



Minutes
for the ordinary Members' Meeting
of the Drilling Contractors Association
(DCA-Europe)
on February 07, 2024 in Oldenburg

Minutes of the ordinary Members' Meeting of the DCA on February 07, 2024 in Oldenburg

Hybrid event

Venue: Oldenburg, Hotel Patentkrug

Time: 07th February 2024, 03.00 – 05.18 p.m.

Present: see list of participants

**TOP 1 Welcome, determination of the quorum, approval of the agenda
and minutes of the 2023 Members' Meeting**

The executive secretary of the DCA, Mr. Quante, opens the Members' Meeting and welcomes the board and the members in the conference room and on the screens. First, some technical information on the hybrid event is provided. Mr. Quante notes that the meeting was convened in accordance with the statutes with the invitation by e-mail dated 14.12.2023 and that there is a quorum of 60 out of 169 member companies (98 participants). The agenda for today's meeting is presented below. Item 2.2.7 Task Group BGL 2025 (Germany) is added under item 2.2 Reports from the departments (current DECA projects). The agenda is then unanimously approved. The minutes of the 2023 Members' Meeting are then presented and also unanimously approved without amendment.

TOP 2 Report of the board
TOP 2.1 President's Report

Mr. Stoelinga welcomes the participants to today's meeting, in particular the companies that have joined since the last Members' Meeting in 2023. Mr. Stoelinga also reports that a total of 10 regular and 8 associate members joined the DCA in 2023:

Regular members:

- SAS Coquart.EU, France
- RBS Rohrbau-Schweißtechnik GmbH, Austria
- Marty Bauleistungen AG, Switzerland
- Galjard Bau GmbH, Germany
- GHT GmbH, Germany
- Nibler GmbH, Germany
- Beermann Bohrtechnik Krefeld, Germany
- Hauck Tiefbau GmbH, Germany
- SONNTAG Bauges. mbH & Co. KG, Germany
- Schmallenberger Bohrservice GmbH, Germany

Associate members:

- RTE, France
- DVK Consulting Energy Services GmbH, Germany
- Kugler GmbH, Germany
- Bayernwerk Netz GmbH, Germany
- BM Drilling, Mexico
- Fichtner GmbH & Co. KG, Germany
- Subsite Electronics, USA

- MOST, France

There are also two new personal members, Günter Moll and Günter Kruse.

The regular members WBW GmbH, Germany, Mido Sp. Z.o.o., Poland, Markey Drilling Ltd, UK and MK Drilling Services Ltd, Ireland, as well as the associate members Solids Control Services Environmental B.V., Netherlands and Orsted, UK, have resigned. Reasons included a change in the area of activity. As of 7 February 2024, a total of 169 member companies were thus organized in the association (69 regular and 100 associate members). Of the 169 companies, 108 are from Germany, 13 from the Netherlands, 9 from France and 7 each from the UK and the USA. There are 6 members from Poland. The remaining 19 member companies are spread across a total of 12 other countries.

The companies Vermeer, Ditch Witch, SST Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stoll & Partner Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH and Cebo Holland B.V. were honored for 25 years of membership in the DCA.

Mr. Stoelinga also explained that a total of seven board meetings were held in the past year, two of which took place at the Aachen office, one in Ahrweiler, one at the Bohrmeisterschule Celle and one in Oldenburg. There were also two team meetings. In this context, Mr. Stoelinga thanked his colleagues on the board, the management and the office for their work in the past year. He then gives a brief overview of the activities carried out in the 2023 year. These include first and foremost:

- DCA Members' Meeting in Oldenburg on 29.03.2023, 52 of 155 member companies (97 participants)
- Participation in the Trenchless Engineering Conference in Poland (13.06.-15.06.2023)
- Participation in the L-Team Baumaschinen Summer Event (29.06.-01.07.2023)
- Organization of the 27th DCA Annual Congress in Leipzig (04.10.- 06.10.2023)
- Participation in the Ditch Witch Customer Day (20.10.2023)
- Participation in the NO -Dig of the FSTT, Marseille (28.11.2023)
- Implementation of the training event according to GW 329 in Kassel (07.12.2023)

Mr. Stoelinga also reported on the training courses held at the Bohrmeisterschule Celle. A total of 70 participants were trained in accordance with GW 329 (technical supervisors, site managers and machine operators).

Looking back on the 27th DCA Annual Congress in Leipzig in October last year entitled "The importance of HDD in the energy transition", Mr. Stoelinga explained that it was a record-breaking event with 210 participants. He thanked the sponsors of the congress. These were the member companies:

GOLD-Sponsors

- BLK Bohrteam GmbH
- Vermeer
- Michels Trenchless Europe GmbH & Co. KG
- Bohrtec-Teubner Wittenberg GmbH
- Ditch Witch
- TRACTO-TECHNIK GmbH & Co.KG

SILVER-Sponsors

- Derrick Corp.
- Herrenknecht AG
- Mannesmann Line Pipe GmbH
- GLINIK Drilling Tools und
- Blitzconsult

BRONZE-Sponsors

- Cebo Holland B.V. and
- HDD Sachsen GmbH

A particular highlight of the event was the presentation by Ralf Schuster, geopolitical expert on the topic of "Geopolitics - an explanation for everything?". The content and style of the presentation were sure to inspire the participants. Secondly, this year's congress, entitled "The importance of HDD in the energy transition", addressed current market challenges that companies in the HDD technology sector are currently focusing on in Germany. Under the headings of energy transition and digitalization, this concerns the new construction and expansion of the wired electricity and communication infrastructure.

Another highlight of the event was the panel discussion "Upcoming challenges around HDD" in the afternoon on three important topics in the HDD industry. The panel discussion was excellently moderated by Dr. Antje Wöhnke and Jorn Stoelinga. Block 1 dealt with the topic of "Permits, access, other things around the actual work", block 2 with "Technical issues" and block 3 with "Personnel and equipment". As a result, it can be stated that the issue of a shortage of skilled workers is a major concern for companies in the industry and that the association is called upon to provide prompt and active support.

Mr Stoelinga went on to explain that the questionnaires, which were also made available online, were in the "good" to "very good" range in terms of organization, congress content, simultaneous translation, length of the annual congress and congress documents. In a direct comparison of German-speaking and English-speaking participants, there were few deviations.

Overall, the event and the social program in Leipzig (Panoramataower) were judged to be very successful and the exchange of experiences and the organization in particular were rated very positively.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who were involved in the preparation and implementation of the panel discussion or the presentations!

The next DCA Annual Congress will take place in Barcelona, Spain from October 9-11, 2024. The congress hotel has already been booked and preparations for the events and program are already underway.

The following activities also took place in 2023:

- Continuation of the task groups on "Revision of the Technical Guidelines" (TG3), data acquisition and logging (TG4) and subsoil (TG5) (for details see top 2.2)
- Collaboration in the DVGW task group GW 340 (DVGW, Germany)
- Collaboration in the task group BGL 2025 (Germany)
- Continuation of public relations work

TOP 2.2 Reports of the departments (current DCA projects)

Current projects from 2023 are summarized below:

TOP 2.2.1 Task Group 3 - Technical Guidelines

The "yellow print" of the new Technical Guideline Issue No. 5 (German version) was sent to members for review at the end of 2023. There are numerous comments that are still being processed. The aim is to complete processing by mid-2024.

Parallel to the processing of the new version of the Technical Guidelines, a cooperation agreement was concluded with the French Society for Trenchless Technology (FSTT) in November 2023 to produce the DCA Technical Guidelines in French. One of the aims of the cooperation agreement with the FSST is to publish a joint technical guideline for the French market.

TOP 2.2.2 Task Group 4 - Data Acquisition and Logging

Mr. Stone explains that he has handed over the leadership of the task group to Mr. Florian Gies, Tracto-Technik. The focus of the work is to create more clarity about which drilling data should be recorded and how, including specifications on frequency and parameters. The aim of the task group is to define standardized data sets and formats that provide all parties involved with the information relevant to the drilling process in a structured overview. The work should be completed by the end of the year.

TOP 2.2.3 Task Group 5 - Subsoil (DCA/GSTT)

This task group was founded in March 2023 in cooperation between the GSTT and the DCA. The very specific and complex topic in the HDD sector has already been discussed several times in the past by the DCA in its technical guidelines, in workshops or, for example, in the course of the members' forum and is to be explored in greater depth once again in cooperation with the GSTT.

A total of seven meetings have been held to date. The aim of the task group is to mediate between theory and practice. The aim is to develop a "guide for the use of trenchless construction methods in different subsoils". Projects are divided into categories; the minimum scope of investigation is defined and recommendations are issued. The results are then compared with the new guideline, including the new GSTT information 28-2 „Baugrunderkundung und Baugrundbeschreibung für Rohrvortrieb – Homogenbereiche für Böden und Fels“.

TOP 2.2.4 Training and further education

On behalf of Mr. Reinhard, Mr. Stoelinga reported on the annual congress held in Leipzig in 2023 and the HDD technology members' forum (topic: Accuracies in HDD drilling), both of which are considered training events in accordance with DVGW worksheet GW 329. Further training courses were held at companies including L-Team x-Tools, Vermeer and Tracto-Technik. Some DCA members conduct training courses. The DCA is happy to communicate the dates of these training courses within the association. Members are requested to inform the office of the dates in good time. These can then be published on the DCA website and/or LinkedIn. As always, the last event in 2023 was the training event in accordance with DVGW GW 329, which took place on December 7, 2023 in Kassel. Under the expert guidance of vice president Marco Reinhard, 121 participants attended three specialist lectures and a training course on construction contract law.

Mr. Stoelinga also explained that, as already mentioned, this year's training courses for technical supervisors, site managers and machine operators had taken place at the Bohrmeisterschule Celle at the beginning of 2024. From 19.02.-21.02.2024, the further training seminar for specialist in mud technology for HDD construction measures also took place.

The training courses at Deltares in the Netherlands have already run with a refresher course in October 2023 and the HDD 1 and HDD 2 courses in January 2024. The latter were attended by 16 and 8 participants respectively. With the support of the DCA, Deltares is planning additional HDD courses in English in line with DVGW worksheet GW 329. The DCA is happy to support members or institutions in setting up such courses.

The 36th Oldenburg Pipe Forum will take place in the Weser-Ems-Hallen just one day after today's members' meeting. The DCA will be represented at the exhibition grounds with six specialist presentations and the Drilling Saloon.

TOP 2.2.5 Task Group GW 340 (DVGW, Germany)

Board member Jörg Himmerich reports on the status of work in the DVGW task group GW 340, in which the DCA is involved.

The yellow print phase for DIN 30340-1 "Ummantelungen zum mechanischen Schutz von Stahlrohren und -formstücken mit Korrosionsschutzumhüllung – Teil 1: Gütesicherung Werksummantelungen" has been successfully completed. The white print of DIN 30340-1 has been available for purchase since December 2023.

Part 2 of DIN 30340, entitled "Ummantelungen zum mechanischen Schutz von Stahlrohren und -formstücken mit Korrosionsschutzumhüllung – Teil 2: Gütesicherung Nachummantelung und Reparaturmaterialien", is still being processed. The yellow print was published on 15.12.2023. The objection deadline was 15.02.2024. A white print is expected soon. Part 3 will follow shortly.

TOP 2.2.6 Sponsorship program

Mr. Himmerich explains that a large number of colleges and universities in several European countries have so far been contacted as part of the newly launched DCA sponsorship program. The program has also been published both in the DCA newsletter and on the website.

The program is currently supporting Adam Lisowski's final thesis at TU Delft on the topic of "Accuracy in HDD drillings". For 2024, there is a preliminary request from a student for a Master's thesis, which has not yet been specified. New topics for the sponsorship program are still being sought for this year. Please contact project coordinator Jörg Himmerich.

TOP 2.2.7 Task Group BGL 2025 (Germany)

In mid-2023, the DCA was asked by Günter Konrad, Senior Site Manager and Chief Engineer at Ed. Zueblin AG, chairman of the task group for the revision of the construction equipment list (BGL 2025), to participate in the revision. Following a vote by the board, Mr. Julian Hirsch from Bohlen & Doyen Bau GmbH was recruited as the DCA representative for this task group.

The revision is primarily concerned with Chapter L, „Geräte für horizontalen Rohrvortrieb und Pipelinebau“. The first step is to check whether additional or larger equipment that is not included in other chapters of the BGL could be added. It may also be possible to specify scrapers in more detail in a table. Furthermore, technical and commercial data will then be

determined. According to current information, the processing for the BGL should be completed by fall 2024.

TOP 2.3 Report of the DCA-Representatives (Italy, Spain, UK, France, Scandinavia)

The DCA is represented by representatives in Italy, Spain, France and the UK. The task of the representatives is to promote the objectives of the association throughout Europe and to increase the level of awareness in the individual European countries. The focus is also on maintaining contact with member companies and recruiting new members.

Italy – Representative Renzo Chirulli, Vermeer

DCA representative Renzo Chirulli gives a brief overview of the market development in the HDD sector in Italy. Over the next four years, investments in the triple-digit billion range are planned in Italy's infrastructure. The national electricity grid is to be modernized by 2032. This corresponds to over 30 projects and an investment volume of over 30 billion euros. Networks for renewable energies are also planned, which are to be supported with 11 billion euros. Due to the high level of investment, demand for the use of HDD technology is expected to increase in 2024 and subsequent years.

Mr. Chirulli reported that three HDD drilling companies and one potential associate member are ready for membership in the DCA. He will report further.

Spain – Representative Brian Jorgensen, Ditch Witch EMEA

DCA representative Brian Jorgensen is represented by Bernd Steinmetz, Ditch Witch. He gives an update on the Iberian Peninsula area. In the Iberian Peninsula, open cut is generally the preferred method of cable construction and there are relatively few HDD companies. In the area of fiber optic cable laying, 75% of the Iberian Peninsula is already covered, which puts it in 2nd-4th place in Europe. Other important sectors are the energy transition and decarbonization. Photovoltaics and wind farms are on the rise and with them many HDD projects. The Iberian Peninsula also has a massive water problem. Many seawater desalination projects have already been launched, with most of the water being extracted using HDD.

The Canary Islands are also focusing on green electricity and want to be 100% fossil fuel-free by 2040. To this end, Catalana de Perforacions is laying a 40 km long cable at a depth of 36 m from La Gomera to Tenerife, which is the deepest submarine AC cable ever laid in the world.

UK – Repräsentant Scott Stone, Michels Trenchless GmbH

Mr. Stone reports that the UK HDD market continues to grow. The focus is on the expansion of onshore networks and special projects for HDD such as Anglian Water as a Strategic Pipeline Alliance and HS2, the relocation of services for the new rail network.

He explains that Brexit is currently easier to handle than expected, but that solutions for British personnel for deployment in Europe remain difficult. Moving equipment across borders is possible, but requires additional effort.

Currently, the UK is a world leader in offshore wind development and has developed floating offshore wind. With a current electricity consumption of 62 GW, offshore wind power accounted for 13.8 GW by the end of 2022. The aim is to reach a capacity of 50 GW by 2030. By 2050, the UK wants to be at net zero emissions. There are no applications for membership of the DCA in the UK.

France – Representative François Gandard, OPTIMUM

François Gandard reports on the HDD market in France. The French HDD market continues to grow. Cable laying plays the biggest role. In the gas transport sector, the focus is on hydrogen and decarbonization projects, with GRT Gaz covering the whole country except the south-west. This area is supplied by Terega. GrDF is responsible for distribution. During the Olympic Games, fewer contracts are awarded by public utilities. The Grand Paris project is therefore coming to an end. In general, the situation for HDD companies in France is favorable, but the HDD industry in France also has a huge problem with the shortage of skilled workers. As already mentioned, a cooperation agreement was concluded with the French Society for Trenchless Technology (FSTT) in November 2023 to produce the DCA Technical Guidelines in French while the new version of the Technical Guidelines was being prepared. One of the aims of the cooperation agreement with the FSTT is to publish a joint technical guideline for the French market.

Mr. Gandard also reports that MOST joined the DCA at the end of January. Mr. Gandard explains that there are also contacts with other interested companies in France. These include companies such as Huré, FNO, BIR, GRT GAZ and Enedis. The company Terega would also like to become a member of the DCA again. Some of the application documents from For Drill are still pending. Mr. Gandard is confident that the documents will now be submitted promptly.

Skandinavia – Representative Benny Jensen, Dantonit A/S

The search for new members for the DCA continues to be difficult in Scandinavia. There is hardly any market for HDD companies, only the Danish Railways or Vejdirektoratet. HDD companies must be certified by NoDig, a subdivision of Dansk Industri, or become a member. One of the potential candidates would be Ostergaard, whose managing director is also chairman of NoDig. Another potential candidate would be the company Danboring of the Munck Group. The market in Sweden and Norway is to be analyzed in 2024.

New representative for Eastern Europe – Bartek Fratzczak, Subsite Electronics

Mr. Bartek Fratzczak from Subsite Electronics, which has been a member of the DCA since January 2024, will take care of the interests of the Eastern European HDD industry as the new representative. After studying at the Warsaw University of Technology and the AGH University in Krakow, he was initially Sales Manager at American Augers from 2003 to 2006. He then worked for Parker Hannifin for six years. Since 2012, he has also been working for Subsite Electronics, a subdivision of Ditch Witch EMEA, as Sales Manager.

TOP 2.4 Treasurers' Report

The profit and loss account for 2023:

The profit and loss account for the 2023 financial year presented by Mr. Muhl shows a surplus of around €44,200. This is strikingly higher than the planned surplus of around € 5,000. There were major deviations from the planned individual budgets in terms of income from membership fees and income from cost reimbursements in connection with the annual congress and the sale of technical guidelines. Despite the slightly higher costs of the annual congress and the higher trade fair costs, there was still a significant net profit for the year.

Balance sheet 2023:

The association's assets can be stated at around € 324,500.00, taking into account the net profit for the year. Outstanding receivables from members amounted to around € 10,600.00 as

at 31.12.2023. The cash balance on the reporting date amounted to a credit balance of around € 311,160.00. The credit balance serves as a reserve in the event of declining membership figures. In conclusion, the cash position can be classified as very stable.

TOP 2.5 Report of the financial auditors

The cash auditor Mr. Christoph Kreutz (brbv) reports on the cash audit carried out together with Mr. Mrotzek, which took place online for the first time on 26.01.2024. All transactions were filed transparently and no questions remained unanswered. There were no objections for the 2023 financial year. In this context, Mr. Kreutz thanked the management for the excellent preparation of the cash audit. He concluded by certifying that Mr. Muhl's cash management was proper and that the funds were used appropriately and thanked him for his work.

TOP 3 Exoneration of the board

On behalf of Mr. Mrotzek and the members of the DCA, Mr. Kreutz thanks the board and the management for their successful work in the past financial year and proposes that the actions of the board be approved. The motion is adopted without dissenting votes and with one abstention.

TOP 4 Women empowering HDD

The issue of skills shortages remains a major and complex challenge. Enough incentive for the DCA to get involved with projects in this area and to ask itself how the HDD industry can be made more attractive to different target groups and how target groups can be made more interested in the HDD industry.

In the newly launched "Women empowering HDD" project, a network consisting of six women has been meeting since October 2023 to develop specific measures. This includes, for example, a survey that was made available to DCA Members' Meeting member companies with the aim of identifying key figures, the role of women in the companies and any uncertainties. The group will work closely with the new "HDD Image Film" task group. The results will be presented at the next annual congress and an action plan will be prepared.

TOP 5 Review Podiumdiscussion...what's next? – „Strengthening the HDD-industry“

Mr. Stoelinga explains that as a result of the panel discussion, the topic of "skills shortage" has become the focus of the DCA. The DCA is therefore planning to create an image film, which will be produced over the course of the year and then published on the usual channels. A website is also under construction (www.drill4europe.com), on which content for young professionals/interested parties is to be placed, including a job locator and lots of information about HDD and short videos about HDD work (so-called landing page). Both projects are anchored in the 2024 budget. Following the introduction, Mr. Chirulli, Vermeer and Ms. Zevalkink, Site Tec explained the current status of work on both projects.

TOP 6 Business year 2024

TOP 6.1 Tasks and goals 2024/25

Mr. Stoelinga announces that the DCA's previous objectives will continue to be actively pursued in the future. With regard to the 2024/25 financial year, Mr. Stoelinga explains the planned activities below:

- Planning and holding a total of seven board meetings
- Completion of the "Revision of the Technical Guidelines" task group, continuation of the other task groups
- Creation of the HDD image film incl. landing page with all necessary modules.
- Implementation of training courses according to GW 329 at the Bohrmeisterschule in Celle in Jan/Feb 2024
- Mud seminar in Celle from 19.02.-21.02.2024
- Supervision of HDD training courses at Deltares. HDD 1 15.-19.01.2024, HDD 2 22.-26.01.2024
- Planning and implementation of the 6th members' forum (bilingual) on the topic of „Grouting the annular space" on 25.04.2024 in Aachen
- Participation in the 22nd Trenchless Engineering Conference in Krakow, Poland from 11-13.06.2024
- Organization of the 28th annual congress in Barcelona (09.-11.10.2024)
- Accompanying the training event "Further education according to GW 329" in Kassel (December 10, 2024)
- Basic training course for clients, planners and authorities planned in Kassel in December 2024, led by Marc Schnau
- Holding of the members' meeting on 05.02.2025 in Oldenburg, Hotel Patentkrug
- Participation in the Oldenburg Pipe Forum with six presentations and the DCA information stand (Drilling Saloon), from 06.-07.02.2025
- Awarding of the DCA sponsorship prize for 2024
- Introduction of further DCA representatives
- Publications
- Membership recruitment in European countries.

Mr. Stoelinga also explains that planning for the 28th annual congress in October 2024 is already underway. In Barcelona, there will once again be interesting presentations on current HDD projects (small and large drilling technology) and a special social program. For this congress, the already known sponsorship program (Gold, Silver, Bronze) has been adapted once again, which provides sponsors for three areas such as Communication, Networking, Social Program. The costs for the congress have risen significantly in recent years. Sponsorship is intended to ensure that smaller companies in particular can continue to send their employees to the annual congress in the future. The costs must always be kept in view.

The next members' meeting is planned for February 5, 2025, one day before the Oldenburg Pipe Forum, again at the Hotel Patentkrug in Oldenburg.

TOP 6.2 30th Anniversary 2024

On the occasion of the association's 30th anniversary, the association is organizing a sailing trip on the IJsselmeer in the Netherlands on 20.06.2024. The event is exclusively for members. The DCA has reserved a room contingent at the Four Elements Hotel in Amsterdam. Lunch is planned from 12:00-14:00 and the transfer to the sailing ship will take place around 14:30. The

sailing trip will take place until 22:00. Afterwards there will be a drink in the Skybar of the Four Elements Hotel. Please note that only 2 people per member company can take part. Invitations to the event will be sent out to members in mid-March.

TOP 6.3 Budget 2024

Income of € 429,100.00 and expenses of € 445,670.00 are planned for the 2024 financial year. The planned shortfall due to the creation of the image film and the landing page amounts to around € 16,570, which is entirely justifiable given the association's very stable cash position. No proposals for changes or additions were formulated. Mr. Muhl then made a motion to approve the budget presented. The motion was approved without abstention and with one vote against.

TOP 7 Election of the financial auditors 2024

Mr. Quante thanks the cash auditors Mr. Mrotzek, Bohlen & Doyen Bau GmbH (in absentia) and Mr. Kreutz, brbv, for their work.

Both stand for re-election as the first auditor. Mr. Mrotzek is elected unopposed and without abstention. He accepts the election.

Mr. Christoph Kreutz stands for re-election as the second auditor. Mr. Kreutz is elected unopposed and without abstentions. He accepts the election and is thus the 2nd auditor.

Mr. Ernst Fengler, LMR Drilling GmbH, stands for re-election as substitute auditor. He is elected unopposed and without abstention. He accepts the election.

TOP 8 Miscellaneous

Mr. Stoelinga and Mr. Quante conclude by thanking everyone for attending today's event and close the ordinary members' meeting of the DCA at 5.18 pm.

Aachen, 23.04.2024

Minutes:



Dietmar Quante
Executive Secretary



Jorn Stoelinga
President