



Vortrag

Freitag, 2. Oktober 2026, 11:00 Uhr

Doppelte Bohrung unter der Rhône: Präzisionsbohrungen unter schwierigen Bedingungen

Vortragende: François Gandard, OPTIMUM
Nicolas van Heyghen, Subterra SAS

Lecture

Thursday, 2nd October 2026, 11:00 pm

Dual HDD into the Rhône: Precision drilling in a critical environment

Speakers: François Gandard, OPTIMUM
Nicolas van Heyghen, Subterra SAS

Vorträge

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Lectures

Friday, 2nd October 2026, 11:00 am

DUAL HDD IN THE RHONE RIVER

Precision drilling in a critical environment

At the end of 2025, drilling contractor SUBTERRA successfully drilled dual 450m HDD landfalls, punching out in the Rhone River in southern France. This was the culmination of a multi-year collaboration with OPTIMUM, who provided vital HDD expertise both before and during the drilling operations.

Although the drill paths were not exceptionally long, the project faced significant challenges. These stemmed not only from geotechnical constraints and site conditions, but also from the strict administrative complexities of working within the nuclear sector. Years in the making, the project required extensive stakeholder negotiations, additional soil investigations, a complete engineering overhaul, and the design and fabrication of custom-made components.

In the congress presentation, SUBTERRA and OPTIMUM will detail the project in more depth and explain how the final engineering was determined and the technical challenges that were overcome to enable the HDDs to be successfully drilled.

Project overview

Drilling contractor: SUBTERRA

Project owner: CEA

HDD consultants: OPTIMUM

HDD length: 2 x 450m, OD 10"

Drill rig: PD80/40

Drilling tools: 6¾" mud motor, 9⅞" milled tooth drill bit

Steering: Paratrak + gyroscope (Prime Horizontal)

Offshore: 120m² pontoon, tugboat, dive team

OPTIMUM is an engineering consultancy specialising in the study, design and monitoring of new trenchless installations, supporting projects owners, project managers and drilling contractors worldwide.

SUBTERRA is a France—based contractor that carries out rehabilitation of existing and creation of new trenchless networks, by HDD and microtunnelling, supporting companies and authorities looking for alternatives to open-trench work.