and, if required, audio) information in MPEG format, and the software is designed to provide high definition playback with no significant loss of quality compared with the original recording. The CD can be replayed on any computer fitted with a CD-ROM drive and either hardware or software for MPEG decoding. These facilities are standard on the majority of modern PCs. Since computers are commonplace in most offices, the availability of videos on CD also removes the need for clients to buy separate equipment for viewing VHS tapes.

At present, up to one hour's video recording can be digitised and transferred to a single CD, although Waterflow hopes to increase this to two or even three hours in the near future. The company is also working on a link to GIS systems, and also on an interface with CCTV data interrogation software.

Waterflow's service to transfer video information from VHS tape to CD-ROM applies to both new and existing surveys.

For details contact: Waterflow Services Ltd, 14-16 David Road, Poyle Trading Estate, Colnbrook SL3 0DG. Tel: (+44 1753) 810999, Fax 681442.

Circle RSC No. 201

SPECIALIST SOLUTIONS

Planned Maintenance (Pennine) Limited (PMP) has announced visual and 'hands on' demonstrations of the Amex-10-Seal joint



CCTV videos transferred to CD-ROM can be viewed by standard Windows software, as shown here.

demonstrations of the Amex-10-Seal joint repair and testing system, at Pipelines 98 being held at the NEC, Birmingham on 19-21 May 1998.

PMP is the sole U.K. agent for the Amex-10-Seal system which comprises a low profile rubber seal which is compressed against the internal surface of the pipe by hydraulically expanding stainless steel rings. The system provides a watertight seal in pipes of any material, and is capable of withstanding operating pressures of up to 20 bar.

Amex-10-Seal is suitable for pipes from 600 to 3,000 mm diameter, wherever internal access is possible. The standard length of the sealing tube is 260 mm, but lengths of up to 650 mm are available.

Over 40,000 Amex-10 installations are carried out worldwide per year. U.K. clients include North West Water, Yorkshire Water, Northumbrian Water, Thames Water, Severn Trent Water and South West Water and many local authorities and power companies. The system has also been developed by PMP to test individual joints pneumatically.

For details contact: PMP Ltd, Vine Grove Works, Commerce Street, Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 5JT, U.K. Tel: (+44 1706) 831522 Fax: 830372.

Circle RSC No. 202

VIKING JOHNSON LINERGRIP

Rehabilitation of old and decaying water mains with a thin wall polyethylene liner improves the water quality and flow, and also prevents further leakage from the main. Viking Johnson's LinerGrip is a flanged connection designed as a termination method for these relined systems. It provides a method of connecting to other flanged fittings such as valves, and also 'make up' the two pipe ends in an insertion pit.

Being a fabricated fitting, it can be produced to suit almost any configuration from 150 to over 1,000 mm. LinerGrip has

a built-in gripping arrangement that prevents the liner from retracting back into the host main. Straightforward installation methods require no specialist equipment other than a torque wrench.

For details contact: Viking Johnson, 46-48 Wilbury Way, Hitchin, Herts SG4 0UD, U.K. Tel: (+44 1462) 422622, Fax: 422072. E-mail: jackie.phillips@vikingjohnson.co.uk

Circle RSC No. 203

POWER PLASTICS SEWERS

Following the recent acquisition of Tuck Plastics, North Yorkshire manufacturer Power Plastics Ltd has begun to manufacture high quality, low cost sewer tubes at the company's Thirsk factory. The tubes are available in either light-weight or heavy-duty materials for the relining and rehabilitation market, and are available any length.

The former Managing Director of Tuck Plastics, Adrian Tuck, has joined Power Plastics, bringing with him over 25 years of manufacturing and sales experience in the plastics field.

For details contact: Power Plastics, Station Road, Thirsk YO7 1PZ, U.K. Tel: (+44 1845) 525503, Fax: 525485, E-mail: info@powerplastics.co.uk, Web page: www.powerplastics.co.uk

Circle RSC No. 204

DRY ROCK DRILLING

Powermole International Ltd has launched a directional drilling system that penetrates rock without using drilling fluids. Most rock drilling systems use mud motors with bentonite for lubrication. The lubricant has to be removed and recycled or dumped, and this may result in contamination of the surrounding soil and water systems.

Powermole's dry rock directional drilling system uses high-powered compressed air with a small additive to drive both thrust and pullback actions, as well as rotation and percussion at the drill head. The system also incorporates advanced electronics, protected by shock absorbers, to control depth, tool inclination and orientation.

The drill bit will penetrate most soil types, and the pneumatic system automatically activates when contact is made with rock, allowing the drilling process to continue at high speed and efficiency. During the drilling process, the air removes all debris, leaving a clean hole.

The new machines are available in various sizes, from the PM250CB pit-launched model up to the PM903 with 26 t of pull-

back, capable of drilling up to 400 mm diameter in shale and 250 mm in rock.

The new technology has recently been successfully deployed at two urban sites in Italy. Some 400 m of fibre optic cabling was installed across the city of Celle Ligure on the Aurelia motorway, where official permits and hard rock made it impossible to use an open trench. In a heavily congested part of old Naples, directional drilling for a 3x50 mm cable pack had to pass beneath ancient walls and storage cellars with minimal disruption.

For details contact: Powermole International Ltd, 35 Church Road Business Centre, Church Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3RS, U.K. Tel: (+44 1795) 425425, Fax: 477177.

Circle RSC No. 205

THREE HOURS OF VIDEO ON CD

Amtec Surveying is offering an inexpensive service to transfer CCTV videos from tape to CD-ROM. The company can encode up to three hours of full-frame colour video onto a single disk, equivalent to about 30 km of survey, and the service applies to both new and existing tapes.

Powermole's new dry rock directional drilling system in action.



In addition to reducing the size of the media required for data storage, the use of digitised CD-ROMs allows instant access to any part of the survey, without the need for expensive hardware or software.

The video data is encoded in MPEG format, an international industry standard for digitised videos which can be viewed using the multi-media software supplied with almost all modern computers. Amtec also supplies, free of charge, a specially written viewer which can be accessed by most GIS systems and by existing CCTV data interrogation software such as Amtec's Examiner package. The viewer has an built-in 'go to' function, and a summary report is supplied which details the position of each survey

on the CD-ROM, allowing the system to be used independently of any other software.

Amtec has already transferred over 3/4 million metres of CCTV survey from VHS tape to CD-ROM, equating to over 1300 videos. Customers include several U.K. water companies who have benefited from greatly improved access to survey data and reduced bulk of storage media.

For details contact: Amtec Surveying Ltd, Cobnar Wood Close, Sheepbridge Industrial Estate, Chesterfield S41 9RQ, U.K. Tel: (+44 1246) 260603, Fax: 260599, E-mail: help@amtec.demon.co.uk

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