

## INDUSTRYINSIGHT

Compiled by Clare Pierson



## Going Trenchless

*A leading trenchless technology expert explains why his company's products can save municipalities time, money and social disruption*

*Chris Brabler is president of TT Technologies, Inc., a leading trenchless technology product supplier in the U.S. The company, formed in 1991, specializes in pipe bursting, pipe ramming, winches and boring, and is located in Aurora, Ill. Brabler has been involved with trenchless technology since 1974.*

*WWD 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 Brabler:* 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?**

*Brabler:* 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. Capability and versatility are additional benefits. The tools can perform a range of work in a variety of situations.

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

*Brabler:* 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?**

*Brabler:* 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] expanded to the water industry. Both static and pneumatic pipe bursting methods are established rehab technologies and continue to grow, especially with rehab in the water and sewer markets expected 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?**

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

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

*Brabler:* For water specifically, new product pipes and new techniques for static pipe bursting are really starting 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. **WWD**

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### Godwin Pumps Opens Portland Branch



Bridgeport, N.J.-based Godwin Pumps recently opened its newest rental facility in Portland, Ore. Coming online as the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Public Works Association (APWA). The award will be presented during APWA's International Public Works Congress and Exposition in San Antonio. Awarded in the Environment category, (\$10- to \$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 today, the facility is 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 Announces Contract for New York City

Fairbanks Morse Pump, a division of Pentair Water, has received a contract for approximately \$15 million to supply water pumping equipment for the New York City

Department of Environmental Protection at its Croton Water Treatment Plant. The Croton Plant is unique in that it is being built on four levels underground, adjacent to the Mosholu Golf Course located in the Bronx. Pumping equipment to be provided by Fairbanks Morse Pump includes: six 2500 HP 60-in. vertical turbine pumps for water distribution; six 48-in. raw water supply pumps; 10 dissolved-air flotation pumps; and 34 horizontal split-case pumps for miscellaneous applications throughout the plant. The plant provides filtration and disinfection of 290 mgd for New York City.

### Elster AMCO Water Appoints New President

Elster AMCO Water, Inc., part of Elster Group, announced the appointment of Roman Thomassin as president and regional director of business unit water (BUW Region 3). He will lead the North American water business and serve as regional director for the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico water businesses.

James Gardiner of Elster AMCO Water will now be positioned in Europe as regional director of business unit water (BUW Region 2) with exec-

utive responsibilities for Germany and Eastern Europe. Both have been appointed to the executive team of Elster's global water business unit. These management changes are in response to Elster's growth and advancement in the global marketplace and will serve Elster's customers worldwide.

### Macon Water Authority Employees Make Waves at State Industry Conference

The Macon Water Authority took part in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), held in Savannah, Ga., by hosting two educational seminars and bringing home two industry awards.

Highlighting the conference for the authority was the induction of two employees into the Water Environment Federation's Quarter Century Operator's Club. Terry Forrest and Herman Wilburn both received this top national industry honor. The Quarter Century Membership Award honors operators of wastewater treatment facilities for their service and dedication to a challenging and competitive profession. The award recognizes those who have been significant, full-time participants in the water environment industry for a period of 25 years, 10 of which must have been actively involved in the day-to-day collections, maintenance, operations, laboratory or management of a wastewater transportation or treatment facility.

### El Paso Dedicates World's Largest Inland Desalination Plant

In August, El Paso Water Utilities dedicated the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant. The \$87 million facility produces 27.5 mgd, making it the largest inland desalination plant in the world. The desalination plant is a joint project of El Paso Water Utilities and the U.S. Army/Fort Bliss. It produces potable water by treating brackish groundwater from the Hueco Bolson Aquifer; the desalination plant increases El Paso's fresh water production by 25%. This augments existing supplies and has ensured that El Paso and Fort Bliss will have water for growth and development for more than 50 years.

### CH2M HILL Begins Construction on Sewage Treatment Water Reuse Facility

CH2M HILL has completed the design and begun construction for the 2.8 mgd Clovis Sewage Treatment Water Reuse Facility in Clovis, Calif. Construction on the facility commenced in May and is expected to be complete by December 2008. CH2M HILL will operate the facility through 2018. Combining state-of-the-art wastewater treatment technologies will help the facility reduce its environmental footprint. The facility is designed to blend in with the local residential and business community. Architectural features include prairie-style architecture, water features and extensive landscaping and screening to minimize visual impact. The facility also includes extensive odor control, including reuse of odorous air within the treatment process and biofilters. **WWD**

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