



# Trenchless Technology Center *Newsletter*

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## Ray Sterling Retires as TTC Director



Ray Sterling

After serving 14 years as the director of the Trenchless Technology Center and as the Contractors' Educational Trust Fund Professor of Civil Engineering at Louisiana Tech University, Ray Sterling retired in May.

He has been awarded Professor Emeritus status by Louisiana Tech University and also will retain a part-time research professor appointment to continue work on various research projects for the TTC.

He and his wife Janet will return to Minnesota where their four

children live and where he lived for approximately 24 years before coming to Louisiana. Sterling said of his time at the TTC: "It has been an extremely rewarding experience to be a part of the growth of the trenchless technology industry. The opportunity to work with many of the most successful

companies in the industry, to be involved in key research activities and technology developments and to participate in societies and programs that develop and share technical information on trenchless technology has been a great experience. The center's work and the efforts of all the other researchers and organizations in the United States and around the world help to create the technical confidence necessary to effectively use trenchless methods."

The Industry Advisory Board for the TTC voted at its March meeting to make Sterling an honorary member of the TTC Industry Advisory Board.

Ray was also honored twice at the recent conference of the International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT) held in Toronto from March 29 to April 2, 2009. Firstly, he received the 2009 Chairman's Award for Outstanding Lifetime Service from the North American Society for Trenchless Technology and then was further honored by the international society with its Gold Medal award. The ISTT Gold Medal is awarded to individuals for outstanding and exceptional contributions in the field of trenchless technology and this was only the fifth time in the 23-year history of the Society that it had awarded the Gold Medal.

## Rob McKim Rejoins the TTC and Louisiana Tech

Dr. Robert McKim will rejoin Louisiana Tech University in September 2009 and will serve as the administrative director of the TTC, as well as the Contractors' Educational Trust Fund Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering.

As TTC administrative director, Rob will be responsible in general for the Industrial Advisory Board, municipal forums, administrative staff, representing TTC to university/professional/outreach constituents and monitoring/approving discretionary operating budget to staff and to the university.

Rob has a long history of involvement in the trenchless technology industry having served as the founding director of the Centre for Advancement for Trenchless Technology (CATT) at the University of Waterloo before coming to



Rob McKim

Louisiana Tech University between 1998 and 2001 and serving as the associate director of the TTC. Since leaving Louisiana Tech in 2001, Rob spent has spent seven years in consulting on trenchless technology first with Parsons Brinckerhoff and currently with CH2M HILL.

McKim says, "I am looking forward immensely to rejoining academia and becoming involved again with the TTC. The center has grown significantly in the last eight years and I look forward to working closely with Dr. Erez Allouche as the new TTC technical director. He has done so much to help develop the TTC's research activities over the past several years. The center has a great technical staff, a wide range of faculty expertise to draw on and fantastic industry support. This is a great base on which to build and I look forward to helping to continue its growth."

## Erez Allouche to Lead the Technology Development Activities at the TTC

In combination with Ray Sterling's departure and Rob McKim's arrival, the University is recognizing the special talents and enormous productivity of Dr. Erez Allouche as the leading TTC research faculty member and current Associate



Erez Allouche

### Director of the TTC.

Erez will become the technical director of the TTC, with responsibility for direction and achievement in research and development and educational programs, for the technical and engineering staff, for the National Trenchless Technology Research Facility (safety, appearance, function, growth), and for relevant portions of the discretionary operating budget. Allouche has been the principal or co-principal investigator on more than 60 awards, totaling \$7.8 million over the past nine years.

His most recent award was for the TTC to partner with CUES Inc. on a \$3.2 million award to develop a radar-based pipe condition assessment technology funded by the National

Institute for Standards and Technology. "The TTC has worked hard to develop its reputation and potential ever since its formation but, in just the past few years, Dr. Allouche has shown the ability and the drive to make the TTC a key source of technology innovation for the trenchless industry and a key resource for municipalities in terms of evaluating trenchless methods, says Sterling. "With both Dr. McKim and Dr. Allouche driving the center's research, education and technology transfer programs, the center has a great future."

## TTC Works on EPA Water & Wastewater Project

The Trenchless Technology Center is working for Battelle in cooperation with Jason Consultants and Virginia Tech University on an EPA-funded project Rehabilitation of Wastewater Collection and Water Distribution Systems (Contract No. EP-C-05-057 - Task Order 58). This three-year project began in December 2007 and is designed to perform a comprehensive review and evaluation of existing and emerging rehabilitation/repair technologies, and select and prepare them for controlled-condition testing and field demonstration. The overall objectives of the project are to:

- Identify and characterize the current state-of-the-technology at the global level, including critical data and capability gaps, for the rehabilitation of drinking water distribution and wastewater collection systems.
- Prepare protocols, metrics, and site selection criteria and selection of rehabilitation technologies and decision-support systems for subsequent controlled-condition and field testing of innovative rehabilitation technologies and decision-support systems.
- Demonstrate at least two rehabilitation technologies at selected utilities to gather technically reliable cost and performance data.
- Develop and test sample protocols for the quantitative retrospective evaluation of previously installed rehabilitation technologies.

A white paper describing the circumstances affecting technology development for water and wastewater rehabilitation was completed in August 2008 in preparation for discussion at an international technology forum held in Edison, N.J., in September 2008. The forum presentations and discussions helped to provide input to the project direction, identify additional technologies that would be suitable for demonstration under the program, and provide feedback on the white paper conclusions. A key result of the international forum was the reinforcement of the need for a quantitative, retrospective evaluation of the condition and performance of rehabilitation systems that have been in place in North America now for 10, 20 or more years. The development and testing of protocols for such evaluations has recently been added to the project scope. It is expected that such efforts would help to determine the remaining service life expected from rehabilitation work and provide much needed data for use in life-cycle asset management programs that assess the value of rehabilitation vs. full replacement. The final white paper incorporates the forum and stakeholder panel feedback and is currently in the EPA review process prior to publication later this year.

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June 2009

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The TTC Newsletter is published as a department within *Trenchless Technology*. All newsletter materials are prepared by TTC. Communications should be directed to the center.