

British Drilling Association

Founded 1976

NEWSLETTER

Committed to Excellence in Health & Safety, Quality of Workmanship and Technical Standards for the Benefit of the Drilling Industry and its Clients

February, 2010

Secretary's Column

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2010 and I hope this new year will bring greater prosperity to members after what was a very difficult 12 months in 2009. As we go to press, official figures have been released showing that the economy had 0.1% growth during the final three months of 2009. Technically this marks the end of the official 18-month recession. However most commentators have refrained from rejoicing and warn that it's still very unsettled times.

In all the prevailing gloom it was encouraging for me to hear brighter news at a GSHPA (Ground Source Heat Pump Association) Research Seminar that I attended recently. It was said that government carbon saving forecasts suggest that heat pumps will rise to a total of 450,000 installed by 2020. This from an estimated current total of 10,000. Even though the figure includes air source and probably won't be met in full, it nevertheless points to massive growth over the period. It's an important market for drilling and the BDA works closely with GSHPA to ensure that the right standards are in place for ground heat exchanger installations and the associated drilling. The opportunities are so great that it's essential that our experienced drilling industry provides sufficient skilled capacity and leads on safety, quality, qualifications & training.

(see page 4 for more news on GSHPs)

**All thoughts are welcome, call:
Brian Stringer
01327 264622**

Email: brian@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

GeoDrilling 2010

13th to 14th April 2010 @ East of England Showground

Following previous GeoDrilling shows in 2005, 2006 and 2008, the industry awaits this year's show at Peterborough with growing anticipation. The BDA is a continual supporter and contributor to the event. It looks forward to as many members as possible exhibiting and attending.

Those who have been to previous GeoDrilling shows will know the format and the value of attending. There's the opportunity in the exhibition areas, both indoor and outdoor, to view and discuss the rigs, products and services from our industry. Not to be missed is the free conference comprised of focused sessions with speakers who are experts in their field. That all important opportunity to network, develop new contacts, meet clients, do business, see old friends and catch up on all the latest developments is a huge part of the show.

Details of the show and conference are in the Geodrilling magazine and can be viewed on the internet - www.geodrillingshow.co.uk through which you can register to attend. Prior registration is strongly recommended to avoid any delays in entering the show.

We would like every BDA member to spread the word about GeoDrilling 2010 to their colleagues and contacts. It's important that anyone in or associated with drilling hears about the event, considers attending and hopefully joins with us all in April.

Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme

Opportunity still remains to register suitable employees on the BDA Land Drilling Apprenticeship Scheme which attracts funding from ConstructionSkills for eligible companies.

Have you an employee that is showing promise to become a Lead Driller? Age doesn't matter.

Do you want that employee to have the best training available in the industry over a 2-year period and achieve his NVQ Land Drilling?

If the answer to both questions is yes then we'd like to hear from you. The Apprenticeship Scheme can hugely benefit your company and that employee as many have already found. Choose the modern way forward to train tomorrow's Lead Drillers on everything they should know. To discuss please contact Brian Stringer, the BDA Secretary who can provide all the details

MEMBERSHIP

Change of Address

Geotron UK Ltd

From 4 January it has moved to new premises and has new telephone and fax lines.

**Unit 201B
Warmco Industry Park
Eastgate
Manchester Road
Mossley
OL5 9AY**

tel: 01457 833910
fax: 01457 833920

email: info@geotronuk.co.uk
web: www.geotronuk.co.uk

Change of Name & Address

Keller Geotechnique

This new name reflects the merger of Keller Geotechnical and Systems Geotechnique which no longer exist.

Keller Geotechnique main office is a new address.

**G/F 108 Mere Grange
Leaside Road
St Helens
Merseyside
WA9 5GG**

tel: 01744 818009
fax: 01744 818060

email: enquiries@sysgeo.co.uk
web: keller-geotechnique.co.uk

Membership Renewals 2010

Renewal invoices for 2010 BDA membership were posted to members in January. We'd appreciate early attention to these in order to ensure that the work of the Association is not held back by delayed payment.

We thank those members who've paid immediately. They have now received their 2010 membership certificate.

We've asked for members to advise us of their own email address. This in order that we'll be able to send BDA information and the NSCC Newline direct to their in box. The email addresses are for BDA use only.

Dates for Your Diary

GEODRILLING 2010

Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th
April 2010
@

East of England Showground
Peterborough

BDA AGM

Wednesday 19th May 2010
Venue to be advised.

We will not be holding a combined AGM / Seminar this year due to the proximity of Geodrilling 2010.

BDA GOLF DAY

Friday 3rd September
@

Woodsome Hall Golf Club
Huddersfield

BDA DINNER DANCE

To be arranged.

We'll be looking for a Midlands location, possibly Birmingham

BDA AUDIT INFORMATION

BDA Audit is the successor to BDA Drilling Accreditation and differs from the former scheme in that all audited operatives possess an NVQ, level 2, in Land Drilling and valid CSCS card in Land Drilling. It's open to Lead Drillers / Drillers and any drilling discipline.

It's becoming a necessity. Clients will be specifying it in order to conform to Eurocode & British Standards (BS EN ISO 22475-3 which is being published shortly and Amendment 2 of BS 5930 which is being prepared) and also the revised SIG (Site Investigation Steering Group) documents.

Don't get left behind in not being able to satisfy tender requirements. Apply for details now to the BDA office and get ahead of the crowd.

NVQ LAND DRILLING

In recent years the Learning Skills Council (LSC), a government body, has been able to provide money so that NVQ level 2 assessment could be given free. This source of funding has effectively dried up and LSC is being broken up into two other organisations this April.

CITB grant for NVQ achievement to eligible levy payers has also been reduced.

The days of free NVQs is being rapidly brought to an end. It may be possible to obtain assistance in some localised areas but with difficulty.

The advice to BDA members is that you make enquiry now on NVQ Land Drilling to establish the latest position. As we've consistently said it's a qualification needed by all drilling operatives. The longer it's left to obtain will inevitably incur higher cost.

BDA on the WEB

*Our new fully updated website will be re-launched very shortly.
It's been a long time coming but we hope you like it.*

www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

BDA wins ConstructionSkills Grant for Land Drilling - Sector Accreditation Scheme

A contract was signed between the BDA and ConstructionSkills in January by which the BDA will develop a Land Drilling Sector Accreditation Scheme for the industry. ConstructionSkills are helping with grant funding towards the project costs. The BDA's successful grant application is a reflection of ConstructionSkills confidence and support towards our specialist sector.

ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for Construction, has awarded a grant to the BDA to develop a Land Drilling Sector Accreditation Scheme (LD-SAS) which will result in Company accreditation awards by UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service). The project will take place during 2010.

LD-SAS AIMS

LD-SAS is aimed at raising the standard in the industry by focussing on the sustainability, lean management thinking, health and safety, personal staff development, customer satisfaction and continuous improvement of the companies carrying out drilling operations. The scheme will be designed to inspect for competence within companies and enable them to develop management capabilities and procedures thereby raising standards, performance, quality and profitability. This will require lean system thinking and techniques to be part of the company culture thus enabling sustainability, innovation, training and continuous improvement to be the norm within the enterprise. The whole sector in turn will benefit as will the construction industry at large.

LD-SAS will be fully in alignment with the objectives of the Latham report (1994) and Egan report (1998) with regard to making companies engage in continuous improvement, add customer value and become more sustainable / profitable companies. Clients benefit by having a sector specific accreditation scheme to which they can refer in pre-qualifying.

WHY LD-SAS IS REQUIRED

The need for LD-SAS is apparent in the drilling sector which comprises many small/medium enterprises (SMEs) not having access to modern management techniques and little awareness of reasons and the methods for improving and developing. The introduction of new European Standards (Eurocode) and increasing regulatory requirements e.g. Construction Design Management Regulations (CDM 2007) means that there is a need for focussed awareness and action in the sector. Environment, carbon saving and waste are just some of the issues that will increasingly emerge as we go forward and need to be dealt with.

LD-SAS AS PART OF BDA PROGRAMME

This may seem high strategy stuff but the project is a key extension and natural progression of the overall programme that the BDA has been engaged in for the past 10 years to bring more professionalism into the sector, improve its competencies, lift recognition and uptake of training & qualifications, and bring about business culture change to match the expectations of clients and the demands of legislation. A major role for the BDA is to anticipate what's coming, develop the solutions and thereby provide its members with the tools to avoid problems. Without NVQ Land Drilling, a route to CSCS and BDA Audit the industry would be deprived today of satisfying client and regulatory requirements. It's essential to keep one step ahead.

CLIENT AND CONTRACTOR TO BENEFIT FROM LD-SAS

Clients of drilling services and associated activity have to assess a contractor's competence to carry out the works if they want a safe, quality and proficient outcome. Under CDM 2007 (Construction Design & Management Regulations) there's a legal requirement to check the competence of a workforce particularly safety. Many other things need to be known about a prospective contractor and hence we have a plethora of pre-qualification questionnaires to try and sort out the wheat from the chaff. Unfortunately, even after pre-qualification, many clients without experience of drilling cannot know with confidence that the prospective contractor is fully capable. What's needed is third party company accreditation carried out by knowledgeable auditors that they can rely on.

Contractors in turn wish to compete on a level playing field. They need to know that everyone bidding for a contract comes up to scratch technically; has the right plant and people; observes all relevant standards & legal obligations, and does quality work. The groans and disbelief from unsuccessful bidders that accompany the award of a contract to a known cowboy contractor have to be eliminated. Everybody has a right to compete provided they don't compromise on essential elements.

LD-SAS DEVELOPMENT

The BDA's application for ConstructionSkills grant combined with UKAS requirement is that all sides of the industry will work together in producing LD-SAS. A Technical Committee will be formed comprised of clients, representative organisations and agencies. Highways Agency is a major promoter of UKAS sector schemes and will be involved. The BDA will have major input in providing the secretariat, consultancy, representation and funding supplied by ConstructionSkills. All parties on the Technical Committee will move forward together in agreeing the scheme and signing up to its implementation. UKAS will adopt the scheme and appoint Certifying Bodies who meet their requirements to carry out the auditing of companies and award of UKAS accreditation. These Certifying Bodies will be strictly limited to those who have intimate knowledge of the drilling sector and its standards. The BDA anticipates and is preparing to become a Certifying Body to match UKAS requirement. More details will be available as the project develops. LD-SAS is more than a vision. It's happening and will be very significant in years to come thanks to ConstructionSkills funding.

SISG

The SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) suite of documents last published in 1993 has been undergoing revision for some years. Now there's real hope that we'll finally see their republication in 2010.

The SISG documents of which the most used is Part 3, "the Yellow Book", which contains specifications, schedules and bills of quantities, was published by Thomas Telford in 1993. Part 4, "Safe investigation by drilling of landfills and contaminated land", and principally written by the BDA, established the green, yellow and red site classifications.

A very slow process of revision and updating to the original documents has been taking place for the past few years. Now there's an acceleration to finish off the process which the BDA gladly welcomes and in which it is much involved.

Final revision drafts of the former Parts 3 and 4 (to be renamed respectively "UK specification for ground investigation" and "A guide to safe site investigation") have been recently submitted by AGS and BDA respectively to the SISG Committee for approval.

The former Part 2 (to be renamed "Effective site investigation") still needs more revision. The BDA is currently giving its assistance to this process to ensure that there are no further hold ups in the republication of the whole SISG series.

The combination of a republished SISG; Eurocode and associated Standards (particularly 22475, all parts); amendment to BS 5930; significant parts of current UK legislation and development of LD-SAS (see page 3) is the foundation stone of the future of the site and ground investigation industry. It provides the opportunity for that industry to build on, and increase its true worth to the construction process over the next few years.

Ground Source Heat Pumps - EA Report

The Environment Agency (EA) has published a report saying that heat from below the ground could produce a third of the UK's renewable heat by 2020.

EA's report issued in January "Ground source heating and cooling pumps: state of play and future trends" was commissioned to assess the role that ground source heat pumps could play in meeting the UK's renewable energy targets.

Tony Grayling, head of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at the EA said: "Ground source heating is a rapidly growing technology that has the potential to produce at least 30% of the country's renewable heat needs, but it needs financial support to grow. We would like to see this technology given adequate financial support through the new renewable heat incentive (RHI) to meet its full potential in the UK".

The 80 page report found that there are 8000 units installed in the UK but the market is growing rapidly. In the report's 'growth' scenario there could be 320,000 GSHPs installed by 2020 - 1% of homes and 11% of commercial buildings. In the report's 'high growth' scenario up to 1,200,000 could be installed although this represents the extreme end of what could be possible.

To have a body as the Environment Agency issue this effective endorsement for GSHPs and estimate its huge potential is highly significant. EA does point out high growth needs sufficient government support. EA views the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), under which homeowners and businesses will be guaranteed a price for generating renewable heat, as a key factor in this respect.

The report is essential reading and can be downloaded at:
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/114130.aspx

NEW PUBLICATION Contaminated Land**Guidance for Safe Intrusive Activities on Contaminated or Potentially Contaminated Land**

This new document is a complete revision of the BDA "Guidance Notes for the Safe Drilling of Landfills & Contaminated Land" published in 1992. The original document became famous for introducing site categorisation - green, yellow and red - and went on to being republished by Thomas Telford as SISG Part 4.

The new document comprises 52 pages and is in A4 booklet format.

It is essential reading for all who have to specify or carry out intrusive activity on contaminated land and features much on CDM 2007 and how to decide as to the site categorisation.

The document is available from the BDA Office @ £20 + £1.50 post & packing for BDA members. Telephone 01327 264622, fax 01327 264623, email office@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

You may also like to order the Guidance for the Safe Operation of Cable Percussion Rigs and Equipment at the same price which was published in 2005 or its sister document on Dynamic Sampling published in 2007.

AND FINALLY

The drilling industry (let's be honest) has been knocked back in the last 12 months particularly. We've seen some rare good times but have been accustomed to returning to reduced rates, low profitability and competing hard.

Demand for drilling works we can't control. But we can limit the supply by being harder on what it takes to conform to all relevant legislation, standards and professional competencies. Can we?

Brian Stringer

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