



## NJUG CASE STUDY

### CASE STUDY 55: Safety through Innovation

#### *Winner of the 2011 NJUG Avoiding Damage Award*

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) is the UK industry association representing utilities on street works issues. The 41 utility companies and 17 contractors<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 World Class Street Works, which revolves around six main principles:

1. Safety is the number one priority
2. Utilities deliver consistent high quality
3. Utilities work together and in partnership with local authorities and contractors to minimise disruption
4. Utilities keep the public fully informed on all aspects of works
5. Utilities maximise use of sustainable methods and materials
6. Damage to underground assets is avoided

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

#### **Overview:**

Cable strikes are a significant problem throughout the streetworks industry. On top of their serious financial and programme implications, cable strikes also pose the grave risk of major injury or even death—making efforts to reduce their number all the more critical.

Clancy Docwra's CATs-i system enhances traditional Cable Avoidance Tools, allowing them to monitor the daily usage of a C.A.T, provide exception reports to management, and therefore promote best working practice to reduce cable strikes and improve safety. CATs-i can be retrospectively fitted to any existing or new C.A.T locator, and they have been evaluated and tested by Radiodetection/SPX. From 2012, CATs-i are fully integrated into the existing CAT3 Fleet.



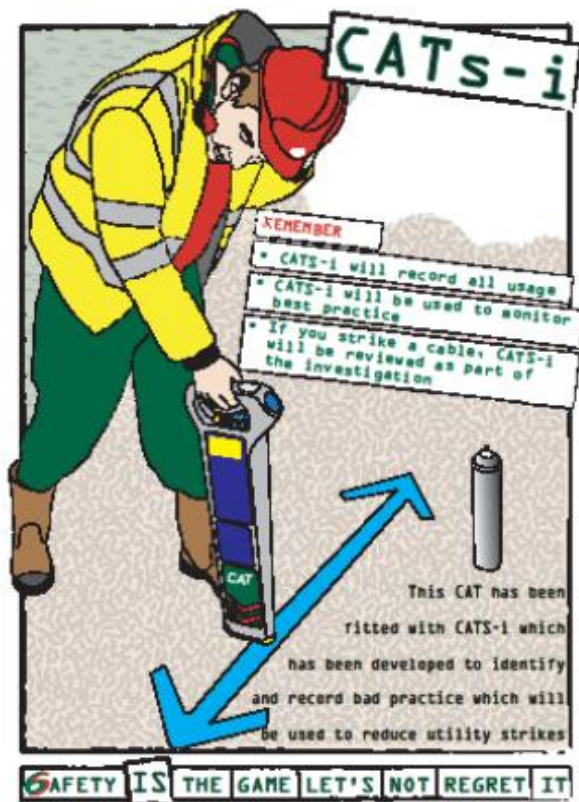
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<sup>1</sup> NJUG's current members are Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas), Water UK (representing all water and wastewater companies), National Grid, BT Openreach, and Virgin Media. Our associate members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska, Balfour Beatty, Morgan Sindall, Carillion, First Intervention, Laing O'Rourke, Compass, AMEC, Enterprise, Morrison Utility Services, Fastflow Pipeline Services, May Gurney, CLC Ltd, PJ Keary and Murphy Ltd. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents forty-one utility companies, seventeen utility contractors.

## Case Study:

Clancy Docwra has always been determined to avoid cable strikes through innovation and the spread of best practice. Aware of the difficulties but ultimate importance of getting streetworks teams to follow the correct protocol when using a cable locator, the company decided to explore measures beyond providing additional safety information and briefings to teams.

Clancy Docwra took a two-pronged approach. Along with a focused programme of refresher training, they introduced new technology that would help change operatives' mindsets and provide a safer working environment for all. The technology was the CATs-i system. Developed by Clancy Docwra, the enhancement to a standard C.A.T. logs each operative's daily usage, with the data available for download at any time.



The advantages will help promote best working practice and reduce cable strikes. First, the logs will confirm if the C.A.T has been used correctly, with time and date recorded at each individual usage.

Second, the system makes completing comprehensive audits easier and more accurate for management.

Finally, exception reports for incorrect use ensure that management has a detailed analysis of any strikes that do occur, with outputs that can drive ongoing strategy for improved future training requirements and/or changes to procedures.

CATs-i has been designed to be retrospectively fitted to any existing or new C.A.T locator and is an inexpensive way of guaranteeing and monitoring an improvement in working practises.

- Evaluated, tested by Radiodetection/SPX
- Agreement reached with Managing Director of Radiodetection/SPX
- Integration into existing CAT3 Fleet ready for start of 2012

According to tests by Radiodetection/SPX, neither the performance of the C.A.T, nor its compliance with the EMC requirements of the relevant CE directives, were compromised by the logging system.



### **The Benefits**

- Clancy Docwra anticipates a marked decline in cable strikes, saving lives, time, and money
- The public face fewer interruptions as a result of better trained, better managed work sites
- Comprehensive audits are made easier
- Exception reports alert management to any instances of incorrect use, enabling remedial measures to be proactively applied
- CATs-i can be retrospectively fitted to any existing or new C.A.T – meaning exceptional benefits for little additional capital outlay
- A virtuous cycle of monitoring, improvement, and implementation can take hold – improving safety and reducing cable strikes.