How does TT Technologies recently spoke with him about anyone that needs a new product provides in this industry?

For water specifically, new products, what's new in the water/wastewater trenchless market? A leading trenchless technology expert explains why his company's products can save municipalities time, money and social disruption.

Chris Brahler is president of TT Technologies, Inc., a leading trenchless technology product supplier in the U.S. The company, founded in 1991, specializes in pipe bursting, pipe ramming, winches and boring, and is located in Aurora, Ill. Brahler has been involved with trenchless technology since 1974. We recently spoke with him about the growing market for the company's products, what's new in the industry and TT Technologies' role in the ever-increasing problem of decaying water and wastewater infrastructure across the nation.

WWD: Has the market for trenchless technology in the drinking water and wastewater industries been expanding? How is it compared to ten years ago?

Chris Brahler: The rehab market in general has been growing every year. Over the last ten years, the types of tools and technologies being used for rehab projects has grown as well. We've seen technologies grow from grouting lines to liners to pipe bursting. As far as trenchless technology specifically, we've seen good growth in the use of various types of trenchless technologies in both the sewer and water industries.

WWD: What kind of benefits can your company's pipe-bursting and other products provide in this industry?

Brahler: Trenchless technologies have been around for many years, and their popularity continues to grow because of the benefits associated with the methods. The minimizing of disruption has to be one of the biggest benefits. Traffic can keep moving and businesses can stay open. Trenchless technology has many positive social impacts. Minimizing restoration and lowering the associated restoration costs is one of these benefits. In certain situations, restoration can account for 70% of a project. That's major time and money savings for the contractor and many headaches saved for homeowners and municipalities.

WWD: How does TT Technologies see its role in helping to repair crumbling water/wastewater infrastructure in the U.S.?

Brahler: We really feel our role on one level is to educate municipalities, engineering firms and contractors on the benefits and capabilities of the various kinds of trenchless technologies available. Secondly, we advise them on which method suits particular issue or situation. After that, if it proceeds to a project level, we offer the training and equipment needed so that the project ends successfully.

WWD: Can you please briefly describe your product line—how has it evolved and what are the products that have proved most popular?

Brahler: Trenchless technology basically started with underground piercing tools many, many years ago. From there, the technology evolved into pneumatic pipe ramming and eventually pneumatic pipe bursting. When a group in Europe began using piercing tools to burst cast iron gas mains and pull in new pipe, pipe bursting was developed.

In the U.S., pipe bursting—which is a very popular method—took hold in the gas market, and from there it gained the attention of the sewer market and eventually rehab in the water and sewer market. It has proceeded to continue substantial growth over the coming years.

In addition to piercing tools and pipe-bursting equipment, TT Technologies offers pneumatic pipe ramming equipment and compact directional drilling rigs. All the tools have certain roles in the water and sewer rehab.

Piercing tools, for example, are primarily used for projects going from the house to the street. Pipe bursting is used for the rehabilitation of existing water mains. Pipe ramming is used often for casing installations. Directional drilling can be used for both service line installations and small main installations.

WWD: What type of person/company would benefit from attending TT Technologies' training seminars?

Brahler: Anyone that needs a new pipe or new hole in the ground. That includes TT Technologies' companies, water and sewer entities, municipalities, engineering firms and contractors—really anyone involved with underground construction and infrastructure can gain valuable information about the various types of trenchless equipment out there.

WWD: What's new in the water/wastewater trenchless market?

Brahler: For water specifically, new products and new techniques for static pipe bursting are starting really to impact the market. Municipalities now have a wider selection of potential product pipes they can utilize with the static bursting method. In addition to HDPE, utilities can now install ductile iron pipe as well as PVC. On the sewer side, they can now use clay pipe if desired. The technologies and techniques continue to grow and improve.

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For more information, write in 1112 on this issue's Reader Service Card.

Godwin Pumps Opens Portland Branch

Bridgeport, N.J.-based Godwin Pumps recently opened its newest rental facility in Portland, Ore. Coming online as the 25th Godwin branch location, the Portland branch is located on a three-acre property with an 8,000-sq-ft shop and office just south of Portland.

In addition to adding this new branch, Godwin is also set to break ground on a new 50,000-sq-ft distribution center at its Bridgeport, N.J., home office. This new facility will expedite the distribution of the world’s largest rental fleet and parts inventory to customers and distributors across the U.S.

Minneapolis Water Filtration Plant Honored as Public Works Project of the Year

The Columbia Heights Membrane Filtration Plant was named a Public Works Project of the Year by the American Society of Public Works Association (APWA). The award will be presented during APWA’s International Public Works Congress and Exposition in San Antonio. Awarded in the EnviroTech Category ($100-$100 million range) the new plant uses ultrafiltration technology to remove particles so small they cannot be detected by a standard microscope.

Minneapolis' original water filtration plant was constructed from 1913 until 1918. While still operational, the facility was nearing the end of its useful life. The new plant will remove impurities more effectively than required by emerging and increasingly stringent federal drinking water standards.

Fairbanks Morse Contributes to Elster’s Growth

Fairbanks Morse has contributed to the growth of Elster AMCO Water, one of the world’s largest water and wastewater flow measurement and control companies. For the first quarter of 2007, Elster AMCO Water reported a 36% increase in sales and a 34% increase in operating income over the same period in 2006.

Elster AMCO Water’s announcement coincides with the U.N. World Water Day events held in March 2007. Dressed in red, the company’s motto is ‘Helping Ma...