

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

Sept, 2011

Secretary's Column

It's still a struggle for many within the drilling industry as the hard trading conditions continue. Crumbs of comfort are seemingly few and far between. As a member said to me recently, who's experienced several downturns over his long career, the way back previously has invariably been signposted by growth in the public sector. This time round, he said, we're going to have to wait for the private sector to get moving.

One effect of the current construction recession is that training demand has dropped off the end of a cliff. ConstructionSkills, the sector skills organisation, has noticed this particularly with far less uptake of its training grants. The reduced uptake is not fully explained by the reduction in number of employers registered with ConstructionSkills. The conclusion is that employers generally have severely cut down on training and qualifying the workforce. ConstructionSkills, in order to stimulate demand for training and encourage growth, is working through a series of programmes to support industry at this time.

Particular areas that ConstructionSkills is keen to encourage are emerging skills; new technologies; renewables and low carbon. The BDA, on behalf of the drilling industry, is thus able to enjoy much encouragement and support from ConstructionSkills for its work on geothermal drilling.

All thoughts are welcome, call:

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GEOTHERMAL DRILLING CERTIFICATION & BDA GROUND SOURCE SEMINARS

Development of a UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) certification scheme for geothermal drilling is almost complete. Details of this are to be launched in a series of BDA regional seminars commencing in September. All BDA members are warmly invited.

We reported in April's newsletter that BDA had been awarded a ConstructionSkills grant to develop a Land Drilling Sector Scheme for certification of geothermal drilling enterprises. Since that time the development work has proceeded at an extremely fast pace. There have been four meetings of a cross industry Advisory Committee comprised of clients, trade associations, contractors, consultants and suppliers to formulate and finalise the scheme. In all some 30 people have been involved and our thanks go to them for their enthusiastic and thoughtful contributions. There has been outstanding work done and in a remarkably short time period.

The geothermal drilling scheme document now goes to UKAS for its approval which is expected to be achieved in September. There then follows a period when certification bodies will apply for UKAS accreditation in order to be able to audit against the scheme's requirements and award certification. Applications by organisations to be certified will be able to be handled in early 2012 by certification bodies.

What do we mean by 'geothermal drilling' and what does it mean for the organisations that carry it out? The scope of the scheme covers closed and open loop drilling with their associated in-hole installations. It also includes flow and pressure testing; thermal response testing; headworks; acidisation and pump tests. Any of these activities have a certificate endorsement which can be applied for. Because of government involvement; MCS (Microgeneration Certification Scheme) installer requirements, and access to RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) payments, it will in short time become mandatory for any organisations carrying out geothermal drilling activities to be certified under the UKAS scheme.

To achieve UKAS geothermal drilling certification, organisations will have to match the requirements within the scheme. One major requirement is that the organisation has, or obtains, BS EN ISO 9001 (Quality management systems. Requirements). The scheme requirements then go on for the organisation to provide evidence that 9001 is being implemented according to specific geothermal drilling industry standards and best practice; individual competencies; rig and equipment standards, including legislative regulations; environmental guidance, and any other specific requirements of the geothermal drilling sector.

To inform and help the sector prepare for the introduction of geothermal drilling

continued on page 4

BDA MEMBERSHIP

New Corporate Members

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

ADP Group Ltd

Land and Utility Surveying, Vacuum Extraction, Drilling Services for Geotechnical, Environmental, Geothermal and Waterwell.

Registered Member
Tom Page
Director

**Firing Close Farm
Wickwar
Wotton-under-Edge
Gloucestershire
GL12 8PE**

tel: 01454 227115
fax: 05603 439884

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

Baker Associates Hydro Solutions

Hydro-Thermogeological Consultancy to the Drilling, Water and Ground-Source Heating / Cooling Industries.

Registered Member
Tim Baker
Senior Partner

**Unit 4
Valley Farm Business Park
1 Station Road
Meldreth
Royston
Herts
SG8 6JP**

tel: 01763 262726

email: info@BAHSLTD.com
web: www.BAHSLTD.com

Ground Technology Services

Site Investigation Contracting, Geotechnical and Contaminated Land Consultancy, Laboratory Testing, Drilling & Grouting

Registered Member
Ben Armstrong
General Manager

Sponsored Members
Mark Lane, James Elliott, Andrew Elshof

**Maple Road
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE34 3AF**

tel: 01553 817657
fax: 01553 817658

email: mail@groundtechnology.co.uk
web: www.groundtechnology.co.uk

JKS Boyles UK Ltd

Drill Rig & Drilling Equipment Supplier, Rig Hire and Rental

Registered Member
Kevin Jones
Managing Director

**Unit 9 Salcombe Road
Meadow Lane Industrial Est.
Alfreton
Derbyshire
DE55 7RG**

tel: 01773 835323
fax: 01773 835075

email: sales@jks-boyles-ltd.co.uk
web: www.jksboyles.co.uk

M2 Technical Services Ltd

Drilling Services, Project Management, Insitu Testing, Pump Testing

Registered Member
Ian Stewart Macleod
Owner

**56 Tan Y Bryn Road
Rhos on Sea
Colwyn Bay
Clwyd
LL28 4AB**

tel: 07765 006262

email: m2technicalservices@googlemail.com

Change of Address

Danbar Drilling Services Ltd

Has relocated from August 15th to:

**Dawber Delph Industrial Area
Skull House Lane
Appley Bridge
Wigan
Lancashire
WN6 9DN**

New contact numbers are:

tel: 01257 255642
fax: 01257 252112

email remains the same:
admin@danbardrilling.com

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

BDA EVENTS

**BDA DINNER DANCE
12 November 2011**

Bookings are well underway and many members have already signed up. It promises to be another BDA success and we encourage everyone to attend.

**Saturday 12th November
Hilton Newcastle Gateshead
Bottle Bank
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE8 2AR**

We last visited the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead hotel in 2005 when we had 362 people attending, a record for any BDA Dinner Dance.

The hotel is marvellously located on the south bank of the Tyne overlooking the river, Tyne Bridge, the Quayside and Newcastle. It has 254 rooms, extensive leisure facilities including a 15 metre swimming pool, and excellent catering. It's a short walk from Newcastle city centre and many other attractions. including the Sage music venue, Baltic Arts Centre, and Millennium bridge.

The evening features a four-course dinner and once again (at popular demand) our entertainment is headed by The Blame, a 4-piece cover band who never fail to amaze us with their energy, performance and ability to keep the dance floor fully occupied.

Tables seating 10 people are available at £860 (inclusive of Vat) but individual tickets are also available. Double or twin bedrooms can be booked at a special rate of £120 (B & B inclusive of Vat). For full details check the BDA website where you'll also find a booking form, or contact the BDA office tel: 01327 264622.

BDA GOLF

A full report of the BDA's annual golf day which took place on Friday 2nd September will appear in our October newsletter.

The proposed golf day in Scotland will now be held in 2012.

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 consistently receiving in excess of 130 hits a day. 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 has received a fax-back sheet on which they can list their activities. This needs returning 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

Now available is a facility for members to advertise on the BDA Website. Full details were posted to members in early March and can also be viewed on the website itself.

This is a great opportunity to profile your company and its services to a larger audience on a daily basis. The advertising rates compare very favourably with what's available elsewhere in order to provide a real benefit to members. Get in first before your competitors seize the undoubted opportunity.

HSE

"Entanglement Policy"

Those who missed HSE's publication in June on its website of its policy and guidance regarding prevention of entanglement in the rotating parts of drill rigs, should make themselves aware of what HSE expects.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) published its most detailed guidance yet on its website in June regarding its requirements for drill rig guarding. It is inclusive of the issues; legislative background; how HSE inspectors should approach enforcement; guard design and construction, and much more.

Most BDA members will be familiar with the issues (although it may be the first time for newer members). The matter has a long history dating back to 1999 when HSE took the drilling industry to task for not protecting personnel from the risk of drill rig entanglement. Much has been done in the intervening years by contractors and suppliers to adequately put guards on rigs. And yet we still see rigs that don't fully conform.

Easiest way to see the June HSE guidance is to access the link on BDA website page:
www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk/6.html

Latest - EN 791 revision

EN 791 the existing Standard for Drill Rigs - Safety, which rig manufacturers have to use for design and manufacture, continues to be under revision (as does its companion Standard EN 996 for Piling Equipment). Both are being combined in a new proposed Standard which is known as prEN 16228 (in seven parts) during its development period.

Earlier this year prEN 16228 underwent a European public comments process which has resulted in over 250 pages of comments. These comments will now be examined by CEN/TC 151/WG 3 in a series of meetings commencing October in Finland / Sweden. BDA Secretary, as part of the BSI Committee contributing to the work, will be attending these meetings and he can be contacted for further details.

GEOTHERMAL DRILLING CERTIFICATION & BDA GROUND SOURCE SEMINARS

continued from page 1

certification, the BDA is holding six regional seminars which commence this September in London. The theme of the seminars is '**Ground Source Heat Pump Installations - Standards, Quality & Improvements**'. The seminars are financially supported by ConstructionSkills as part of the grant awarded to BDA and will be of much interest to all those with an interest in this fast developing renewable heat technology. There will be free entry to each of the seminars for those first applying. We have many free places available but early application is necessary to avoid disappointment.

The all-day seminars will be held in London (16th September at the Geological Society); Birmingham; Manchester; Glasgow; Newcastle and Cardiff from September through November. Full information is being sent to BDA members and is on the BDA website. They will feature presentations by leading industry experts on RHI, MCS, Vertical Borehole Standards (being issued by the Ground Source Heat Pump Association); Environment Agency Good Practice Guide for heating and cooling, and design considerations for ground heat exchangers. The UKAS geothermal drilling certification scheme will be explained in detail.

It is hoped to announce shortly that a further BDA work programme will commence this November for the development and introduction of other initiatives that will support geothermal drilling. These will include up-skilling of the current drilling workforce; knowledge transfer; a national training framework; E-learning and much more.

Ground source heat pump installation with its associated geothermal drilling will over the next few years become a main stream industry. One only has to witness what has happened to the growth of solar pv panel fitment to appreciate that government is committed to renewables and low carbon policies. Renewable heat generation is now next in line from this September with the start of RHI.

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 and Amendment 2 of BS 5930 - and also the revised SISG (Site Investigation Steering Group) documents. It will also be necessary for those in geothermal drilling in order to satisfy the UKAS certification scheme requirements.

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.

AND FINALLY

We must be doing something right if the BDA continues to attract new members. This month we report another five members joining us and they're warmly welcomed.

The life blood of any trade association is its members and their contribution to association activity. If you have time to help the BDA then let me know. The old adage 'never turn down a volunteer' is how we operate.

Brian Stringer

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