

CUIRE, jointly with Indian Society for Trenchless Technology India (IndSTT), is pleased to announce the creation of **CUIRE US-India Desk**, at CUIRE, University of Texas at Arlington, TX. The desk is being created to provide international leadership in research, outreach and education activities which enhances cost effectiveness, construction productivity, environmental improvement and renewal of the aging underground infrastructure in India and other South Eastern Nations.

CUIRE was established in 2002, as a university, government, and industry cooperative research Center. Indian Society for Trenchless Technology (IndSTT) was established in 1995, as the National Apex Trenchless Technology promotion organization. In the last two decades, both organizations have been serving the national trenchless industry stakeholders in their respective regions. In addition, they have also been serving international trenchless industry jointly for assisting cross border technology transfer and engineering of systems.

Both CUIRE and IndSTT have now decided to work more closely to synergize the joint trenchless technology promotion actions for better outputs to the respective industry stakeholders from the United States and India and growth of trenchless business in both nations.

Objectives of CUIRE US-India Desk are as follows:

- Promote research in design and construction of underground infrastructure in India through technology transfer, technique and equipment application, and adoption of the best practices.
- Conduct basic and applied research for industry and government agencies for the application of Trenchless techniques in India.
- Prepare educational and curriculum materials and organize courses to assist university faculty to teach underground infrastructure courses in India.
- Conduct web-based distance education courses, conferences & workshops for Indian learners.
- Assist industries in developing and evaluating applicability of new methods and products for Indian Subsurface construction requirements.
- Assist industries in promoting and evaluating applicability of new methods and products for Indian Subsurface construction requirements.
- Establish and disseminate standard guidelines and specifications of US technologies / equipment
- Develop and implement contractor, designer and inspector certification programs
- Work closely with professional and trade organizations/associations and university/research centers

Terms of Reference of CUIRE US-India Desk are to:

- Develop a partnership among academe, industry (including manufacturing, engineering and contracting in all areas of gas, oil, water, sewer, communication, electric, etc.) and other organizations participating in the Center to provide state-of-art solutions to the subsurface construction challenges being faced by stakeholders in India.
- Develop new and cost-effective solutions to construct and renew aging underground infrastructure through the application of technology developed by the CUIRE/IndSTT stakeholders and associates.
- Conduct/assist conduction of information dissemination events to assist stakeholder sensitizations and technology applications, both in India and United States.
- Create a better-trained, diverse workforce in the area of underground infrastructure technologies, and to improve the diversity of that work-force through proactive recruiting and innovative web-based cooperative outreach, training, teaching and learning.
- Create new opportunities for providing interdisciplinary, hands-on education by facilitating exchange of learners amongst groups with diverse research capabilities and interests.
- Formulate cooperative research and development agreements, intellectual property agreements, and personnel exchanges.
- Develop and implement new modes of technology transfer and entrepreneurship.
- Create road maps for pipeline inspecting, real-time monitoring, GIS, GPS, and renewal integration.
- Design, implement, and assess new educational approaches that provide more flexible and accessible career pathways for students and working professionals.

Working methodology for the CUIRE US-India Desk shall have two action fronts, one at the US level where interested Trenchless Technology Industry stakeholder shall be working with the desk at CUIRE, UTA, and second at the India level where the IndSTT would be working to compliment and conclude the US-India desk activities. This industry-desk relationship shall be made for a specific technology promotion initiative.

Funding for CUIRE US-India Desk shall come principally from industry associates interested to promote products and services in Indian markets, project advisory fees, symposia/seminar proceeds, university/industry consortium contributions, and funded research.

Trenchless technology stakeholders are invited to register with CUIRE US-India Desk for promoting the specific **India Focus Initiative**. Subsequently, based on the desired assistance quantum, the desk, in consultation with IndSTT, shall develop the Terms of Reference for such technology promotion initiative and initiate the actions jointly with IndSTT and the Stakeholder.