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Nimble Sonics Drill Under Busy New York Streets

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Closing off two of five traffic lanes on 11th avenue in bustling downtown Manhattan to drill more than 200 freeze-holes as part of a subway system upgrade wasn't the biggest problem facing Keith Myers and Joe Sopko of Layne Christensen.

Even the material being drilled – a bedrock valley below overburden – wasn't an issue.



The real problem was avoiding the myriad of gas, water, telephone, sewer, fiber optics and other service lines in the top 10-15 feet of the two-block area.

"We had to drill double angles, compound angles, and the problem was the large number of utilities in the top 15 feet," said Sopko, director of engineering from Layne Christensen's operation at Fort Washington, Wisconsin, who is now in charge of the company's New York projects.

"We had three sonic rigs, a couple that were brand new, almost prototypes. Basically, the job would not have been completed, had it not been for the sonics."

Using two conventional drills and three sonic drill heads, with a crew of more than 50 people, Layne Christensen drilled 268 holes, beginning Sept. 15, 2008 and finishing Jan. 17, 2009. The company had been sub-contracted by S311, a consortium of international contractors including J. F. Shea, Schiavone and Skanska USA Civil, chosen by the Manhattan Transit Authority as part of a \$1.145 billion project to build 2,100 meters of twin tunnel from the current 7 line terminus at Times Square west, south to 34th St.

Sonic Drilling Development (Part Two) – 1970 to 1985

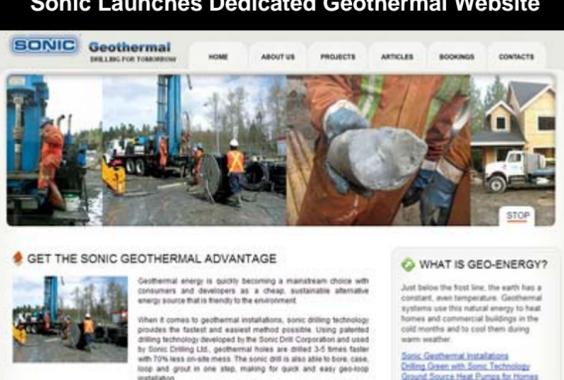


In the early 1970's, inventor Albert Bodine sold his drilling and pile driving equipment to Hawker Siddeley, a British aircraft manufacturer with Canadian offices. As a result, renewed efforts to develop the vibratory pile driver and drilling rig came to Canada. One of the first persons hired for the Hawker Siddeley sonic design team was a young mechanical engineer named Ray Roussy.

From 1974 to 1983, approximately 12 rigs, using early sonic technology, were constructed and used in different applications. Unfortunately, these first machines experienced frequent breakdowns and lacked appropriate tooling to withstand the associated vibratory forces. The recession of the early 1980's discouraged Hawker Siddeley from continuing development work in this field.

Ray Roussy left Hawker Siddeley in 1980 to continue development work on the sonic drill head and to adapt it to different applications. To prove the usefulness of this new technology to the subsurface exploration industry and to carry out long-term reliability testing of his equipment, Roussy built a sonic drill head and drill rig for himself and formed his own Vancouver-based contracting company, Sonic Drilling Ltd.

Sonic Launches Dedicated Geothermal Website



January 05, 2010 – Sonic Drilling Ltd. and the Sonic Drill Corporation have launched a dedicated geothermal website to provide specific information for contractors, drilling companies, project managers and consumers. The site offers the following features:

1. Easy to understand information on geo-energy choices.
2. Geothermal project case histories.
3. Explanation of how a geo-exchange system works.
4. List of benefits that geothermal energy offers.
5. Profile of Sonic Drilling Ltd.'s two geothermal partners.
6. Information on geothermal tax credits and incentives.
7. Articles specific to geothermal drilling.
8. Rolling slideshow of drilling photos.

The new website, www.sonicgeothermal.com, also fills a void that currently exists in helping consumers understand how geothermal energy can better their homes and lives.

www.sonicdrilling.com

SONIC DRILLING LTD.

www.sonic-drill.com

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