

Task force for Trenchless Technology under JNNURM

With reference to the call for the Task force meeting on 28th March 2007 at Scope Complex, New Delhi, the stakeholders attention is requested on following points for making trenchless technology contribute significantly under JNNURM.

Issues related to the trenchless technology:

From perspective of an utility owner:

1. Preferred choice over conventional techniques
2. Cost
 1. Direct
 2. Indirect
3. Standards and guidelines
 1. Methods
 2. Materials
 3. Operation and maintenance aspects
4. Asset management strategy
 1. Mapping/ GIS
 2. Prioritization
5. Procurement guidelines
6. Legislation on adoption of trenchless technology
7. Capacity building
 1. Trained manpower
 2. Exchange of ideas/ information

From perspective of Contractors/ Consultants

1. Cost
 1. Capital investment
 2. Technology licensing/ royalties
 3. Expert manpower
2. Optimization of quantum of contract job
3. Standards/ Guidelines
4. Procurement requirements
5. Sustainability

With these issues before the stakeholders, the task force is required to provide a platform for-

1. Making the trenchless techniques as preferred methods is the issue which the task force must address. Today trenchless technology in India scenario is looked upon as the last resort where conventional methods are found not feasible. This leads to smaller quantum of work for the contractors but with same kind of overall overheads; thereby pushing up the costs. There are techniques like pipe bursting, pipe ramming or HDD which can be made user friendly and viable and preferred options even for smaller urban local bodies through proper dissemination of information, knowledge amongst stakeholders.
2. Standards and guidelines in trenchless technology
IndSTT has produced the Guidelines which are required to be discussed within the stakeholders to make them more applicable and practical. There is no standard under BIS

which addresses the trenchless technology. BIS standards on jacking pipes is one such area. Standards for liners in trenchless rehabilitation considering Indian conditions are also essential to guide the users in decision making.

3. For long we have been discussing the two heads of costs in perspective of the trenchless technology- direct costs and indirect costs. All the aspects this concept are very well valid but when it comes to actual spending by any stake holder especially an ULB, it is th direct cost which gets precedence over indirect cost consideration- naturally because they have to take in to account their budgetary allocations and funds at disposal for any projects. This particular aspect itself can be a major issue for the task for for deliberation in context with the JNNURM. Concepts like Life Cycle cost are required to be addressed at [proper time during decision making amongst the ULBs.
4. Measures to bring down costs- direct cost especially must be discussed with due consideration to the experience of ULBs like Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and Delhi Jal Board or New Delhi Municipal Council etc. over the period since they resorted to trenchless technology on large scale since mid-nineties.
5. The task force shall discuss-
 1. Setting up of a highly interactive study group which interacts at least once in a month through electronic communication, chatting etc. for speeding up exchange of information and setting up of appropriate guideline for implementation of trenchless technology under JNNURM. The study group shall also include bureaucrats beside the technocrats for advise on legislative matters thereby efforts can be taken for curbing rampant excavations for new installations/ renovations and repairs by adoption of appropriate trenchless techniques. Sub committees on basis of BIS can also be considered.
 2. Setting up of a training/ R&D facility in one of the urban bodies who have extensive experience in Indian perspective.
 3. Strengthening of the initiatives of IndSTT.
 4. Specific allocation for some key works in all the JNNURM cities for appropriate methods under trenchless technology domain.

The task force members stakeholders and in general everybody who is concerned with urban utilities are welcome to send their views/ opinion to the IndSTT or Mr V M Vengurlekar, Mumbai Municipal Corporation on vidveng@gmail.com & indstt@indstt.org

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