

## Railtex

UKSTT exhibited at Railtex 2011 event at Earls Court 14-16 June. The show provided an excellent platform to highlight its member's activities to the rail sector and to educate the large audience on the benefits of trenchless in the rail industry.

The rail industry has over 16,000km of track of which approximately 11,000km is electrified. Further to this there are over 2500 stations and 40,000 viaducts, bridges and tunnels. All of the latter require ongoing maintenance works.

In the current regulatory period Network Rail has to save over £5 Billion whilst continuing to deliver a safe reliable and punctual service. This is demanding but progress has already been made. Indeed the UKSTT believes that the increased use of trenchless could assist greatly here and as such is looking to work more closely with Network Rail to further develop the techniques being used and approvals for the systems.

Projects such as the £5.5 Billion scheme to upgrade Thameslink which will include new stations at Farringdon, Blackfriars and London Bridge provide a multitude of opportunities for the society's members. Further to this Network Rail are renovating hundreds of existing stations across the country including multi million pound schemes at Birmingham New Street and Kings cross.

Members interested in working for Network Rail can get further information on [www.networkrail.co.uk/suppliers](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/suppliers) or email [partnering@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:partnering@networkrail.co.uk)

One thing for sure is that the rail industry is certainly interested in what the UKSTT has to offer. Our members can be encouraged with the lack of knowledge that the rail industry has regarding the capabilities of trenchless and nodig techniques as it appears that there is great opportunity to expand the use and develop business in this area. For instance, recent talks have discussed increased use of underground duct to prevent cable theft.

The UKSTT stand was well attended with a mixture of Network Rail, London Underground staff, consultants and contractors with varying levels of knowledge all showing interest in the techniques and our members activities. To this extent exhibiting at the show has to be considered a success, certainly it educated, influenced and potentially grew the society members marketplace. Furthermore the society had a number of enquiries regarding membership that are being followed up.

The UKSTT will be approaching Network Rail with regards joining our society as Patrons alongside NGrid, Severn Trent Water, Sembcorp Bournemouth Water, Sutton and East Surrey Water, United Utilities etc whom all appreciate the benefits of trenchless and get involved in promotion of the techniques throughout their businesses.