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**The Drilling Contractors Association (DCA-Europe) A European Organisation for Quality and Education in HDD**

**Abstract:**

The DCA was established in 1994 by the leading HDD companies in Europe. From the start the goals have been to support, promote and develop the HDD technology. It aims at creating a level playing field, improving understanding for roles and responsibilities of parties involved and improving quality.

In the Technical Guidelines basic technique and responsibilities are described. These guidelines are being revised regularly; The current (4th) edition is under revision, in order to keep up with recent developments. Special issues that of interest to all involved in the HDD industry are discussed in task groups. Recently a task group was finalised, studying the options of dealing with drilling fluids after completion of the HDD. Another group is studying the coating materials suitable for HDD, advising on the use of proper coating for both pipe and field joint for various circumstances. Recently a new task group was started trying to get a uniform system of gathering and transmitting data collected by the drilling rigs.

Achieving and maintaining high quality and safety standards is very important to the DCA. We actively support training of personnel, with lecturers and content support at the BMC Celle (Germany) and Deltares (The Netherlands). Drillers, superintendents and specialist engineers are trained according to the German certifying system. A yearly workshop is open to all members where a relevant and current topic is discussed between members.

Very important is our yearly congress; By bringing contractors and suppliers together, with interesting lectures and workshops in the day and an entertaining programme it is a great opportunity for networking and exchanging ideas in an informal setting.

Members of the association are companies performing HDD, as well as companies from associated fields, like producers of drilling devices, service companies, engineering offices, etc. At present the DCA has about 115 members.