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INTERFLOW AND SRLA CEMENT 20-YEAR AGREEMENT

Australian pipeline rehabilitation contractor Interflow Pty Ltd (Interflow) and global specialist in spiral wound technologies Sekisui Rib Loc Australia Pty. Ltd. (SRLA) have announced the signing of a new 20-year agreement to extend their strategic alliance. *Trenchless Australasia* speaks to Interflow about SRLA's Australasian history, and how this contract is set to benefit Australasia's trenchless industry.

The agreement extends a 25-year strategic alliance that has provided globally acclaimed technological advances in trenchless pipeline infrastructure renewal, both locally and around the world. Under the agreement Interflow will continue to distribute and install SRLA's spiral wound lining products including SPR EX (Expanda), SPR RO (Rotaloc) and SPR PE (Ribline) throughout Australia and New Zealand, while SRLA will continue to service its global clients with these products and others from their range.

The continued strategic alliance will build on the proven success of the past 25 years that has seen Interflow and SRLA work closely to develop world leading advances with spiral wound liners that have extended the possibilities for cost-effective rehabilitation of clients' networks. On the back of the innovative success, these liners now account for well over half of the sewers lined in Australia and New Zealand since the commencement of the Trenchless Technology industry.

"Many of the projects that have been completed have gained global recognition due to the innovative nature of the technology delivered by SRLA and its successful application by Interflow. The agreement highlights the commitment from Interflow and SRLA in continuing to develop solutions to meet the changing needs of their clients. It will result in greater cooperation, technology exchange and joint development of further innovations" says Geoff Weaver, Interflow's Managing Director.

This follows on from a long line of unique advances developed by both Interflow and SRLA dating back to the early days of the pipeline rehabilitation sector of the Trenchless Technology industry. »

"THE AGREEMENT HIGHLIGHTS THE COMMITMENT FROM INTERFLOW AND SRLA IN CONTINUING TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THEIR CLIENTS."

GEOFF WEAVER, MANAGING DIRECTOR, INTERFLOW

A: An Interflow crew using SRLA products for a relining project.
B: Interflow crews hard at work.

REWIND: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INTERFLOW & SRLA ALLIANCE IN AUSTRALASIA

The SRLA spiral wound system was first invented by Bill Menzel, AO OBE, in 1978. The technology was patented in 1983. SRLA's official establishment would perhaps be best defined by its listing on the Australian Stock Exchange, which occurred in 1986.

Interflow's first use of SRLA's Expanda product was in 1991, when the company looked for alternatives to digging and relaying a sewer in running sand underneath a road on the NSW Central Coast. A collaborative relationship subsequently developed and in 1999 the two companies signed an agreement making Interflow the exclusive provider of SRLA's range of spiral wound liners throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Since then, Interflow and SRLA have worked together on the further development of spiral wound lining technologies for an increasing range of applications.

In 2001, Interflow completed the first installation of SRLA's Rotaloc spiral wound liner. Interflow followed this installation with another world first using SRLA's Ribline steel-reinforced polyethylene liners on a project in Sydney.

Beyond its initial activities in Australia, SRLA has continued to expand its rehabilitation operations elsewhere throughout the world. After pioneering large diameter rehabilitation work performed in the Middle East, SRLA technologies have been used extensively throughout Asia – with recent large-scale projects in Singapore and India and developing work in Malaysia. The US market continues to present a large opportunity for trenchless rehabilitation work, as do various countries throughout Europe. More recently, SRLA products have been employed within emerging markets in Africa and South America.

Since 1991 Interflow has lined over 2,500 kilometres of deteriorated sewers, stormwater conduits and culverts throughout Australia and New Zealand with the SRLA range of spiral wound liners. They are the region's most installed type of liner for these gravity conduits. T

C: Interflow installing the SPR EX (Expanda).
D: An Interflow operator supervising installation of SRLA's SPR RO (Rotaloc).

1991

Interflow installs its first SRLA SPR EX (Expanda) Pipe liner.

1997

Rib Loc Australia wins its first ISTT No-Dig Product of the Year Award for Rib Steel, a steel reinforced PVC spiral wound liner for large diameter sewers. Interflow installs the world's first Rib Steel liner, leading to the product being extensively used in the Gulf Countries of the Middle East. Rib Steel has now largely been superseded by SPR PE (Ribline).

2001

SRLA wins its second ISTT No-Dig Product of the Year Award for the development of the SPR RO (Rotaloc) spiral wound PVC liner. Rotaloc, which was developed in cooperation with Interflow, is installed by a winding machine which installs the liner as it traverses inside the deteriorated pipe. The machine can change the liner diameter as it goes, to ensure a close fit with the host pipe. It is suitable for installation in diameters from 900 mm to 1,800 mm.

2002

Interflow develops and introduces the LCR for sealing of lateral connections to lined sewers. Development was carried out in cooperation with Australian water authorities to ensure the product met their requirements for such sealing.

2005

Interflow installs the first SPR PE (Ribline) steel-reinforced polyethylene liner in a 1,800 mm diameter sewer for Sydney Water. The completed project won the National Civil Contractors Award for Project of the Year in competition with projects from all areas of civil engineering.

2007

Interflow introduces the Interfit, the next generation of seal for lateral connections to lined sewers, superseding the LCR. Improvements increase the possibilities for sealing of a wider range of non-standard and damaged junctions. Installation is more efficient, leading to more cost effective sealing. The product is exported internationally by Interflow.

2008

Rib Loc Australia Pty Ltd was merged with Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd. and was renamed Sekisui Rib Loc Australia in 2009.

2010

Interflow and SRLA jointly win the ISTT No-Dig Project of the Year Award for a major SPR PE (Ribline) project. A structural SPR PE (Ribline) liner was installed in a 2,500 mm diameter sewer up to 20 m deep below central Sydney in live flow conditions. One section of the project required installation of a continuous liner 706 metres in length between access points.

2013

Interflow wins the second of its ISTT No Dig Project of the Year Awards for a difficult project in Sydney which required further development of both SPR EX (Expanda) and SPR RO (Rotaloc) for completion to be practical. The project extended the boundaries for use of both of these products.