

Minutes
to the ordinary Members' Meeting of the
Drilling Contractors Association
(DCA-Europe)
on 04th February 2026 in Wardenburg near
Oldenburg

Minutes of the DCA Ordinary Members' Meeting on 4th February 2026 in Wardenburg near Oldenburg

Hybrid event

Venue: Wardenburg, Hotel Wardenburger Hof

Time: 04th February 2026, 03.00-06.00 pm

Present: see list of participants

TOP 1 Welcome, determination of the quorum, approval of the agenda and minutes of 2025 Members' Meeting

The managing director of the DCA, Mr Quante, opens the members' meeting and welcomes the board and members in the conference room and on the screens. First, some technical information about the hybrid event is provided. Mr Quante notes that the meeting was convened in accordance with the statutes by e-mail invitation dated 11 December 2025 and that a quorum of approximately 70 of 207 member companies (160 participants) is present. The agenda for today's meeting is then presented. There are no proposed amendments. The agenda is unanimously approved. The minutes of the 2025 members' meeting are then presented and also unanimously approved without amendments.

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

The president of the DCA, Mr Stoelinga, welcomes the participants to today's members' meeting, especially the companies that have joined since the last members' meeting in 2025, and presents the awards for 25 years of membership.

The following companies are honoured for 25 years of membership:

- Bohrtec-Teubner Wittenberg GmbH
- Phrikolat Drilling Specialties GmbH,
- Prime Drilling GmbH,

Mr Stoelinga also reports that a total of 16 regular and 13 associate members, i.e. a total of 29 companies, joined the DCA in the 2025 financial year:

Regular new members:

- APK Drilling BV, Belgium
- BEMO Tunelling GmbH, Austria
- Bohrtechnik Keller GmbH, Germany
- Braumann Tiefbau GmbH, Austria
- Drilljet AG, Switzerland
- Elektropaks Sp.zo.o, Poland
- Ems Bohrtechnik GmbH, Germany
- Entreprenørfirmaet Østergaard A/S, Denmark
- Eugen Engert GmbH, Germany
- GBS Energy Solutions EAD, Bulgaria
- HDD Nord GmbH, Germany
- Heinz Bente GmbH, Germany
- Keßler Kabelpflug GmbH, Germany

- Olimb Anlegg AS, Norwegen (first member from Norway!)
- Strabag AG, Germany
- Verbraeken Infra NV, Belgium

Associate members:

- BERNARD Gruppe ZT GmbH, Germany
- BUNG-PEB Tunnelbau-Ingenieure GmbH, Germany
- CvO Trenchless Technologies, The Netherlands
- Ditch Witch Benelux, The Netherlands
- Engelbertz Consulting, Germany
- Gorman Rupp Europe B.V., The Netherlands
- IMAR Navigation GmbH, Germany
- OBERMEYER Infrastruktur GmbH & Co. KG, Germany
- Pipelife Norge AS, Norway
- Tiefenenergie SRL, Romania
- Underground Magnetics INC., Italy
- ZETCON Ingenieure GmbH, Germany

Personal member:

- Jürgen Muhl

In return, the members LÜBA-Leitungsbau and GHT AG Gleis-, Hoch- und Tiefbau have resigned. Their HDD departments have been closed. The associate member TDE Equipment and Manufacturing GmbH has been removed due to insolvency.

This means that the association currently has a total of 207 member companies (87 regular and 120 associate members). Of the 207 companies, 127 are from Germany, 18 from the Netherlands, 11 from France, 9 from the United Kingdom, 7 from Poland and the USA. The remaining member companies are spread across a total of 13 other countries.

Mr Stoelinga went on to explain that a total of seven board meetings were held in the past financial year, six of which took place in Aachen and one in Assen in the Netherlands. In this context, Mr Stoelinga thanked his fellow board members and the management and administrative staff for their work in the past financial year. He then gave a brief overview of the activities carried out in the 2025 financial year.

These primarily include:

- Hosting the 29th Annual Congress in Bamberg, with over 250 participants
- Hosting the 7th Member Forum in Aachen, with over 80 participants
- Hosting the Members' Meeting in Oldenburg
- Participation in the 37th Oldenburg Pipe Forum
- Holding training courses according to GW 329 at the Bohrmeisterschule in Celle
- Taking over the patronage of the 22nd Trenchless Engineering Conference in Krakow
- Holding the 1st Spring Talks by We-HDD in Aachen with over 40 participants
- Conducting the GW 329 training event in Kassel
- Conducting HDD training for clients, planners and authorities in Kassel
- Training in the Netherlands at Deltares

A highlight of the past financial year was the DCA Annual Congress, which was held in Bamberg under the title 'Even drillers need rules' and attracted a record number of over 250 participants.

Mr Stoelinga then thanked the sponsors of the congress.

The following sponsors supported the annual congress:

- Ditch Witch (Gold)
- Michels Trenchless GmbH (Gold)
- Schmallenberger Bohrservice (Gold)
- Vermeer (Gold)
- Beermann Bohrtechnik GmbH (Gold)
- Cetco (Gold)
- Galjard Bau (Gold)
- Getech (Gold)
- Krafteam (Gold)
- Max Streicher (Gold)
- TRACTO-TECHNIK (Gold)

- Derrick (Silver)
- Kugler GmbH (Silver)
- Herrenknecht (Silver)
- Digital Control GmbH (Silver)
- DVGW Cert (Silver)
- Hanab Directional Drilling (Silver)
- Hauck Tiefbau (Silver)
- OPTIMUM (Silver)

- Blitzconsult (Bronze 4-way)

The guest speaker was Leo Martin, a former secret agent, who gave a talk on the topic of 'Secret Weapons of Communication'. 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 workshop, this time on the topic of 'Technical Guidelines'.

The areas of radii, HDD categories, soil investigation for HDD and pulling forces were covered in a new format for the workshops.

The highlight of the social programme was the evening event on Thursday in a typical Franconian barn.

Mr Stoelinga explained that the evaluation of the questionnaires regarding organisation, congress content and simultaneous translation ranged from 'good' to 'very good'. The workshops were rated as good or very good by the participants. Overall, the workshop format was rated very positively. There were comments on the noise level in the rooms, a better mix of groups and the limited time available.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all members who were involved in preparing the workshops or presentations!

The next DCA annual congress will take place in Rome from 30 September to 2 October 2026. The congress hotel has been booked and preparations for the events and programme are on the way.

A brief explanation follows of the DCA HDD Technology Forum (exchange platform), which will soon be established on the DCA website. This forum was created to give all employees of DCA member companies and, where applicable, guests the opportunity to discuss the daily challenges on HDD construction sites. Such an exchange platform is generally referred to as a forum on the internet. This exchange platform should not be confused with the members' forum, which regularly takes place in Aachen in the spring as an in-person event for members.

Mr Stoelinga then refers to further DCA activities in 2025 (task groups, etc.), which are explained in detail under item 2.3.

TOP 2.2 Report Women empowering HDD (WE-HDD)

Under item 2.2, Ms Camila Sanchez Prado, board member, explains the activities of the WE-HDD group to mobilise women for the HDD industry. The group is in contact with other women's networks such as Women in Pipe, PTC, Global Women Forum and others.

On 30 May 2026, the 2nd DCA Spring Talks will take place at the Novotel in Aachen. The one-day event is designed for 50 people, and presentation topics can be submitted. In addition to interesting presentations, networking is also on the agenda. To support the networking part of this event, the DCA will organise a dinner for the participants.

The planned children's book will be pursued further. The company FOREXI is sponsoring the group this year. As last year, the Veenker Foundation is supporting the participation of students in the Spring Talks in Aachen.

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

The following is a summary and explanation of current projects from 2025/2026:

TOP 2.3.1 Task group 3 – Technical Guidelines

The fifth edition of the Technical Guidelines in English has now been published and sent to members. Mr Schnau, vice president and head of task group 3, reports that a French version is also currently being prepared in collaboration with the FSTT. The new guidelines focus on bending radii, the consideration of tolerances, quality assurance and project classification according to degree of difficulty. An editorially revised German edition of the Technical Guidelines was published in August 2025. The Technical Guidelines will be available for purchase in an online shop on the DCA website in future. Company licences are available. The board would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who participated in the revision of the guidelines.

TOP 2.3.2 Task Group 4 – Data Acquisition and Logging

Head of task group 4 'Data Acquisition and Logging' Mr Simon Herrenknecht from Herrenknecht AG was represented by DCA Vice President Scott Stone. The task group aims to standardise the important data generated during the drilling process. Among other things, it will address the question of which data is significant and how it can be prioritised.

The aim of the task group is to define uniform data sets and formats that provide all parties involved with the information relevant to the drilling process in a structured overview. The work has now been divided into subgroups that deal with different areas of interest. The group meetings will resume in February/March.

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

The task group is essentially run in cooperation with the Bundesverband Grabenlos (formerly RSV and GSTT). For task group leader Philipp Dick from x-plan schnau engineering GmbH & Co. KG, the focus here is on the HDD method, with a transfer from the pipe jacking method to follow. The revision of the subsoil parameters has been completed; the results have been incorporated into the new version of the technical guidelines.

There is currently no exchange with the Bundesverband. The task group is scheduled to be completed and the results presented in 2026.

TOP 2.3.4 Task Group 6 – Drill for Europe – Landing page

Task group 6 deals with the landing page 'Drill for Europe'. Mr Thijs Jansen from the company Vandenberg presents information about the landing page. The focus was on the use of the website and the various advertising packages. Three companies have already taken up the offer and placed one of the advertising packages. The DCA would welcome further support from its members in this regard. The association will continue to support the landing page both financially and in terms of content in 2026.

TOP 2.3.5 Task Group 7 – Steering

The head of the task group, Dan Billig, board member, reports that 21 participants from a wide variety of fields are involved in the task group. The first meeting to define the areas of responsibility will take place in March.

TOP 2.3.6 Task Group 2E – BGL 2025

According to Mr Julian Hirsch of Bohlen & Doyen, work on the BGL 2025 has been completed. The results have been published in book form and online. The association would like to express its gratitude to Mr Hirsch.

TOP 2.3.7 Task Group 3E - DWA-A125

Dr Tim Jaguttis used to run this group, but has left De la Motte & Partner GmbH. Marc Schnau reports that the task group will form now on be led by Björn de la Motte, De la Motte & Partner GmbH. No further updates regarding this task group.

TOP 2.3.8 Task Group 5 E - DVGW GW 302-3

According to Vice President Marc Schnau, GW 321 has already been largely revised and transferred to GW 302. It was published as Part 1: Unternehmen zur Rehabilitation und Neulegung von Rohrleitungen. The GW 302-2, Grabenlose Bauweisen – Part 2: Rehabilitation von Druckrohrleitungen is available in draft form. The Part 3 Neulegung von Druckleitungen – Verfahrenstechnik is in preparation.

TOP 2.3.9 Task Group DVGW Gas-/water pipe crossing guideline

According to board member Jörg Himmerich three meetings took place in 2025. Each module was revised in small groups. The DVGW now wants to submit the draft to Deutsche Bahn AG. The next meeting will take place in Hanover in March 2026.

TOP 2.4 Training and further education

TOP 2.4.1 General Update

Mr Himmerich, representing Vice President Mr Reinhard, reported on the very well-attended annual congress in Bamberg in 2025 and the equally well-attended HDD Technology Members' Forum on the topic of 'Mud-Motor versus Dual Rod System', 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.

In addition, the association held other activities in 2025, such as the 1st DCA Spring Talks of the WE-HDD group with seven specialist presentations and a panel discussion in Aachen. This event is also recognised as a training event according to GW329.

December 9, 2025, together with the rbv – training for clients and planners in Kassel.

As always, the last event in 2025 in which the DCA was involved was the training event according to DVGW GW 329, which took place on 10 December 2025 in Kassel. 120 participants met under the technical direction of Vice-President Marco Reinhard. The day before, another HDD training event for clients and planners took place in Kassel, led by Vice-President Marc-Schnau. The event was well attended, with 44 participants. The training provided basic knowledge about the applicability and requirements of the HDD procedure as well as the essential aspects of planning, tendering and execution. In December 2026, both events will be continued at the same location.

Mr Himmerich went on to explain 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 2026. Dirk Koch is the new managing director of the Bohrmeisterschule in Celle. Bau-ABC has been a member of the association since the end of 2024 and supports the DCA in training and further education.

On 19 February 2025, Theme Day 11 of Bau ABC, 'Anforderung an Vorbereitung und Durchführung von HDDs bei Hochspannungs-Gleichstrom-Übertragungs Projekten (HGÜ)', took place for the first time together with the DCA (40 participants). The event is to be held again in the same form in 2026. From 2 to 4 February 2026, the advanced Course specialist for mud technology for HDD construction measures was held again in Celle.

The training courses at Deltares in the Netherlands were already underway with a refresher course in October 2025 and the HDD 1 and HDD 2 courses in January 2026. The latter were well attended, with 36 and 16 participants respectively. Deltares, supported by the DCA, is planning additional HDD courses in English, according to the DVGW worksheet GW 329. The DCA is happy to support members or institutions in setting up such courses.

The 37th Oldenburg Pipe Forum will take place again tomorrow, Thursday, in the Weser-Ems Halls. The DCA will be present, as is customary, with six technical presentations and the Drilling Saloon on the exhibition grounds.

Some DCA members also conduct their own training courses. The DCA is happy to communicate the dates of these training courses within the association. Members are requested to notify 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 2026

As part of the DCA sponsorship programme 2024, Lars Hinken from Jade University of Applied Sciences in Oldenburg received funding for his thesis „Status quo und Anwendungspotenziale für Building Information Modelling (BIM) im Bereich Horizontalspülbohrverfahren.

2025 Sponsorship program – Two candidates are planned:

Timo Lemke, Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences in Suderburg: Bachelor's thesis „Gegenüberstellung von HDD und offener Bauweise – Entwicklung einer Bewertungsmatrix“. The thesis was submitted at the beginning of 2026.

Jonas Meyer from the same university: Bachelor's thesis entitled „Gegenüberstellung von EPP und HDD bei der grabenlosen Leitungsverlegung – dargestellt an zwei Kreuzungsbauwerken im Projekt SuedLink“. The thesis was also submitted at the beginning of 2026.

2026 Sponsorship program– A request has been received:

Barend Voogt: TU Delft Civil Engineering, specialising in Geotechnical Engineering, Master's thesis 'Borehole Stability during Shore Approaches'. The Master's thesis is relatively far advanced.

Companies that have interesting projects or issues that could be addressed within the framework of the sponsorship program are invited to contact the DCA.

Top 2.5 Speech „NEP 2026, the current discussion about cable vs. Overhaed lines in Germany“, Mathias Drücker, Tennet TSO GmbH

Mathias Drücker from TenneT TSO GmbH, an expert in energy policy, reported under TOP 2.5 on the overall process of a grid development plan and the role of a transmission system operator, as well as the currently debated topic of underground cables vs. overhead lines.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the presentation:

"During the last legislative period, we realized that underground cables did not meet with the acceptance we had hoped for. They are also more difficult to operate than overhead lines and relatively expensive," said Drücker. According to TenneT's calculations, planning overhead lines for all DC projects not yet included in the Federal Requirements Plan could save €20 billion. Nevertheless, the discussion is very controversial, with models offering combination options also being discussed. However, Drücker emphasized that a "high and low" approach is the worst-case scenario in terms of planning, technology, and costs, and that a clear decision in favor of one of the two options is very important. All in all, the political opinion-forming process is not yet complete and is somewhat ambivalent between different political camps and regions. The decision will be made by the parliament in Germany in the Federal Requirements Plan Act.

TOP 2.6 Panel discussion – DCA-Representatives

Camila Sanchez Prado moderated the panel discussion. DCA representatives from the UK, Spain, France, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe were in attendance. After a brief introduction to current HDD activities in each country, the discussion turned to interest in the DCA, regional events and associations. Important projects and trends were also highlighted. Finally, each representative made a statement about future activities in his area.

TOP 2.7 Treasurer's Report

The profit and loss statement for 2025:

The profit and loss statement for the 2025 financial year presented by treasurer Ronald Siebel shows a total profit of approximately €83,000.

This high surplus is attributable to the significant increase in income from membership fees, sponsorship and congress fees. On the expenditure side, costs rose only very moderately compared to the budget.

Asset overview 2025:

Taking into account the above-mentioned net income for the year, the association's assets can be stated as approximately €320,000. Outstanding receivables from members amounted to approximately €8,500 as of 31 December 2025. These funds continue to serve as reserves in the event of declining membership numbers. In conclusion, the cash position can be classified as very stable.

TOP 2.8 Report of the financial auditors

The cash auditors, Mr Dirk Müller, Transco Downhole Drilling Tools GmbH, and Mr Kai Bernhardt, TRACTO-TECHNIK GmbH & Co. KG, report on the cash audit they conducted on 28 January 2026 via M. Teams. Present were Mr Finkeisen from the tax consultancy Wald & Finkeisen, Mr Siebel as treasurer and Mr Quante as managing director of the DCA. After intensive examination of the data provided by Mr Quante, the cash auditors certify that Mr Siebel has handled the DCA's funds properly and thank him for his work. They reiterate that the costs of money transfers (membership fees) are to be borne by the members and not by the association. Unfortunately, this is not always the case, for example with transfers from abroad. In addition, an appeal is made to the members to pay their dues on time. Some membership fees are paid very late and only after repeated reminders. This must change.

TOP 3 Exoneration of the board

On behalf of Mr Bernhardt and the members of the DCA, Mr Müller thanks the board and the management for their successful work in the past financial year and proposes that the board be discharged. The motion is approved without any dissenting votes or abstentions.

TOP 4 Business year 2026

TOP 4.1 Election of the board (additional board member)

At its last meeting in November 2025, the board decided to expand the board by one additional member in accordance with §6 of the statutes. Timo Mücke, Managing Director of Beermann Bohrtechnik GmbH, is standing for election. No other candidates were nominated or put themselves forward from among the participants. Timo Mücke, was elected for this position. After completing his studies in civil engineering, he has been working in the HDD sector for 18 years. He was elected without any dissenting votes or abstentions. He accepted the election.

TOP 4.2 Change of statutes

Mr Stoelinga presents the planned amendment to the statutes in § 2 Purpose. The DCA statutes should be amended to allow economic business operations in future, provided that they serve the charitable purpose. This is required to enable us to legally be able to sell items such as the technical guidelines

Proposal to change the statutes in § 2:

§2 Target

(8) Creation and maintaining of the institutes for change of the target of association.

~~A profitable business of the association is out of the question.~~

New: Economic business operations are permissible provided that they serve the realisation of the target of the association.

There were no amendments to the proposal put forward by the board. The amendment to the statutes was accepted by the members without any dissenting votes or abstentions.

TOP 4.3 Task and Goals 2026/27

Mr Stoelinga announces that the DCAs existing objectives will continue to be actively pursued in the future. With regard to the 2026/27 financial year, Mr Stoelinga explains the planned activities below:

Task Groups:

- Continuation of the ongoing task groups 4-7,
- External task groups with DCA participation
 - Task group external: Nr. 3E - DWA-A 125 „Rohrvortrieb und verwandte Verfahren“
 - Task group external: Nr. 4E - Gas-/water pipe crossing guideline
 - Task group external: Nr. 5E - DVGW GW302-3

Public relation/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 in/support for various member activities (including Ditch Witch Customer Event, Vermeer HDD Seminar, TRACTO-TECHNIK events, etc.)
- Recruiting members in European countries
- Introduction of the DCA forum 'Platform for Discussions'
- Introduction of a shop system on the DCA homepage (ordering technical guidelines, etc.)

Events/training and further education

- Planning and implementation of the 30th DCA Annual Congress in Rome (30 September to 2 October 2026)
- Planning and implementation of the 8th DCA Member Forum on the topic of 'Categorisation of HDD-Drillings' in Aachen (30 April 2026)
- Support for training courses according to DVGW worksheet GW 329 at the Bohrmeisterschule in Celle and at BAU-ABC Rostup in January/February 2026
- Participation in the IRO in Oldenburg with six presentations and the DCA information stand (5–6 February 2026)
- Planning and implementation of HDD Theme Day No. 11: 'Anforderung an Vorbereitung und Durchführung von HDDs bei Hochspannungs-Gleichstrom-Übertragungs-Projekten (HGÜ)' at BAU-ABC (24 February 2026)
- Women Empowering HDD: Planning and implementation of the DCA 'Spring Talks' in Aachen (28 May 2026)
- Planning and implementation of basic HDD training for clients, planners and authorities in Kassel (8 December 2026)
- Planning and implementation of the training event 'mud technology for HDD construction measures' according to DVGW worksheet GW 329 in Kassel (9 December 2026)
- Support for the mud seminar at the Bohrmeisterschule in Celle
- Support for HDD training courses at Deltares
- Support for bachelors/master's theses as part of the DCA sponsorship program 2026

The courses at the Bohrmeisterschule Celle took place from 12 January to 5 February 2026. A total of 87 participants received training.

The DCA Members' Forum 2026 (bilingual) on the topic of 'Categorisation of HDD-Drillings' will take place on 30 April 2026 at the Novotel in Aachen. A dinner is planned for the evening before, to which the DCA cordially invites the forum participants! Registration is already open. The registration deadline is 17 April 2026.

The 30th DCA Annual Congress will take place from September, 30th to October, 2nd 2026 in Rome. The congress theme and programme are currently being finalised. A four-tier sponsorship programme for the areas of 'communication', "networking" and 'social programme' (platinum, gold, silver and bronze sponsors) will run alongside the event. So far, the DCA has secured three platinum sponsors, five gold sponsors and three silver sponsors. The aim of the sponsorship is to ensure that smaller companies in particular can continue to send their employees to the annual congress in the future. It is important to keep an eye on the costs here.

According to Mr Stoelinga, there will again be interesting presentations on current HDD projects (small and large drilling technology) in Rome and, as at previous congresses, a special spouse programme. Presentations from members are again being sought for the annual congress. Please contact the office if you are interested.

The next members' meeting is scheduled for 3 February 2027, one day before the Oldenburg Pipe Forum (4–5 February 2027), again at the Hotel Wardenburger Hof in Wardenburg near Oldenburg.

TOP 4.4 Budget 2026

As treasurer of the DCA, Mr Siebel presents the budget for 2026. Revenue of approximately €597,000 and expenditure of approximately €593,000 are forecast for the financial year. The planned surplus amounts to approximately €4 thousand. No proposals for amendments or additions were made. Mr Siebel then moves that the presented budget be approved. The motion is carried unanimously without abstentions or dissenting votes.

TOP 5 Election of the financial auditors

Mr Quante thanks the cash auditors Mr Dirk Müller, Transco Downhole Drilling Tools GmbH, and Mr Kai Bernhardt, Tracto-Technik GmbH & Co. KG, for their work over the past year. Both cash auditors stand for re-election. They are re-elected without any dissenting votes and with one abstention.

Ernst Fengler, LMR Drilling GmbH, stands for election as substitute cash auditor. He is elected without any dissenting votes and without abstentions. He accepts the election.

TOP 6 Miscellaneous

Mr Stoelinga and Mr Quante conclude by thanking everyone for attending today's event and close the DCAs ordinary Members' Meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Aachen, 10.03.2026

Minutes:



Dietmar Quante
Geschäftsführer



Jorn Stoelinga
Präsident