

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, 2011

Secretary's Column

This being the first BDA Newsletter of 2011, I wish you a very Happy New Year. Let's hope it's a good one for all BDA members and the industry.

For those associated with drilling for ground source heat pump installations, 2011 is the year that promises to be the start of substantial growth for this technology. The government in its October 2010 Spending Review announced that the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) would go ahead in 2011. Some £850 million is committed to RHI to drive a more than tenfold increase of renewable heat over the decade. Turn to page 3 for a complete update of what's happening.

Elsewhere in drilling there remains uncertainty for what the year will produce. The ground investigation sector awaits an increase in client confidence to proceed with projects particularly in the private sector. The ground improvement sector, which also had a tough 2010, is similarly engaged in riding what is a much reduced workload.

Work is about whatever the sector but it's being fiercely competed for, and even when won it's a wait for a start date. All is not gloom and doom however. Cash flow is set to improve on public financed contracts with the adoption of 'fair payment' by the government.

All thoughts are welcome, call:
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NEW BRITISH GEOTECHNICAL STANDARDS Qualification Criteria & Conformity Assessment

In January BSI published two new British Standards that require enterprises and personnel performing sampling and groundwater measurement services to meet certain qualifications and undergo conformity assessment.

The two new Standards are:

BS 22475-2:2011 Geotechnical investigation and testing - Sampling methods and groundwater measurements - Part 2: Qualification criteria for enterprises and personnel

BS 22475-3:2011 Geotechnical investigation and testing - Sampling methods and groundwater measurements - Part 3: Conformity assessment of enterprises and personnel by third party

The European technical specifications DD CEN ISO/TS 22475-2:2006 and 22475-3:2007 (which were not mandatory) have been withdrawn in UK and replaced by these mandatory BS Standards.

Both BS 22475-2 and 22475-3 have been drafted for use in the UK. They derive their origin from the European TSs but differ in detail from the latter. The thrust of both is that enterprises and personnel carrying out work under BS EN ISO 22475-1 (which is part of Eurocode and specifies technical principles for sampling and groundwater measurements) shall meet specific requirements and be assessed that they meet the requirements.

In particular BS 22475-2 states in clause 4.2.2.2 that 'all boring and drilling operatives, to include Lead Drillers and Drillers (Drilling Support Operatives) ... shall hold an NVQ in Land Drilling and hold a valid and current audit card of competence ... as issued by the British Drilling Association Ltd or an equivalent body in a State of the European Union'. The clause and the whole of the Standards should be consulted for full detail.

BS 22475-3 requires that enterprises and personnel meet the technical qualification criteria of BS 22475-2 by undergoing conformity assessment. For enterprises the example of conformity assessment that is given is UKAS Land Drilling Sector Accreditation Scheme 24A for Ground Investigation (which was put together by a Sector Advisory Committee, assisted by BDA, in late 2010).

GEODRILLING SHOW

Be there on June 7th - 8th 2011

Find out more on www.geodrilling-show.co.uk

BDA MEMBERSHIP

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to the BDA and look forward to being of assistance to them.

Forkers Scotland Ltd

Soil Nailing, Anchoring, Slope Stabilisation, Mineworkings & Mineshaft Treatment, Site Investigation

Registered Member

Greg Bradley Director

**2 Nairn Road
Deans
Livingston
West Lothian
EH54 8AY**

Tel: 01506 466500
Fax: 01506 466501

email: scotland@forkers.com
web: www.forkers.com

Geo-Drill Ltd

Rotary Coring, Geothermal Drilling & Installation, Cable Percussive Drilling, Dynamic Sampling

Registered Member

Paul Turnbull Managing Director

Sponsored Member

Karl Blanke Contracts Manager

**Unit 24
Greencroft Industrial Estate
Tower Road
Annfield Plain
Co. Durham
DH9 7XP**

Tel: 01207 521623
Fax: 01207 521623

email: paul.turnbull@geodrill-ltd.co.uk
karl.blanke@geodrill-ltd.co.uk

web: www.geodrill-ltd.co.uk

Change of Address

H.J. Banks

Elizabeth Shaw, Senior Geologist, can now be contacted at:

**Banks Group
Inkerman House
St John's Road
Meadowfield
Durham
DH7 8XL**

Tel: 0844 209 1515
Fax: 0844 209 1565

Van Elle Ltd - Northern Division

This has moved from Springwell to a new location at:

**Teal House
10 Teal Farm Way
Pattinson
Washington
Tyne & Wear
NE38 8BG**

Tel: 0191 417 8332
Fax: 0191 417 8334

The new office will serve as a temporary location while a new purpose built office and workshop is developed to expand operations in the area and beyond.

Member Benefits

We're carrying out a review of the benefits provided to members. If you have any suggestions of further benefits that you'd like to see then please contact us with your ideas. We'd like to hear from you.

BDA WEBSITE

www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

Since the launch of the new website in November 2010, we have received welcome compliments about its appearance, content and ease of use. The site is receiving in excess of 130 hits a day and this is continually increasing. We are still in the process of developing more content and features so keep watching for changes.

Are your membership details correct?

Please check the site to ensure that your company title, address and contact numbers are correct. Please advise us of any changes required.

Members Activities

Each Corporate member will have received a fax-back sheet with their January membership renewal invoice. This needs returning to advise us of your company activities for uploading to the BDA website. Please return it as soon as possible. If the sheet has been mislaid then please ask our office for a duplicate copy.

Your Website Link

On the fax-back sheet (see above) we offered the opportunity of a link to your own website to appear with your membership listing. Many members have already subscribed to this. Shortly we'll also be offering the addition of your company logo as part of this service. Contact our office for further details.

BDA Website Advertising

Coming shortly will be the facility for members to advertise on the BDA Website. Full details will be sent to members at the end of February. It will be first come first served. If you want to register your interest now then please contact us.

BDA on the WEB

*Our new website is finally here.
It's been a long time coming but we hope you like it.*

www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk

'GEOHERMAL' HEAT NEWS

The term 'geothermal' is more rightly used to describe heat that is derived from deep in the Earth. The planet has a hot core and heat is transferred towards the surface. Visible evidence of this is volcanic activity. True geothermal heat is accessed at depth, more than 1km. In UK there is only one true geothermal heat production taking place at Southampton (a borehole extracting water at 76 degree centigrade from 1800m). This will be joined by a project in Cornwall near Redruth about to start drilling to over 4km by Geothermal Engineering Ltd.

Almost all of what we commonly refer to in UK as 'geothermal drilling' is shallow depth (less than 200m) and to extract stored solar heat. The near surface is warmed by the sun and has a constant temperature across the country between 9 and up to 15 degree centigrade. More correctly we should refer to this as 'ground source heat' drilling.

Government, its agencies and the ground source heat sector refer to Ground Source Heat Pumps, the means by which heat is extracted from thermal fluid circulating through pipes in the ground (closed loop) or heat extracted from pumped groundwater (open loop). The BDA works closely with the Ground Source Heat Pump Association (GSHPA) to ensure that drilling, being a major component of successful installations, is performed safely; to correct standards, and by competent & qualified personnel.

During and from 2011 the amount of 'geothermal' or 'ground source heat' drilling will significantly increase. Expansion of the market will be stimulated by the arrival of the government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) to shift renewable heat from a fringe industry firmly into the mainstream. 1% of the UK's heat is currently from renewable sources. By 2020 the target is 12%, more than a ten fold increase and in less than a decade. The renewable heat technologies including biomass, air source heat pumps, solar thermal and ground source heat pumps will all benefit - all are currently slugging it out to gain the maximum advantage from RHI while the details are being formulated.

DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change), with £850m at its disposal for RHI, is conscious that this amount could go quickly and be frittered away on less effective technologies. It's also conscious that installations will have to be to appropriate standards, designed and performed by competent firms with high skills. Various activities are going on to ensure that ground source heat pump installation will be a quality industry.

Renewable Heat Incentive

The RHI scheme will make payments to those installing renewable heat technologies that qualify for support, year on year, for a fixed period of time. Similar to the Feed in Tariff (FIT) for renewable electricity generation, which is already operating, the RHI will effectively reduce the payback period for installations therefore making renewable heat more financially attractive.

Government confirmed in October 2010 that RHI will go ahead in 2011 but is yet to announce the level of RHI tariffs and the technologies supported. It wants to ensure that the £850m committed to RHI is spent effectively. Much work is going on behind the scenes to bolster the chances of ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) emerging favourably when the RHI details are published. BDA understands that GSHPs will be one of the supported technologies but its tariff level will be all important. A recent (partially disputed) report from Energy Saving Trust (EST) on field trials has muddied the waters regarding GSHP systems but it is hoped that this will not affect their RHI standing.

GSHPA Standards

BDA sits on the Council of The Ground Source Heat Pump Association (GSHPA). For some time GSHPA has been preparing 'Closed Loop Vertical Borehole - Design, Installation & Material Standards'. The draft standards are now out for consultation until March 7th and the BDA will be submitting its comments to aid the review process. Publication of the final standards should be late March.

The standards are the first to be developed within the UK for borehole ground heat exchangers (GHEs). Much emphasis is put on the competencies required of those who design and construct GHEs including those who carry out the drilling. Such topics as appropriate desk studies; detailed GHE design; thermal response testing; pipe and jointing specifications; pipe installation and grouting; loop purging & pressure testing, and thermal transfer fluids are covered in depth.

The standards are much needed to ensure there is adequate and appropriate reference by which competence and quality can be judged.

Environment Agency GSHC Guidance

The Environment Agency (EA) in February will have published on its website (environment-agency.gov.uk) a draft of 'Environmental good practice guide for ground source heating and cooling schemes'. The draft guide is for designers, developers, installers, drillers and owners of schemes. It sets out what needs to be done to comply with environmental legislation and manage environmental risk.

GSHPA and BDA were involved with commenting on the draft prior to publication. EA are looking for feedback to produce a second version of the guidance in time for the launch of RHI.

EA do not regulate all types of ground source heating and cooling (GSHC) systems but this guidance covers both open and closed systems. Without doubt the guidance will be extremely important in a legal sense should compliance with its best practice recommendations not be followed.

BDA members involved with any aspect of ground source heat should consult the guidance.

FAIR PAYMENT Central Government Contracts

Government has announced that payment within 30 days down to Tier 3 of the supply chain will be a contractual requirement on central Government construction contracts. From December 2010 there will be a common assessment or valuation date for Tier 1, 2 and 3 contractors with Tier 1 paid within 14 calendar days, Tier 2 within 19 days and Tier 3 in 23 days.

An information note has been issued by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) to all central Government departments and clauses have been prepared for NEC contracts with similar guidance to be prepared for JCT and PPC2000 forms. The OGC has also launched a Supplier Feedback Service for suppliers to raise concerns about late payment.

Minister for business and enterprise, Mark Prisk, confirmed that the decision to implement 30-day payment periods had come as a result of listening to the NSCC (National Specialist Contractors Council) Fair Payment Campaign. BDA is an active member of NSCC and welcomes this first step in securing secure and fast payments. It is hoped that government agencies, local government and the private sector will follow this lead eventually.

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 22475-2 & -3 (see page 1) and Amendment 2 of BS 5930 - and also the revised SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) documents.

Please note that the BDA Driller Accreditation Scheme was wound up in 2005. Those who belonged to it should no longer be claiming that they are currently BDA Accredited. This would be an act of misrepresentation and the Association retains the right to take action should evidence reach it of this taking place.

BDA Audit is the only accreditation now issued for drilling operatives. 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.

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.

NSCC - No Retention Policy

NSCC (National Specialist Contractors Council), of which the BDA is a member, announced on 1st January its 'No Retention' policy:

"NSCC believes that the withholding of retention is an outdated practice which is unnecessary in the modern construction industry.

The best guarantee of quality lies in the choice of a competent and qualified supply chain and NSCC Specialist Contractors are committed to seeking to attain the highest applicable standards in health and safety, training and technical performance.

NSCC recommends that, whilst its Specialist Contractors are free to negotiate their own respective contractual terms, they do not accept cash retentions."

NSCC will be providing further guidance and support on which we'll report.

AND FINALLY

Three things for BDA members to be actioning:-

1. Let us know of your activities for publishing on the website
2. Please send your membership renewal payment as soon as possible
3. Consider supporting Geodrilling Show 2011 this June 7th - 8th

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