

The right tools for the job

In line with No-Dig's machinery replacement policy, two of the No-Dig fleets D33/44 Navigator drills have been replaced with the new D36/50 series II Navigator. The new rigs deliver 6,681Nm of rotary torque and 16,329 kg of pullback, this is a big increase in power when considering the footprint hasn't changed.



Spotlight on

Chris Hullah,
Office Manager.



Tell us about your family?

Married to Michelle for 20 years, we have 2 daughters, Vicki – 17 and Sarah – 13, Michelle is a Bank

official, Vicki is currently at 6th form college and Sarah is at senior school.

What is your role at AMS?

My role at AMS is that of Office Manager, this varied role includes ensuring our compliance with Health and Safety and other management systems, client pre-qualification, procurement, programming and facilities management.

How did you get to where you are?

I worked in the gas industry for 25 years. When Transco re-organised in 2003, a position came up at AMS which I was successful in securing. Over the last 5 years my role has constantly evolved and developed and has given me many challenges.

What would be your dream job?

I enjoy my role at AMS because of the varied nature of the duties involved, but I would like to relocate to Majorca at some point in the future working in property management.

What is your hobby?

Golf is one of my many hobbies; I also enjoy football, cycling, hill walking and foreign travel.

Have you any regrets about your career?

No, I have followed the path I intended to, I have enjoyed the changes and challenges this has brought to me and I am continuing to increase my knowledge and skills.

At the moment I am attending a day release course on Health and Safety (NEBOSH) to increase competence within the company. I am looking forward to implementing what I have learned and seeing the improvements this brings to AMS and its employees. If I am successful I will qualify in March 09.

Are you where you wanted to be at this stage of your life?

Yes I think so; I am on track both in my private life and my career and looking forward to continuing to achieve the goals I have set myself.

Managing Safely

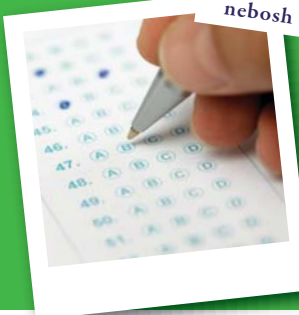
The company has recently underlined its commitment to provide a safe working environment by introducing a programme of safety related training courses.

First up was Operations Manager Peter Guilliat who recently attended the IOSH Managing Safely course. This will be followed in January 2009 with all the company's operational staff attending the IOSH Working Safely course.

Finally Office Manager Chris Hullah is currently studying for the NEBOSH General certificate, which he is due to complete in March 09.

The company's horizontal directional drilling technicians have been very busy lately putting the finishing touches to their National Vocational Qualification (Level 2) portfolios. At the time of writing 50% of the staff have already received their final certificates with the remainder due by the end of 2008.

AMS No-Dig have recently employed the services of a new Health and Safety advisor who will be assisting with various compliance audits including Achilles Link up and Achilles UVBD. This appointment is key to continuing the company's commitment to achieving ISO14001 and ISO18001 standards in 2009.



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AMS UPDATE

Winter 2008/2009



Innovative solution keeps local residents happy

Network Rail insists on 24 hour working when drilling under major railway lines.

They stipulate this because of concerns over the void that exists under the lines during the stage back reaming process. Although the void always contains a mixture of drilling mud and cuttings, and the tracks are continuously monitored for signs of lateral or vertical movement, it is seen by Network Rail as an unacceptable safety risk to suspend drilling and leave the bore inactive overnight.

One can understand the rationale behind this but in many instances works are close to residential areas, which presents problems with noise levels.

This was the case on a recent scheme in Hull where AMS No-Dig were commissioned to undertake an installation on behalf of CE Electric. The job requirement was to install a cluster of cable ducts beneath the railway lines as part of a new cable route to supply additional Electricity to a local factory.

A number of residential properties were situated in close proximity to the proposed crossing point, which immediately gave cause for concern. Following consultations with Network Rail, the client and local authority representatives it was clear there was going to be a problem.

AMS engineers came up with an ingenious solution to undertake the work with a minimum of out of

hours working being necessary. This process involved the use of two drilling rigs working the bore from both ends of the drill shot. The area under the railway lines, approximately 20m, would be left inactive until the 40m each side of the line had been reamed to the required diameter. Once this process was complete the final 20m under the line would be reamed and the multi ducts pulled during a single no trains period.

This solution was presented to Network Rail who agreed to the methodology. The work was carried out over five days with the reams under the railway line and final duct installation being completed over a 4 hour no train's period, to the delight of all parties.



Going Places!!

The lucky winner of the latest AMS quarterly prize draw is Martin Halpin of Murphy Ltd. Martin took the time to complete the promotional card, which is distributed with all AMS newsletters. His card was drawn randomly from over 50 entries winning £100.00 worth of air travel vouchers.

Pictured above Martin receives his prize from AMS No-Dig Operations Manager Peter Guillatt.



Annual Golf Day

The final round of the AMS golf competition was held recently at Forest Pines Golf and Country Club.

George Aitkenhead finally ran out the winner by a single stroke from Steve McIntosh, AMS Bobcat Director.

George now takes the trophy outright after winning the competition for the third consecutive year. Is there no one out there who can stop him!?



Large diameter rock drilling under the River Wyre

No-Dig have recently completed a scheme on behalf of Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions which involved the horizontal directional drilling of a 270m section of 630mm mdpe water main under the River Wyre in Garstang, Lancashire. The installation forms part of a water infrastructure improvement scheme commissioned by United Utilities.

A run of the mill installation I hear you say, not at all when you consider the succession of the sub strata to be negotiated, alluvial deposits of sand, gravel and cobbles down at 14m, with strong bunter sandstone lying below.

In short to ensure AMS avoided the unstable gravel layers the pilot was drilled at 20m deep within the rock formation, which needed some serious down hole tooling.

The pilot drill was completed with a 6 3/4" mud motor fitted with a 9 7/8" TCI drill bit.

Enlargement of the drilled hole to the required 36" was carried out using a succession of low torque hole openers followed by a cleaning run and final pipe pulling operation using a fly cutter and barrel reamer.

Mud management and solids separation was carried out using an LCC 500 system which cut solids to 60 micron supported by a 152 centrifuge for final mud cleaning down to 10 micron.

Employee News

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Peter Guillatt as Operations Manager for AMS No-Dig Ltd. Peter's previous position within No-Dig was as Project Manager, a position he held for four years.

John Moss, Operations Director, said "We need to increase the management within our organisation to ensure we continue to meet the ever increasing demands and expectations of our clients, and feel that Peter is the right man for the job".



"Peter has demonstrated the necessary qualities during his time as Project Manager and we are confident he will make the successful transition into this very demanding role."

Congratulations and good luck Peter.



Pictured above, Nick Allbones taking delivery from Steve McIntosh Bobcat Director.

Bobcat Sales News

AMS Bobcat recently supplied K & S Allbones, a civil engineering company based at Spilsby in Lincolnshire, a new T300H compact tracked loader.

According to Nick Allbones, Director of K & S Allbones the T300H provides a very attractive combination with a dedicated rubber-tracked undercarriage providing superior traction and flotation for operation on any surface, including very soft or muddy ground, together with a wide choice of attachments to cover many of the applications on civil engineering projects across the country.

Nick added: "This is our first Bobcat machine and we are very impressed with the multi-functional, versatile nature of the T300H. The attachments we chose to purchase with this machine are the trencher, 4-in-1 bucket and pallet fork.

The T300H has a high hydraulic flow of 151 l/min, allowing it to power high-flow attachments such as the planer, wood chipper and stump grinder in addition to the standard flow attachments. The T300H purchased by K & S Allbones has been supplied with virtually all of the factory-installed options available for this model including a specially contoured glass front door for the cab, an air conditioning/heating system and the state-of-the-art Selectable Joystick Control (SJC) system.

"We own most of the plant we use and we have always believed in investing in state-of-the-art technology such as the T300H," said Nick Allbones. "I intend to keep adding attachments to the T300H to keep the machine busy on an ever increasing range of jobs. The versatility offered by the T300H will allow me to offer my customers an even more comprehensive package on site."

Right on track in Cheshire

No-Dig recently completed specialist trenchless work for the Electricity Alliance East Team on a high profile contract in Cheshire. The contract has been commissioned by Network Rail to install a XLPE cable system from Frodsham substation to a new substation under construction some six miles away in Halton. The purpose of the cable system is to provide the necessary electricity load required for the upgrade of the west coast main line.

AMS No-Dig's contract was to carry out twenty HDD drills in five locations along the cable route. These drills had a number of high risk implications i.e. Shell pipelines, the main Ethylene pipeline, drilling under the River Weaver Navigation, finally but not least a drill under the NWR line which was situated within a cutting containing 2 Inions pipelines, one either side.

The seven month contract commenced in February 2008 with the first four drills installed under the local Frodsham rail line which was positioned on top of a 17m high embankment. The final crossing was under the NWR main line, which ironically was the complete opposite of the first crossing being situated in a 9m deep cutting with overhead power lines.

Peter Randall, delivery manager for EAE, said "The success of the trenchless installations was critical to the delivery of this project. AMS used innovative drilling techniques to overcome a number of problems presented to them by the significant engineering difficulty at three of the crossing locations."

"Throughout the works all AMS staff worked proactively to meet the tight deadlines that had been set. The drilling has proved to be a huge success and the alliance are well on course to meeting the substantial completion date."

