



Minutes

**for the ordinary Members' Meeting
of the Drilling Contractors Association
(DCA-Europe)
on February 05, 2025 in Wardenburg near
to Oldenburg**

Minutes of the ordinary Members' Meeting of the DCA on February 05, 2025 in Wardenburg near Oldenburg

Hybrid event

Venue: Wardenburg, Hotel Wardenburger Hof

Time: 05. February 2025, 03.00 - 06.00 p.m.

Present: see list of participants

TOP 1 Welcome, determination of the quorum, approval of the agenda and minutes of the 2024 Members' Meeting

The executive secretary of the DCA, Mr Dietmar Quante, opens the Members' Meeting and welcomes the board and the members in the meeting room and on the screens. Firstly some technical information on the hybrid event is provided. Mr Quante notes that the meeting was convened according to the statutes with the invitation by e-mail dated 13 December 2024 and that a quorum of around 60 out of 181 member companies (113 participants) is present. The agenda for today's meeting is presented below. No amendments were proposed. The agenda is unanimously approved. The minutes of the 2024 Members' Meeting are then presented and also unanimously approved without amendment.

TOP 2 Report of the board

TOP 2.1 President's Report

The president of the DCA, Mr Jorn Stoelinga, welcomes the participants to today's Members' Meeting, in particular the companies that have joined since the last Members' Meeting in 2024, and presents the awards for 25-year membership.

The following companies are honoured for 25 years of membership:

- Beermann Bohrtechnik GmbH
- Herrenknecht AG
- Moll-prd GmbH & Co. KG.

Mr Stoelinga also reports that a total of 5 regular and 13 associate members, i.e. a total of 18 companies, joined the DCA in the 2024 financial year:

Regular Members:

- BMS – Beyrodt GmbH & Co. KG, Germany
- Denys, Belgium
- OST BAU, Germany
- Plus Pohl GmbH, Germany
- Volker Stevin, UK

Associate Members:

- AT-BORETEC – Andreas Tigges e.K., Germany
- Bau-ABC Rostrup, Germany
- Brewis Engineering, UK
- Future Proof Solutions SARL, France

- gbm Gesellschaft für Baugeologie und -meßtechnik mbH, Germany
- Geoscop, France
- Getech Srl. Italy
- Institut für Rohrleitungsbau an der Fachhochschule Oldenburg e. V., Germany
- Jürgen Muhl – Personal member, Germany
- Perforator GmbH, Germany
- Profilplast Pipesystems BV, The Netherlands
- TDE Equipment and Manufacturing GmbH, Austria
- Terra AG, Switzerland

In turn, the members Parker Wellbore UK, Arcadis Germany GmbH (formerly Giftge Consult GmbH), FMBE GmbH, Germany, Revicond Romania and International Drilling Services Ltd, UK, left for various reasons. The associate member Hypertunnel Ltd UK was cancelled due to insolvency.

A total of 181 member companies are currently organised in the association (73 regular and 108 associate members). Of the 181 companies, 112 are from Germany, 14 from the Netherlands, 11 from France, 8 from the UK, 6 from Poland and the USA. The remaining 24 member companies come from a total of 11 other countries.

Mr Stoelinga also explains that a total of eight board meetings were held in the past financial year, four as M. Teams meetings, two of which were held in Aachen, Amsterdam and Gelsenkirchen. In this context, Mr Stoelinga thanked his colleagues on the board and the management and office for their work in the past financial year. He then gives a brief overview of the activities carried out in the 2024 financial year.

These include first and foremost:

- Organisation of the 28th annual congress in Barcelona
- Organisation of the 6th Members' Forum in Aachen
- Realisation of the anniversary celebration '30 years DCA' in Amsterdam
- Organisation of the members' meeting in Oldenburg
- Participation in the 36th Oldenburg Pipe Forum from 8 to 9 February 2024
- Organisation of training courses according to GW 329 at the Bohrmeisterschule in Celle
- Participation in the 22nd Trenchless Engineering Conference in Krakow
- Participation in the 21st Ditch Witch Customer Day in Barcelona
- Participation in the 17th No-Dig Live, UK
- Realisation of the training event according to GW 329 in Kassel
- Realisation of the HDD training course for clients, planners and authorities in Kassel
- Training in the Netherlands at Deltares

In the past financial year, the 30th anniversary of the association, which was celebrated on 20 June 2024 with a boat trip on the IJsselmeer in the Netherlands, deserves special mention. Over 80 participants took part in the anniversary event, which met with a very positive response overall. The highlight of the association's year was once again the DCA annual congress, which was held in Barcelona this time under the title '¿HDD ready?' and was virtually fully booked with 235 participants. Mr Stoelinga then thanked the sponsors of the congress.

The following sponsors supported the organisation of the annual congress:

- Catalana de Perforacions (Gold)
- Ditch Witch (Gold)
- Michels Trenchless GmbH (Gold)

- Schmallenberger Bohrservice (Gold)
- Vermeer (Gold)

- Derrick (Silver)
- Kugler GmbH (Silver)
- Herrenknecht (Silver)
- Phrikolat Drilling Specialties (Silver)
- Schauenburg GmbH (Silver)

- GLINIK Drilling Tools (Bronze)
- x-plan schnau engineering GmbH & Co. KG (Bronze)

The guest speaker was Kim Jansen, a social psychologist, who spoke on the topic of 'Generations @ work'. This was followed on both days by numerous interesting presentations on various aspects of HDD. An essential part of this year's event was once again a panel discussion consisting of two different blocks on the topic of 'How to attract and how to keep people in the industry?'.

The topic of staff shortages had already been touched on at the congress in Leipzig and was now further elaborated on in Barcelona with its various facets. Ms Antje Wöhnke, who had already moderated the panel discussion in Leipzig the year before, was once again in charge of moderation. Before the panel discussion began, Brian Jorgensen and his team presented the new HDD image film, which was produced within a few months with the active support of the members. The subsequent landing page, which is now available online, was also presented.

The highlight of the spouse programme was the visit to the Sagrada Familia in the heart of Barcelona and the evening event at the Hotel Miramar with a fantastic view of the Mediterranean Sea.

Mr Stoelinga explained that the evaluation of the questionnaires regarding organisation, congress content and simultaneous translation was in the 'good' to 'very good' range. The panel discussion was rated as good or better by 70% of the participants. Overall, the exchange of experiences was rated very positively.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who were involved in the preparation of the panel discussion or the presentations! The next annual congress of the DCA will take place from 8-10 October 2025 in Bamberg. The congress hotel has already been booked and preparations for the events and programme are already underway.

This is followed by information on other events, such as participation in the 22nd Trenchless Engineering Conference in Krakow, the Ditch Witch Customer Day in Barcelona and the 17th No-Dig Live in Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

Mr Stoelinga then drew attention to further DCA activities in 2024 (task groups, etc.), which are explained in more detail under item 2.3.

TOP 2.2 Report Group Women empowering HDD

Under item 2.2, Ms Camila Sanchez Prado explains the activities to mobilise women for the HDD sector. The group, which now consists of six committed women from various member companies, is in contact with other women's networks in the construction industry. On 27 May 2025, the 1st DCA Spring Talks will also take place at the Novotel in Aachen, where the focus will be on the work of women in the industry. Networking is also on the programme. The one-

day event is designed for 50 people, and presentation topics can be submitted. A children's book is also planned to familiarise the very young generation with HDD at an early age.

TOP 2.3: Reports of the departments (current DCA projects)

Current projects from 2024/2025 are summarised and explained below:

TOP 2.3.1 Task Group 3 – Technical Guidelines

The 5th edition of the Technical Guidelines in German has now been published and sent to the members. Mr Schnau, head of task group 3, reports that the English version is almost complete and that a French version is currently being prepared in cooperation with the FSTT. The new guidelines focus on bending radii, the consideration of tolerances, quality assurance and project categorisation according to the degree of difficulty. A complete revision of the German version with a new structure is already on the board's agenda and will be tackled in a few years' time. The board would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who have contributed to the revision of the guidelines.

TOP 2.3.2 Task Group 4 – Data Acquisition and Logging

The new head of task group 4 'Data acquisition and logging' is Mr Simon Herrenknecht from Herrenknecht. The task group aims to standardise the important data generated during the drilling process. This will include the question of which data is important and how it can be prioritised. The task group is due to be completed this year.

TOP 2.3.3 Task Group 5 – Subsoil (DCA/GSTT)

The DCA/GSTT task group 5 'Subsoil' met four times last year. According to task group leader Philipp Dick from the company Moll-prd, the initial focus is on the subsoil for HDD methods, after which the results are to be transferred to the pipe jacking method. The revision of the subsoil parameters has been completed; the results have been incorporated into the new version of the technical guidelines. The task group is currently prioritising the parameters on the basis of GSTT information 28-2.

TOP 2.3.4 Task Group 6 - HDD Image Film and Landing page

Task group 6 focuses on the recently created HDD image film and the 'Drill for Europe' landing page. The film met with a very positive response. According to Ms Sanne Boortman from Vandenberg, the website has also been successful to date and has had well over 5,000 visitors. The posts on social media are also very positive. The filter system for company searches is the most frequently used function on the website. The next steps are: country-specific advertising in the respective national language and a focus on real construction site work. Members are encouraged to contribute input on technical expertise and experiences from their working lives to the design of the website.

TOP 2.3.5 Task Group DVGW GW 340 (Germany)

Board member Jörg Himmerich (Dr.-Ing. Veenker Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH) reported that GW 340 will be converted into a DIN standard. Part 1 - DIN 30340-1 - has been published as a white print in 2023, Part 2 (11/24) has also been published. DIN 30340 now covers all wrapping systems available on the market. Part 3 is available as a draft, but is due to be published as a white paper in February.

TOP 2.3.6 Task Group DVGW Gas-/Wasserleitungskreuzungsrichtlinie (Germany)

The DB-AG's and DVGW/BDEW current Gas-/Wasserleitungskreuzungsrichtlinie dates back to 2012 and is therefore virtually obsolete. The DVGW is now revising the guideline in a task group with the involvement of the DCA. The special technical features are currently being discussed and worked out. Once the draft has been finalised, the revision will be submitted to Deutsche Bahn AG for review. Two meetings of the task group have taken place so far.

TOP 2.4 Training and further education

TOP 2.4.1 General Update

On behalf of Mr Reinhard, Mr Stoelinga reported on the annual congress in Barcelona in 2024, which was virtually fully booked, and the HDD technology members' forum, which was also fully booked, both of which are considered training events according to DVGW worksheet GW 329. Training and further education in HDD technology is one of the central points of the DCA statutes and is therefore the focus of the association's activities in many respects.

As always, the last event in 2024 in which the DCA was involved was the training event according to DVGW GW 329, which took place on 10 December 2024 in Kassel. 116 participants met under the expert guidance of Vice president Marco Reinhard. One day later, an HDD training event for clients, engineering offices and authorities was also held in Kassel for the first time in a long time. The event was well attended with 36 participants, especially as the rbv was only able to start advertising the event shortly beforehand. There will be a continuation of both events at the same location in December 2025.

Mr Stoelinga also explained that this year's training courses for technical supervisors, site managers and machine operators took place at the Bohrmeisterschule Celle and Bau-ABC Rostrup at the beginning of 2025. Bau-ABC has been a member of the association since the end of 2024 and supports the DCA in training and further education. From 17-19 March 2025, the further training seminar „Specialist in mud technology for HDD construction measures“ will also take place again in Celle.

The training courses at Deltares in the Netherlands have already run with a refresher course in October 2024 and the HDD 1 and HDD 2 courses in January 2025. The latter were well attended with 19 and 12 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 organisations in setting up such courses.

The 36th Oldenburg Pipe Forum will take place again tomorrow, Thursday, in the Weser-Ems-Hallen. The DCA will be represented at the exhibition centre with six specialist presentations and the Drilling Saloon.

Some DCA members will also continue to organise 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.

TOP 2.4.2 Sponsorship program 2025

Mr Himmerich provides information on the current DCA sponsorship program. After Adam Lisowski presented his final thesis at TU Delft in August 2024, Ms Christina Maria Groß from the University of Bochum was to be sponsored for 2024 with the topic '*Abfallrechtliche Behandlung von Bohrschlämmen aus dem HDD-Verfahren unter Berücksichtigung der neuen Mantelverordnung für Ersatzbaustoffe und Bodenschutz*'. Unfortunately, the contract was not finalised. Lars Hinken's bachelor thesis on 'Status quo and application potential for building

information modelling (BIM) in the field of horizontal directional drilling (HDD)' was deemed eligible for funding retroactively for 2024. Mr Hinken is studying civil engineering at the Jade University of Applied Sciences in Oldenburg.

Companies that have interesting projects or questions that could be dealt with as part of the sponsorship programme are invited to contact the DCA.

Top 2.4.3 Speech: „Apprenticeship as a mining technologist“ Maik Hünecke

Mr Maik Hünecke from K+S AG was invited to speak at today's members' meeting. In his presentation, Mr Hünecke will report on training as a mining technologist. Hünecke organises a three-year training course for an interest group.

The theoretical part of the training takes place at the Haldensleben vocational college, the practical part at the company providing the training. During the training, all mining activities necessary for exploring a deposit are learnt. Parts of the training are also based on horizontal drilling technology. The apprenticeship is recognised in Germany and is therefore of great interest for the promotion of young talent in the HDD industry. Two DCA member companies are already members of the interest group. The DCA supports this initiative and would be delighted if other companies from the association were to get involved.

TOP 2.5 Treasurers' Report

The profit and loss account for 2024:

The profit and loss account for the 2024 financial year presented by treasurer Jürgen Muhl shows an overall loss of around € 67,800, which was primarily due to the significantly higher expenses for the annual congress in Barcelona and the additional costs for the landing page. The costs for the 30th anniversary celebrations in Amsterdam, for the members' forum in Aachen and for administrative activities were within the planned budget. By contrast, income increased significantly compared to the planned budget, meaning that some of the additional expenditure approved by the board was covered by additional income (membership fees, sponsorship of the annual congress, sale of technical guidelines, etc.).

Balance sheet 2024:

Taking into account the net loss for the year, the association's assets can be stated at around € 269 thousand. As at 31 December 2024, outstanding receivables from members amounted to around € 7 thousand. The credit balance continues to serve as a reserve in the event of declining membership figures. In conclusion, the cash position can be categorised as very stable.

TOP 2.6 Report of the financial auditors

The cash auditors Mr Edgar Mrotzek, Bohlen & Doyen, and Mr Christoph Kreutz, brbv, report on the cash audit they carried out on 29 February 2025 by M. Teams. Mr Finkeisen from the tax consultancy Wald & Finkeisen, Jürgen Muhl as treasurer and Dietmar Quante as executive secretary of the DCA were present. After a thorough examination of the data provided by Mr Quante, the auditors certified that Mr Muhl had handled the DCAs funds properly and thanked him for his work. Once again, they point out that the costs of money transfer (membership fees) are not borne by the association, but by the members. Unfortunately, this is not always the case for transfers from abroad, among other things.

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 Business year 2025

TOP 4.1 Change of statutes

Mr Quante presents the planned amendment to the statutes in section 6 The Board. In terms of content, this concerns the possible increase/adjustment of the number of assessors on the board due to the steady increase in board tasks.

§6 The board

(1) *The entire board consists of the President and three Vice-Presidents:*

- *A: Representative for small scale drilling,*
- *B: Representative for large scale drilling,*
- *C: Representative for Associate Members,*

the treasurer and three other board members.

To be changed:

the treasurer and **at least three to five other board members.**

There were no proposed amendments to the proposal of the board. The amendment to the statutes was adopted by the members with no votes against and no abstentions.

TOP 4.2 Board election

Mr Stoelinga explains that Mr Khemiri, Vice-President Large Scale Drilling and Mr Muhl, current Treasurer of the DCA, are no longer available for re-election. Mr Muhl is going into well-deserved retirement, but will remain with the DCA as a Personal Member. Mr Khemiri is no longer available for re-election for professional reasons. Mr Stoelinga thanks the two long-standing members of the board for their work and wishes both gentlemen all the best for the future. Mr Stoelinga explains in advance the procedure for finding potential candidates for the vacant board positions. The various board positions are elected for a period of two years by the members' meeting according to the statutes. The board only has the right to nominate candidates. The technical information on the election follows. Eight board positions are up for election. Mr Quante takes over the elections and proposes open elections. This is accepted unanimously without a dissenting vote.

TOP 4.2.1 President

At the suggestion of the DCA board, the current President Jorn Stoelinga is standing for re-election. Mr Stoelinga has been a member of the DCA board since 2015 and was initially responsible for education and training in the Netherlands. He has held the office of DCA Vice President since 2017, during which time he took over the management of the coating quality task group. He has been President of the DCA since 2019.

There are no further proposals for the election of the President. Mr Stoelinga is elected with no abstentions and no votes against. He expresses his thanks for the vote of confidence and accepts the election.

TOP 4.2.2 Vice President (Small Scale Drilling)

Mr Reinhard is standing for re-election as Vice President for small scale drilling in his absence. There are no further proposals. Mr Reinhard is re-elected unanimously. He accepts the election.

TOP 4.2.3 Vice President (Large Scale Drilling)

Mr Stone, previously a board member on the board, is standing for election as Vice President for large scale drilling. He briefly introduces himself. There are no additional proposals. Mr Stone is elected unanimously. He accepts the election.

TOP 4.2.4 Vice President (Associate Members)

Mr Schnau is standing for re-election as Vice President for Associate Members. He briefly introduces himself. There are no other proposals. Mr Schnau is re-elected unanimously. He accepts the election.

TOP 4.2.5 Treasurer

Mr Ronald Siebel, previously a board member on the board, is standing for election as Treasurer. He briefly introduces himself. There are no other proposals. Mr Siebel is elected unanimously. He accepts the election.

TOP 4.2.6 Board member

Mr Jörg Himmerich is standing for re-election. He briefly introduces himself. There are no other proposals. Mr Himmerich is re-elected unopposed, with one abstention. He accepts the election.

TOP 4.2.7 Board member

Mrs Camila Sanchez Prado, HDI, is standing for election as an assessor. She briefly introduces herself. There are no other proposals. Mrs Sanchez Prado is elected unanimously. She accepts the election.

TOP 4.2.8 Board member

Mr Dan Billig, Sharewell HDD, is standing for election as an assessor. He briefly introduces himself. There are no other proposals. Mr Billig is elected unanimously. He accepts the election.

The new board:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| President: | Mr Stoelinga |
| Vice-President (Small Scale Drilling): | Mr Reinhard |
| Vice-President (Large Scale Drilling): | Mr Stone |
| Vice-President (Associate Members) | Mr Schnau |
| Treasurer: | Mr Siebel |
| Board member: | Mr Himmerich |
| Board member: | Mrs Sanchez Prado |
| Board member: | Mr Billig |

TOP 4.3 Tasks and Goals 2025/26

Mr Stoelinga announces that the DCAs previous objectives will continue to be actively pursued in the future. With regard to the 2025/26 financial year, Mr Stoelinga explains the planned activities below:

Task groups:

- Completion of task group 3 Revision of the technical guidelines
- Continuation of the current task groups 4-6,
- New task group no. 7 Steering: Head Dan Billig
- External task groups with DCA participation:
 - External task group: No. 3E - Revision of DWA A 125 (Germany)
 - External task group: No. 4E - Gas/water pipe crossing guidelines (Germany)
 - External task group: No. 5E - DVGW GW302-3 (Germany)

Public relations/member support:

- Continuation and support of the landing page with all necessary modules
- Support for DCA members in Europe, including through the work of DCA representatives
- Participation/support in various member activities (e.g. Ditch Witch Customer Event, Vermeer HDD seminar, Tracto-Technik events, etc.)
- Membership recruitment in European countries
- Introduction of the DCA forum 'Large Scale Drilling' ('Platform for discussion')
- Introduction of a shop system on the DCA homepage (ordering technical guidelines etc.)

Events/training and further education

- Planning and realisation of the 29th DCA Annual Congress in Bamberg (08-10 October 2025)
- Planning and implementation of the 7th DCA members' forum on the topic of "Mud-Motor versus dual rod system" in Aachen (3 April 2025)
- Supervision of training courses according to DVGW worksheet GW 329 at the Bohrmeisterschule in Celle and at BAU-ABC Rostrup in Jan/Feb 2025
- Participation in the IRO in Oldenburg with six presentations and the DCA information stand (06-07 February 2025)
- Planning and implementation of HDD theme day no. 11: 'Requirements for the preparation and implementation of HDDs for high-voltage direct current transmission projects (HVDC)' at BAU-ABC Rostrup (19 February 2025)
- Women Empowering HDD: Planning and implementation of the DCA 'Spring Talks' in Aachen (27/05/2025)
- Planning and implementation of a basic HDD training course for clients, planners and authorities in Kassel (8 December 2025)
- Planning and implementation of the training event 'Further education on the "directional horizontal drilling technology" according to worksheet GW329 in Kassel (09/12/2025)
- Supervision of the mud seminar at the Bohrmeisterschule in Celle (17-19 March 2025)
- Support for HDD training courses at Deltares
Support for Bachelor's/Master's theses as part of the DCA sponsorship programme 2025.

The courses at the Bohrmeisterschule Celle took place from 13 January to 6 February 2025 in January/February this year. A total of 78 participants were trained.

The DCA Members' Forum 2025 (bilingual) on the topic of "Mud-Motor versus dual rod system" will take place on 3 April 2025 in Aachen at the Novotel. A joint dinner is planned for the evening before, to which the DCA cordially invites the participants of the forum! Registration has already started. The registration deadline is 21.03.2025.

The 29th DCA Annual Congress will take place from 8-10 October 2025 in Bamberg. The congress theme and programme are still being finalised. A three-tier sponsorship programme for the 'Communication', 'Networking' and 'Social Programme' (gold, silver and bronze sponsors) is running as part of the event. To date, the DCA has secured nine gold sponsors and two silver sponsors. The sponsorship is intended to ensure that smaller companies in particular will be able to send their employees to the annual congress in the future. The costs must always be kept in mind.

According to Stoelinga, Bamberg will once again feature interesting presentations on current HDD projects (small and large scale drilling technology) and, as with the last congress, a special spouse program. Again, presentations from the membership are being sought for the annual congress. Please report to the office.

The next members' meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2026, the day before the Oldenburg Pipe Forum (February 5-6, 2026), again at the Wardenburger Hof Hotel in Wardenburg near Oldenburg.

TOP 4.4 Budget 2025

Mr. Siebel, newly elected treasurer of the DCA, presents the 2025 budget. For the fiscal year, revenues of approximately €511,600,000 and expenses of €511,210,000 are planned. The projected surplus is €390. No proposals for changes or additions were made. Mr. Siebel then requests approval of the presented budget. The request is approved without abstentions or dissenting votes.

TOP 5 Election of the financial auditors

Mr. Quante thanks the previous auditors, Mr. Mrotzek, Bohlen & Doyen, and Mr. Christoph Kreutz, brbv, for their work over the past two years. Due to the two-year limit on the term, a new election is necessary. Dirk Müller, Transco, is running for the first auditor position. He is elected without opposition and without abstentions. He accepts the election. Kai Bernhardt, Tracto-Technik, is nominated for election as the 2nd auditor. He is elected without opposition and with one abstention. He accepts the election and is thus the 2nd auditor.

As a substitute auditor, Ernst Fengler, LMR Drilling GmbH, is elected. He is elected without opposition and without abstentions. He accepts the election.

TOP 6 Miscellaneous

Mr. Stoelinga and Mr. Quante thank everyone for participating in today's event and close the DCAs regular members' meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Aachen, 26th June 2025

Minutes:



Dietmar Quante
Executive secretary



Jorn Stoelinga
President