

No Dig India Show 2020 -Digital Conference & Exhibition on Trenchless Technology Applications in the Post COVID World

1. Introduction

Recently, from 1st December to 5th December 2020, Indian Society for Trenchless Technology (IndSTT), hosted this year's NoDig India Show. It was a virtual event held jointly India Construction Week, 2020 organised by Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC). The joint event was substantially successful online interactive conference and exhibition with 20 sectors and with about 146 hours of various addresses and presentations spread over 4 concurrent tracks on all 5 days of the joint event. In the post COVID World, No Dig India Show 2020-Digital & India Construction Week 2020 was big success as it was able to gather about 14,000 delegates & visiting registrants. In the post-COVID World it was a large online interactive event that reinforced our belief in the future. It showed to the world that the industry is alive and kicking, & soon the construction Industry will be back with full force.

The joint event was structured to have a four-tracked online interactive Conference comprising of a series of webinars/presentations on issues concerning 20 essential streams of construction industry. These included online interactive workshops from equipment manufacturers highlighting their products & services, online interactive workshops from Project owners, highlighting project details, online interactive workshops from consultants, and online training programs on trenchless/allied fields. It also had a digital exhibition on event portal comprising of display of company video/presentation, live interactive multi channel digital booths for providing interactive sessions, live interactive multi channel digital booths for project site / equipment manufacturing plant / allied locations, live interactive chat rooms. Further, during the event, four important IndSTT Publications were released online. The most important of all was the launch of Trenchless educational portal for training and education through the conversion of the ICW-NDIS Portal from event portal to educational portal.

2. Event Background

COVID pandemic has presented substantial challenges to construction industry in several ways wherein immense restrictions & preventive measures have become essential for recurring the health and safety of construction workers and existing buried infrastructure. These restrictions have increased the difficulty levels of operation at one hand, but have also created opportunities for development and application of trenchless methods to overcome them. Trenchless Technology provides methods, systems, and working procedures for a minimal human intervention in subsurface construction activities. It naturally helps in achieving adequate protections for all concerned & is an important tool for meeting HSE needs in the hands of construction industry stakeholders. In these trying times, it is essential that the trenchless industry stakeholders should stand up together to meet the challenges posed by COVID, and present viable solutions to construction industry. Needless to mention, owing to grooving business volumes, these actions would also help trenchless stakeholders, to advance the trenchless applications, thereby gaining through this development, in addition to solving the problems. To achieve such results, networking of trenchless solution providers with other construction industry constituents is essential. To meet this objective, IndSTT, the apex organization to promote trenchless technology in India, hosted the No Dig India Show 2020 – Digital Conference & Exhibition on Trenchless Technology Applications in the Post COVID World from 1st to 5th December 2020.

3. Event Details

NoDig India Show 2020 had 8 main sessions for underground construction topics starting with the inaugural session where several leading professionals, both from India as well as abroad, delivered the welcome and inaugural notes. Prominent of them were Dr. Mohammad Najafi, Director CUIRE, & Prof. University of Texas at Arlington, who delivered the welcome note. The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. Tom Iseley, Prof. Purdue University. Subsequently the sessions were focused at different topics of interest that included No Dig India Show 2020 Addresses, Investigations for trenchless Projects, IKT Workshop, NASTT Workshop, Post COVID Trenchless Rehabilitation, and Safety Training for Trenchless Operator for Post COVID World. The event concluded with the valedictory session. Details about these sessions and their deliberations could be seen from the event portal www.icw-ndis2020.com.

4. Release of Publications

During the show IndSTT released four important manuals, as has been the practice at IndSTT for every NoDig India Show. This year it released revised edition of four existing INDSTT Publications. These included Standard General Condition of Contracts for Construction Contract Employing Trenchless Technology 2020, Guidelines for Applications of Special Conditions of Contract in Construction Contract Employing Trenchless Technology 2020, Schedule of Rates for Construction Contracts Employing Trenchless Technology 2021, and Site Investigations for Trenchless Projects These books also serve as instructions /training manuals for various INDSTT training programs enhancing their importance.

5. Concluding Remarks

No Dig India Shows are the flagship annual events of INDSTT and each year they are growing. Due to COVID pandemic, IndSTT hosted the event virtually. Aim of this event was to provide an online platform to construction industry stakeholders for net-working with trenchless solution providers for idea exchange, problem solving, & knowledge gain in sub-surface construction in the post COVID world. The show has been such a big success, as IndSTT jointly with CIDC, got the support of about fourteen thousand registrations. In order to enhance the effects of event further IndSTT jointly with CIDC has decided to retain the ICW-NDIS 2020 portal working till February 2021, so that the messages and presentations made during the event could be available to more individuals and the benefits of the deliberations could be maximized. The portal could be accessed at <https://www.icw-ndis2020.com/icwwweb/index.html>. IndSTT invites interested persons to consider visiting the portal and benefit from the hosted knowledge.