

New contact in the Netherlands

The IKT has now founded a branch at Arnhem, in the Netherlands: IKT director Roland W. Waniek and branch manager Peter Brink recently celebrated the opening of „IKT Nederland“. Dutch and Flemish drain/sewer system operators thus now have a new contact for all matters concerning drain and sewer operation. This new IKT centre provides technical engineering advice, organises relevant events, and is the first accredited test centre for tube liners in the Netherlands.

Following its opening at the start of the year, the still young branch was able to achieve a major success the following summer: after intensive preparatory work, the IKT Nederland test facility was officially accredited with „DAkKS“, Germany's national accreditation body. „It is



Peter Brink, head of IKT Nederland

thus the first independent, impartial and accredited test facility for tube liners on the Dutch market“, enthuses Peter Brink, head of IKT Nederland.

Interesting training opportunities

The branch team has already succeeded in making numerous contacts with the representatives of municipalities, drain and sewer system operators, engineering consultancies and companies working in this industry. In addition to the well attended inaugural event, the attractive range of opportunities offered by IKT Nederland also without doubt facilitated these successes. The range includes seminars held at the new centre on the subject of tube-liner repairs, and an event on the topic of manhole refurbishing, which was organised jointly with a number of Dutch refurbishing contractors and held at IKT headquarters in Gelsenkirchen. The first in-house training provisions have also already been completed on-the-spot at system operators' premises. The spectrum of interesting events is also to be further expanded.

Materials testing and structural-analysis calculations

During the opening ceremony, Stefan Kötters, deputy head of IKT Nederland and deputy test-facility manager at the IKT in Gelsenkirchen, focused in detail on the range of services available at the new location. These include both testing of tube liners for their important short-term properties (short-term modulus of elasticity and short-term bending strength) and water tightness, plus structural-analysis calculation of tube liners - and all impartially and independently, exactly as you would expect from the IKT! Stefan Kötters also focused on the direct link between materials testing and structural-analysis calculation in his address.



Making new contacts: Peter Brink (2nd from left), head of IKT Nederland, talking to guests at the opening ceremony.

Cross-border co-operation

IKT Nederland's aim is to assist in cross-border co-operation between Europe's drain and sewer system operators. The problems are in many cases similar, emphasises PD Dr.-Ing. Bert Bos-seler, scientific head of the IKT. Operators in northern and western Germany, for example, also struggle with high groundwater tables, like their counterparts in the Netherlands and Belgium. With its new branch in Arnhem, the IKT has demonstrated its commitment to furthering constructive interchange of knowledge and experience across national boundaries. This, too, can also only provide benefits for system operators.



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bert Bosseler, scientific head of the IKT, advocates cross-border exchange of knowledge and experience.

Stability of large-calibre conduits

The first co-operative projects involving Dutch drain/sewer system operators have already been successfully initiated, as Erik Laurentzen, Senior „Rioolbeheerder“ for the City of Arnhem, reported at the opening event concerning the practical use of the MAC method, currently undergoing further development, in a historic sewer under the city. This system makes it possible to assess the stability of large-calibre conduits on the



New measuring technology under development: Erik Laurentzen, of the City of Arnhem, reports on the practical use of the MAC system under his city.

basis of minimal deformations in the sewer. The resultant measured data can be used to evolve ecologically and economically rational drain/sewer refurbishing strategies. The IKT is currently working on the further technological development of the MAC method, with the aim of achieving more efficient, semi-automated measurement. Further deployments in Europe before the end of this year are also planned.



View into the laboratory: Materials tester Sebastiaan Luimes demonstrates the liner tests performed at the new IKT location.

Test laboratory for tube liners

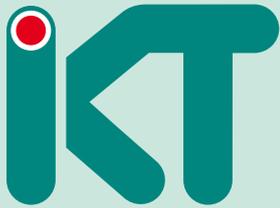
Between the individual groups of addresses, visitors to the IKT Nederland laboratory were able to gain an impression of the various tests performed on samples of tube liners. Materials tester Sebastiaan Luimes explained the test apparatus to the visitors, and demonstrated the main tests performed using specimens taken on site.

Contact

IKT Nederland
Kantoorgebouw „De Enk“
Tivolilaan 205
NL 6824 BV Arnhem
Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0) 26 8454560
Fax: +31 (0) 26 8454561
E-Mail: info@ikt-nederland.nl
www.ikt-nederland.nl



neutral
independent
non-profit institute



IKT - Institute for Underground Infrastructure

ABOUT IKT



IKT - Institute for Underground Infrastructure is a research, consultancy and testing institute specialized in the field of sewers. It is neutral and independent and operates on a non-profit basis. It is oriented towards practical applications and works on issues surrounding underground pipe construction. Its key focus is centred on sewage systems. IKT provides scientifically backed analysis and advice.

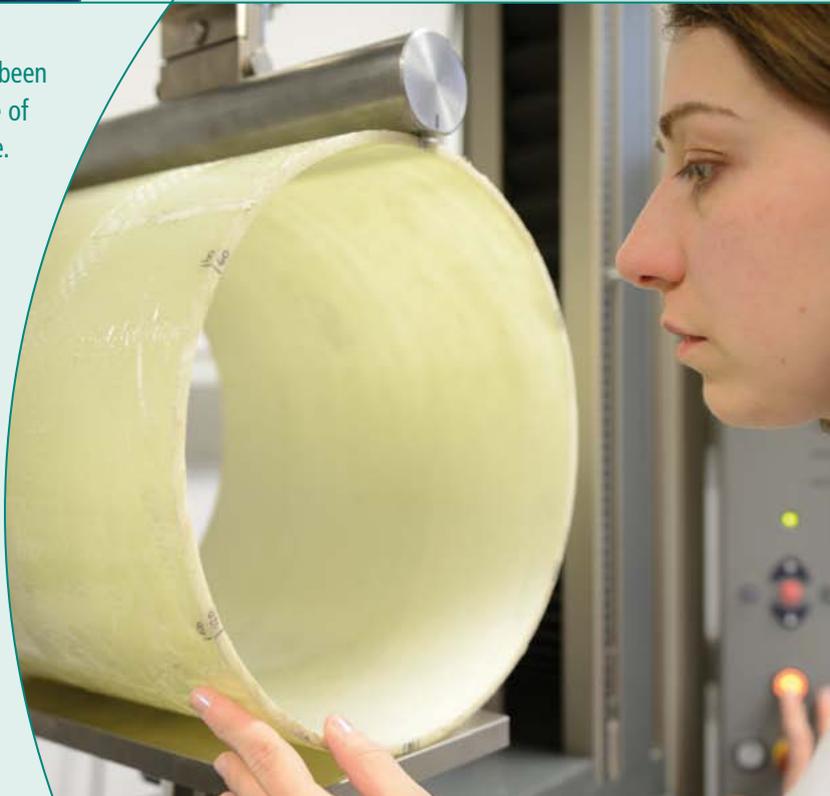
IKT has been established in 1994 as a spin-off from Bochum University, Germany.

The initial funding for setting up the institute has been provided by the Ministry for the Environment of the State of North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany's largest federal state.

However, IKT is not owned by the Government. Its owners are two associations which are again non-profit organizations of their own:

- a) IKT-Association of Network Operators:**
Members are more than 120 cities, among them Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne and London (Thames Water). They hold together 66.6% of IKT.
- b) IKT-Association of Industry and Service:**
Members are more than 60 companies. They hold together 33.3% of IKT.

You can find information on projects and services at:
www.ikt.de



IKT – Institute for Underground Infrastructure

Exterbruch 1
45886 Gelsenkirchen
Germany

phone: +49 209 178060
fax: +49 209 17806-88
email: info@ikt.de

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International Airport.

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