

## Challenges:

The biggest challenge for horizontal directional drilling is the use of water. Each rig can use around 10,000 litres of water per day which is then turned into wet slurry using additives such as bentonite and then removed and disposed of at a licenced waste transfer station by a slurry removal company. We are working with a company, Fisher Environment Limited, to look at ways to solidify the wet slurry to make it solid again and therefore re-usable.

This is a new idea being used by AK Trenchless and will then be rolled out to other drilling companies.

## Impact:

Through being an active member of the School AK Trenchless have seen the following impacts:

- **Introducing FIR Ambassadors:** The FIR modules were extremely useful in introducing the concept of Fairness, Inclusion and Respect to the business. Ak Trenchless now have a FIR Ambassador in the team and have implemented the practices learnt into their recruitment and interview process.
- **Upskilling of colleagues:** Using the School e-learning modules and learning pathways has developed company knowledge on key sustainability issues, including around Lean. As a result, new practices have been implemented. The amount of learning ensures colleagues are continuing to develop and are 'kept on their toes'.
- **Focused learning:** The Action Plan developed after completing an assessment directed the company to modules and resources relevant to them. The toolbox talks are easy to access and can be shared with anyone in a small company.

## Value gained:

AK Trenchless have gained the following value through being a School member:

- **Better understanding:** The School's resources have given the business a better understanding of sustainability issues so they can start to implement things at the start of pricing. AK Trenchless have dedicated certain hours a week to continue their progress.
- **Competitive advantage:** Some clients require AK Trenchless to be members of the School, others have a good reaction when this is shared in bids and tenders, giving them a competitive advantage.
- **Collaboration with clients:** What is most advantageous is being able to work with clients who are also involved with the School and working together towards a better understanding of sustainability.

## Fact box



### Company

AK Trenchless Ltd

### No of employees

11

### HQ

Dronfield, Chesterfield

### Website

[www.aktrenchless.co.uk](http://www.aktrenchless.co.uk)

### Main contact

Mick Whitehead – Contracts Manager

[mick@aktrenchless.co.uk](mailto:mick@aktrenchless.co.uk)

### Services

Horizontal directional drilling

### About

AK Trenchless Limited is a no-dig company that provides horizontal directional drilling to enable pipes to be inserted under areas which cannot be open cut, such as motorways, highways, rivers, railways, airport runways, golf courses and areas of environmental sensitivity. This enables the client to insert utilities/communications/street lighting under the obstacles through these pipes.

Clients include Balfour Beatty, Costain, Skanska, Kier, Western Power Distribution, Morrisons and Osborns.