



Verband Güteschutz Horizontalbohrungen e.V.
Drilling Contractors Association (DCA Europe)
Association des Entrepreneurs de Forage Dirigé

large scale drilling

DCA-Europe

Recommendation – Education – Networking
small scale drilling



www.dca-europe.org Our experience - your success!

About us

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In use worldwide

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Training, Funding and Cooperation

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Young Scientists

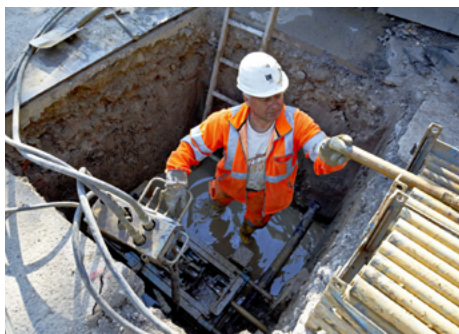
About us

The European Organisation for Quality Assurance and Training

The Drilling Contractors Association (DCA Europe) was founded on 1st December 1994 by leading companies of the horizontal drilling industry as a European Association. The method of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) has established itself worldwide as a feasible and economic alternative for the crossing of obstacles in the field of pipeline laying.

The aim of the Association is to maintain, promote and further develop the technical standards of horizontal directional drilling at a European level. In addition, to establish framework conditions for use in this comparatively young method which can be improved primarily through the use of uniform standards of quality assurance and the standardisation of approval procedures and the promotion of training, research and development.

Furthermore, the association provides an international forum for the continuous exchange of experience between HDD contractors, subcontracting companies, planners, clients and authorities.



Why Quality Assurance is at the forefront for the DCA

With your support we want to...

- **Promote the further develop** small and large-scale drilling technology in the HDD sector in line with practical requirements at a European level!
- **Ensure a continuous improvement** and lobby on behalf of the HDD industry both in public and with Clients!
- **Improve the representation of technical interests** towards Clients, Authorities and other Institutions!
- **Increase the qualifications of members** through Education and Training!
- **Support students** at Universities in their education!
- **Enforce the simplification** of approval procedures!
- **Jointly offer an International platform** for a continuous exchange of information and experience!

As a member we offer you...

- **Participation at National and International level** in our committees, task groups and workshops!
- **Constant Professional exchange** with colleagues from the Industry!
- **Free subscription** to the "Technical Information" of the DCA!
- **Exclusive and free participation** in the annual DCA Members-Forum on HDD technology
- **Training and further Education** of your staff!
- **Participation in all events** of the DCA (e.g. annual congress, further education courses, mud seminars etc.)!
- **Use of the members' area** on the DCA homepage with lots of exclusive information and offers
- **A lean association structure** with an European board and a management that can be reached by you at any time!
- Member information to current projects and news from the association
- **Permission to use the DCA logo** on Company papers and the internet!



HDD-Technique used worldwide

Pipeline infrastructures are the **lifelines of modern society** and it is no longer possible to imagine the construction of this infrastructure without trenchless construction methods, in particular horizontal directional drilling.

With the large drilling rigs on the market today, **crossing lengths of more than 5 km** have already been successfully completed. The constantly developing drilling technology already enables the **trenchless laying of pipes** up to a diameter of 56" (DN 1400) in almost all ground formations.

The HDD process is used to lay pipelines for oil and gas transport, cable protection pipes for electricity and telecommunications as well as gas, water, sewage and district heating pipes made of plastic, steel and cast iron.

The most commonly used horizontal directional drilling rigs are rigs with a max. pulling force between 10t (100kN) and 30t (300kN). **Typical applications of HDD technology** include crossing watercourse, road and rail crossings, slope drilling, rock drilling, inner-city and extra-urban longitudinal laying and house connection drilling. In addition there are numerous other areas of application for the HDD process. These include horizontal filter wells, slope drainage, anchor boreholes, dam and dike protection, ridge protection and retrofitting in tunnel construction.

The standard procedure of a horizontal drilling can be divided into **three main steps**:

- Pilot Hole Drilling (guided bore along given drill path)
- Reaming (borehole enlargement)
- Pullback (Installation of pipe or duct)



Membership

Members of the Association are **European HDD drilling companies from the field of small and large drilling technology referred to as (regular members)**. The distinction between small and large drilling technology is primarily based on the classification of the equipment used according to the size of the rigs pulling force. Companies that use equipment with a **pulling force >40 t (400 KN)** are counted as belonging to the large drilling technology division. Drilling companies with equipment **< 40 t pulling force (< 400 KN)** are assigned to the HDD small drilling technology division. In addition, there are companies that serve both areas.

In addition to the regular members, the DCA has numerous **Associate Members** who are willing to promote the purpose of the association but do not drill horizontal drilling themselves. These include clients, planning and engineering offices, drilling rig manufacturers, mud companies and other service companies.

Persons who have been active in the HDD industry or whose membership seems suitable for the purpose of the Association for other reasons (e.g. representatives from science, research or authorities) may be admitted as **Associate Members (Personal Members)**. Institutions or associations whose membership is suitable for the purpose of the Association may also be admitted as an Associate Member.

ACCESS TO TECHNICAL
INFORMATION

INTERNATIONAL
EXCHANGE

ACCESS TO EDUCATION
AND TRAINING

PARTICIPATION IN
TASK GROUPS

PARTICIPATION AT
MEMBERS' FORUM

EXCLUSIVE
MEMBERS' AREA

RECEIPT OF DCA PRESS
JOURNAL BI-UMWELTBAU

REGULAR MEMBER
INFORMATION

Member Companies



Become a Member

Regular Members (HDD drilling companies)

In order to verify the quality requirements of the DCA of potential new members, the following documents must be enclosed with the application for Regular Membership (HDD drilling companies):

- Number of HDD drilling rigs
- Sum of all rig Pulling forces in KN
- Submission of at least two recent letters of reference from clients
- Details of the quality management system
- A list of projects in the previous 3 years
- Website.

The membership fees for regular members are determined on the basis of the sum of the Pulling forces of the HDD drilling rigs operated by the company.

Associate Members

The following documents must accompany applications for Associate Membership (exception: Personal Members):

- Number of employees in the company
- Details of the quality management system
- A short description of the activities over the previous three years
- Website.

The membership fees of the Associate Members are determined on the basis of the number of employees in a Company, whereby the size of the parent company is taken as a basis in each case. Any changes must be notified to the DCA Board immediately. Persons who have been active in the HDD industry or whose membership seems suitable for the purpose of the Association for other reasons (e.g. representatives from science, research or authorities) may be admitted as Associate Members (Personal Members). They have no active or passive right to vote.

Admission must be applied for at the office.

Download Members Application: [DCA_Membership Application](#)



Education and Training

Since the founding of the Association, Education and Training in HDD technology in Europe has been a critical component of the DCA's range of services.

The module consists of:

- **Basic training and further education of your operational staff**
- Opportunities for your management staff to participate in DCA task groups, workshops, conferences and member forums
- Promotion of young professionals at universities, universities of applied sciences and other Institutions for your prospective junior staff.

The aim of the training and further education of your staff is to steadily increase the acceptance of this environmentally friendly construction method among clients and planners by constantly improving the quality of preparation.

Professional planning of a HDD in combination with a high quality execution form the basis of a successful project. This applies equally to Contractors, Clients and Planners.

The training centres prepare and organise the events, including registration and deregistration and follow up supported by the DCA.

Courses offered are as follows:

- Basic course according to DVGW worksheet GW 329 (Germany)
- Further training courses according to DVGW worksheet GW 329 (Germany)
- Further training seminar for HDD site managers
- „Horizontal Directional Drilling“ course series

[Further Information](#)





[Order Forms](#)
[Technical Guidelines](#)

Publications

[Order Forms](#)
[Technical Information](#)

Since its foundation in 1994, the Drilling Contractors Association DCA has been releasing numerous publications written by its members. These have made a contribution to a steadily growing acceptance of the HDD method among Clients, Authorities and Planners.

The centre piece is the Technical Guidelines of the DCA, known to the industry under the title “Information and Recommendations for the Planning, Construction and Documentation of HDD projects”, which is currently available in its 5th edition in German (2025), in English (2025) and in the 4th edition in French (2015).

Additional publications are available on the following topics:

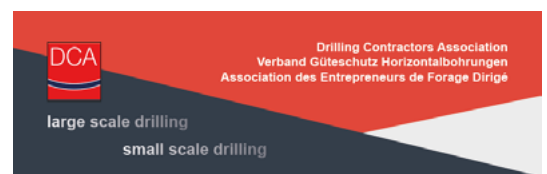
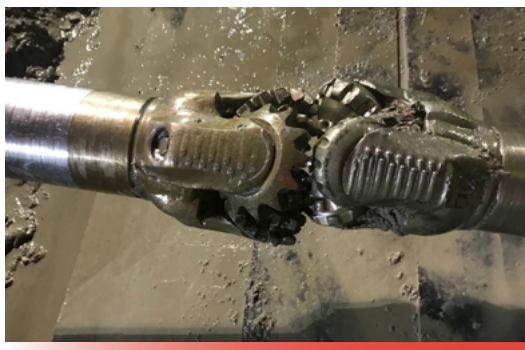
- Model Bill of Quantities (large scale, small scale)
- Shaping Recommendation of Technical and Legal Contract Conditions
- Recovery and disposal of drilling cuttings and fluids from HDD operations
- Pipe casing and coating in HDD



DCA Technical Guidelines

Information and Recommendations for the
Design, Construction and Documentation of HDD-Projects

5th Edition - July 2025



Pipe casing and coating in HDD

1st edition - March 2024
DCA Technical Information No. 6



Public Relations



Events

Annual Congress



The DCA holds its annual congress in October, to which European and non-European members of the association are invited, but also other interested parties. The event takes place over three days with an arrival day and two days of lectures. In addition to the very interesting lecture programme with top-class technical lectures, the DCA offers its members the opportunity to present their own products and introduce their company at the event. An entertaining social programme accompanies the event, which primarily focuses on the professional exchange among industry professionals and is highly appreciated by the participating members.

Members' Forum



Since January 2018, the DCA has been offering a new event, the so-called DCA Member Forum HDD Technology. The forum offers a platform for members of the association to exchange experiences and is primarily aimed at site managers and machine operators, but is also open to interested technical supervisors, planners and Clients as well as interested parties from the supplier industry. Participation in the forum is free of charge and exclusively reserved for members. From 2021, the event is held in parallel in two linguistically separate rooms (German-speaking/English-speaking groups).

Oldenburg Pipe Forum



The Institut für Rohrleitungsbau an der Fachhochschule Oldenburg e. V. (IRO) was founded in 1988 and is run as a non-profit association with currently over 250 members from the fields of research, industry, Authorities and Professional Associations. The IRO sees itself as an interface between teaching and practice, with its main focus on the further training of engineers in the entire piping sector, practice-oriented research and development and the promotion of students.

Every year, the IRO organises the Oldenburg Pipe Forum as an advanced training event at which speakers give lectures in numerous lecture blocks on interesting current topics relating to the pipeline construction industry. In lecture block 2 "Trenchless installation techniques", the DCA reports in six lectures on current interesting projects around the HDD industry.

The Oldenburg Pipe Forum is held annually one day after the DCA Members' Meeting in Oldenburg.



Sponsorship programme

Announcement:

The Drilling Contractors Association (DCA-Europe) has the aim to promote the new generation of academics in the field of Horizontal Directional Drilling. To this end, the association offers a financial award to students who write a Bachelor's or Master thesis in the field of HDD. The sponsorship programme is endowed with €5,000 per year and adjusted depending on the issues at hand.

Range of Subjects: "Practical and visionary development of HDD and its associated technologies"

Audience: Students at colleges or universities who write their dissertation on a relevant topic

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Subject areas (selection)

- Noise emissions
- Vibrations
- Hydrodynamics of the drilling fluid when pulling in with an open pulling head
- Accuracy of HDD-Drillings

**Sponsorship
programme**



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