

INDUSTRY, COMPANY AND INSTITUTION NEWS AND RESEARCH



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McElroy Manufacturing is the leading manufacturer of polyethylene pipe fusion equipment and provider of customer-driven solutions to PE engineers and contractors worldwide.

STEVE VICK INTERNATIONAL



Steve Vick International designs and manufactures products for the trenchless renovation and decommission of pipes worldwide. Products include Pipe Coil Trailers, Pipe Handlers and Pipe Cutting Equipment.



Akkerman develops, manufactures and supports quality pipe jacking, tunnelling, microtunnelling and guided boring equipment for the accurate installation of underground infrastructure for an extensive range of diameters and geology.



In-house developer and manufacturer of lateral cutters, high-speed drain cleaning equipment, pipe coating systems, collapsed liner removal, root and scale removal tools.



Trenchless Group offers expert, cost-effective No-Dig solutions from contracting services to hire and sales on a wide variety of trenchless equipment across the UK and Ireland.

The People Award is not a lifetime achievement award although in his 37 years in the industry, Simon has achieved a great deal. He has been instrumental in many improvements to the industry; worked co-operatively with the supply chain; has always been happy to share his extensive knowledge (always with a genuine big smile); mentoring younger entrants coming into the industry and fronting Bristol Water's Education campaign for Key Stage 2 school pupils.

Moving closer to the present, his nominator highlighted Simon's passion and interest in doing things better and in improving the customer experience, particularly in making the new water retail market a success. Simon is the ultimate collaborator, in setting up the influential Retailer Wholesaler Group (RWG); in creating the Water Industry Registration Scheme - Accredited Entity and in developing the Pinpoint app with a supply chain partner to help retailers find meters in the field. I personally am very pleased that Simon was nominated, and he is a very worthy winner of the Award."

People Category Special Recognition – Mark Smith, RPS

Paul Horton, CEO, Future Water introducing the special recognition reflected: "This year the industry has had to say goodbye to a real ambassador, someone who believed in the future of the water sector and supported the forward looking agenda, someone who had time for everyone. Future Water is privileged to be making a Special Recognition Award to Mark Smith, RPS.

Mark would have wanted us to recognise all that is great in the industry and I am sure he would have enjoyed the celebration. Perhaps we can sum everything up with something that Mark was often known to say, "C'mon Buddy' the best is yet to come!" Website: www.futurewaterassociation.com



Emerging Talent Category Highly Commended – Francieli Thums, Critical Sewers Engineer, Wessex Water.

CO-CREATION: ENABLING INNOVATION TO THRIVE IN THE WATER SECTOR

Customer centricity has become a strategic focus in the water sector in Australia, with key industry players adopting a collaborative approach to provide community-focused innovations. A new era of 'co-creation' is enhancing this, enabling asset owners and service providers to combine their knowledge to deliver community-focused infrastructure solutions that will last for generations to come.

RESHAPING TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The notion of co-creation is facilitating a major shift in the way industries transfer knowledge and communicate. When companies co-create, they invite third parties such as consumers, suppliers and service providers to collaborate on industry initiatives or projects.

This concept is redefining contractor relationships within the water industry, paving the way for robust and dynamic discussions that provide new insights into community wants and needs.

Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) is a prime example of co-creation in action: it facilitates collaboration between service providers, contractors and their customers at the earliest stage of a project. As a result, the service provider can harness the asset owner's intimate knowledge of the surrounding environment, existing infrastructure and community requirements to tailor their solution and drive innovation.

Cooperative involvement is enabling water authorities, government bodies and local councils to play an active role in reshaping their communities through collaboration with their industry partners, as well as key

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community stakeholders. This enables delivery partners including leading water infrastructure company, Interflow, to develop 'customer-centric' solutions to complex water network projects.

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY FRONT OF MIND

Coliban Water's region covers 49 towns across 16,500 km² of regional Victoria, Australia including the Bendigo district. Since its establishment in 1992, the organisation has maintained its focus on delivering appropriate water and wastewater services to communities within the growing region.

A 900 mm diameter sewer trunk main that traverses the Bendigo suburbs of White Hills and Epsom was recently identified and prioritised for work after it was found to be in poor condition. The trunk main was discovered to have significant erosion and partial blockages, which meant the pipe had limited capacity for the area it serviced.

The sewer trunk main was first built in the 1960s and the section that was renewed is almost 2 km long. It travels under parks, footpaths, roads and private backyards and is a key piece of sewer infrastructure for that local community.

It was important to find a long-term solution for the ageing sewer trunk main, while also ensuring any impacts on the community were minimised.

TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

Interflow and Coliban Water worked together to establish the most effective way to renew the sewer main. From a planning perspective, the development of a suitable flow management plan was a crucial element of the project.

Interflow's staff were able to gain insight about existing infrastructure and the local landscape to help with the planning and design process.

Interflow's Project Manager, Fergus Meyer, shared how the active collaboration expedited the planning and design phase to deliver the community with a winning solution saying: "Coliban Water's flow data and network analysis were crucial to successfully modelling a viable solution that prioritised community wellbeing and cost reduction."

"Studying the network infrastructure, we identified a neighbouring pipeline that presented an unanticipated yet promising bypass alternative." he continued.



Lining works on the 900 mm diameter sewer trunk main.

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RSM Lining Supplies offers CIPP lining systems, materials and ancillary equipment as well as expert lining consultancy services worldwide.



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Although the neighbouring pipeline was smaller in diameter and unable to accommodate all of the flow from the ageing sewer trunk main, Interflow was able to channel a carefully calculated portion of flow through it. This allowed the sewer trunk main to be relined whilst operating at a reduced capacity.

CO-CREATION: A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

This solution would not have been realised without the collaboration and knowledge sharing between Coliban Water and Interflow.

Coliban Water's Infrastructure Manager, Corey Bourne, said: "The sewer main's lifespan had been extended by 50 years and a costly full bypass had been avoided. The

sewer relining works were carried out during the day which had meant less disruption for customers and also eliminated safety risks associated with night works. A combination of practical experience and hydraulic modelling expertise enabled this plan to be developed."

Before the relining of the sewer main, approximately 300 tonnes of sludge were removed from it. "The capacity of the sewer trunk main has been significantly improved thanks to these works, and it has also reduced the chance of a sewer spill during a heavy rainfall event." Bourne said.

Fergus Meyer said: "Co-creation is an important role within projects such as this one. Coliban Water's willingness to be involved in the process reflects their dedication to uphold the interests of the community and achieve a long-term solution. As more companies realise the potential for productivity and innovation that co-creation presents, innovations within the water sector will continue to bloom." Website: www.interflow.com.au



Interflow's lining crew on the Coliban Water lining project.

ELECTRO SCAN APPOINTS NEW VP FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Excited to announce that trenchless technology expert Paul Pasko, PE, has joined its growing team of pipe condition assessment technology experts. Serving as the Company's Vice President of International Business Development, Pasko brings over 30 years of trenchless technology expertise to the company's considerable capabilities. Pasko's extensive background in the water and sewer pipeline infrastructure market includes a complete range of pipe inspection solutions and repair and rehabilitation strategies.



Paul Pasko.

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome an industry pioneer to our management ranks." stated Chuck Hansen, Chairman, Electro Scan Inc.

"Paul's credentials, including prior project work with Electro Scan, will be invaluable as we continue expanding our machine-intelligent IoT leak detection technologies to the global smart water marketplace." he continued.

In 2019, Pasko was recognised by the American Public Works Association as the Professional Manager of the Year Award - Engineering and Technology.

As Electro Scan's Vice President of International Business Development, Pasko will offer the company's services and products to sewer, water, and gas pipeline owners around the world, as well