



## NJUG CASE STUDY

### CASE STUDY 32: WMHAUC Road Show

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) is the UK industry association representing utilities on street works issues. The thirty-eight companies<sup>1</sup> we represent work to deliver gas, electricity, water and telecommunications to both individual consumers and UK plc.

NJUG members need to continue to drive forward further improvements. We have therefore developed the NJUG Vision for Street Works, which revolves around six main principles:

1. Safety is the number one priority
2. Damage to underground assets is avoided
3. Utilities work together and in partnership with local authorities to minimise disruption
4. Utilities deliver consistent high quality
5. Utilities maximise the use of sustainable methods and materials
6. Street works in the UK are regarded as world class

This case study is an example of NJUG delivering on these principles and turning the Vision into a reality.

#### Overview:

The West Midland Highway Authority and Utility Committee (WMHAUC) represents a partnership between Highway Authorities, utilities and contractors, established ten years ago through the combined efforts of Birmingham City Council, Solihull Council, Worcestershire County Council, Carillion, and Prestige Hire.

The West Midlands HAUC Road Show takes place every Autumn, with over 1,000 regular attendees and 100 exhibitors. The aim of the event is to provide interactive, innovative and informative stands and speakers, promoting best practice and uniting Highway Authorities (HA's), utilities, contractors and suppliers. The stands vary, demonstrating the latest innovative techniques and technologies, products and materials.

Delegates are offered the chance to visit stands promoting safety and quality in street works with the opportunity to see practical demonstrations and exchange advice and guidance in improved processes with industry experts.



<sup>1</sup> NJUG's current members are Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas), Water UK (representing all water and wastewater companies), National Grid, Openreach, and Virgin Media. Our associate members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska McNicholas, Balfour Beatty, Morrison Utility Services, Morgan Est, NACAP, PJ Keary, First Intervention, Carillion, Enterprise, Laing O'Rourke and AMEC. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-seven utility companies and twelve utility contractors.

## **Case Study**

In 2008 the West Midlands HAUC Road Show celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with its annual two-day event held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September. As a free event, the sponsors, organising committee, over 100 exhibitors and 1100 delegates made the event a huge success.

Upon entry, delegates were given a starter pack, containing a programme of events, stands, seminars and fun quizzes to complete as they walked around the interactive exhibits. Delegates were also offered refreshments throughout the day and a free luncheon voucher for the mouth-watering hog roast.

Every year the event brings together a vast array of experience within the industry, allowing the sharing of best practice, the latest techniques, highway maintenance solutions and an open and honest forum in which to discuss current issues. In 2008 the show also had the pleasure of an NJUG/JAG/EMHAUC stand where there was much interest in what these organisations were doing for the future to promote best practice in street works.



Amongst one of the exhibitors was the registered charity, 'Access Committee for Birmingham'. As well as supporting and providing free services for people with mobility issues, the stand also raised awareness of the issues that street works can cause, encouraging corporate responsibility. To date the charity have gained £2,500 worth of sponsorship from the WMHAUC Road Show and is as a result able to continue its good work.

There was also an array of outside stands and demonstrations to make all aware of current innovations and best practice to benefit utilities and Highway Authorities. For example, these highlighted the latest in reinstatement technology. Other demonstrations included the Coring Vac (National Grid), on site recycling (Balfour Beatty), and quick patch techniques (ASI and NUPhalt) amongst many others – all demonstrating good practice, and quicker techniques to reduce time spent occupying the highway.

Another main feature of every annual West Midlands HAUC Road Show are the presentations, where key speakers talk to delegates about the latest developments in road and street works. In 2008, this included updates from the Department for Transport on the Safety Code of Practice, Inspections Code of Practice, and the Traffic Management Act 2004 overall. Warwickshire Council and Staffordshire Council also spoke about their proposal for a West Midlands permit scheme, while NJUG updated delegates on the need for accurate underground asset Records.

Overall the event demonstrates year after year that Highway Authorities, utilities, contractors and suppliers can work together in bringing industry up to speed with the latest innovation and best practices, as well as offering a unique networking opportunity.

