

SETTLING INTO SOUTH AFRICA'S TRENCHLESS MARKET

TRACTO-TECHNIK expanded its presence in the growing South African trenchless market, putting its best foot forward with its new sales and service partner Octopus Electronics. Since the two companies partnered, a GRUNDODRILL HDD rig has already completed its first installation project in Johannesburg.

South Africa is the third largest economy in Africa and plays a decisive role as an economic and geographical gateway to sub-Saharan Africa. Over the past two decades, the South African Republic has transformed into an industrialised country that is growing steadily.

South Africa's construction industry, in particular, is growing dynamically due to increasing urbanisation and continuing population growth. The necessary maintenance and development of the underground infrastructure for supply and disposal opens up numerous prospective projects for the use of trenchless technologies.

Seizing on the potential in the country and the region, TRACTO-TECHNIK engaged a new sales and service partner, Johannesburg-based company Octopus Electronics.

Octopus Electronics was founded in Cape Town in 1996. It has since become a leading distributor for pipeline inspection solutions in South Africa.

When the current owner of the company, Trevor Quigley, took over from the founder in 2016, the business relocated to Johannesburg. The company now has approximately 200 employees and more than 20 years of experience in a wide range of civil engineering services, including Trenchless Technology such as pipe bursting to HDD.

Octopus Electronics also specialises in impact moling technology, providing full GRUNDOMAT repair and maintenance service, in addition to offering onsite training to existing and new users alike.

With Mr Quigley's wealth of local and national knowledge of the utility, contracting and construction industries, Octopus Electronics has developed into a leading multi-equipment sales and service provider across the region. The company offers a



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state-of-the-art sales, training and repair facility as well as an extensive warehouse stocking a wide variety of units for sale and a substantial selection of spare parts.

"We chose Octopus Electronics because of our long standing and trusted relationship with Trevor Quigley over the past 10 years," said TRACTO-TECHNIK UK Export and Area Sales Manager Roger Atherton.

"They are the perfect partner to adequately market our high quality no-dig systems and guarantee first class service."

REAPING THE BENEFITS

The partnership with Octopus Electronics has already proved productive. TRACTO-TECHNIK's most powerful horizontal

directional drilling (HDD) rig, the GRUNDODRILL 28Nplus, recently completed its first pipe installation project in Johannesburg. The machine was by Octopus Electronics' associated company Rescue Rod Group last year. The HDD machine was used to install a 450 mm outside diameter gravity sewer, running parallel to an existing one in a residential area. The installation could not have been completed using open trenching due to restricted space and existing water mains, as well as fibre and electrical services in close proximity to the old sewer line.

TRENCHLESS SOLUTION

The jobsite was located in the Craigavon, a residential area of North Johannesburg.



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- A: An aerial view of the HDD jobsite Johannesburg with the 450 mm gravity sewer pipe laid out ready for pull through.
- B: The GRUNDODRILL 28Nplus establishing the 430 m pilot bore for the new sewer pipeline in Craigavon/North Johannesburg.
- C: Reaming through corrosive sandstone was required to upsize the pilot bore to the required diameter.



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28Nplus downstream and drilled upstream to a receiving pit.

The 28Nplus completed the work in one go, with an average installation time of ±38.3 m/h. During operations the consumption of drilling fluid remained economical at 144 kl. It took the powerful rig only three days to establish the pilot bore through corrosive sandstone, another three days to upsize it to 400 mm, and a further two days for a second 600 mm back reamed. It then took only 6 hours to pull the 450 mm long polyethylene pipe through in one go.

The entire project was completed within

15 working days, including all preparatory and concluding works, to the total satisfaction of the client, contractor and residents.

NO-DIG SOUTH AFRICA

TRACTO-TECHNIK, in collaboration with Octopus Electronics, will be exhibiting at a joint stand at the ISTT's 36th Annual International Conference and Exhibition No-Dig South Africa. The companies have invited any interested parties and customers to visit and learn more about the premium no-dig systems and services available in the region. **1**

ABOUT TRACTO-TECHNIK

TRACTO-TECHNIK is a specialist machine manufacturer headquartered in Lennestadt-Saalhausen, Germany. The family owned company was founded in 1962 and now develops and constructs high-quality machines for underground installation and trenchless pipe rehabilitation.

The company services customers in the gas, water, electricity, district heat supply, telecommunications, and sewage disposal sectors, providing its trenchless products and services worldwide.

For more information visit www.tracto-technik.com or www.octopuse.co.za and visit TRACTO-TECHNIK at booth A9.