

Conex Chooses Sonic Drill Rig

WHEN Belgium-based Conex decided it wanted to expand out of its soil analysis role and into drilling, it also made one other significant decision – to enter the marketplace with a sonic drill rig.

Conex's Rene Kroonen said: "Geothermal is booming here and the sonic rig allows us to drill much faster and cheaper, which keeps the per foot costs of drilling down."

"If we hit mixed soils, we don't have to pull a conventional rig off and try to put something else in there."

With the Sonic Drill Corporation rig mounted on crawler tracks, Mr. Kroonen says his access to sites is far better and that he uses far less water than a conventional rig. Conex's new purchase came with a free training program, conducted by a senior driller who travelled to Belgium.

In addition to geothermal installations, Conex says the rig will be used for environmental investigations and water-well drilling. One such job in France involves drilling deep-water wells for a golf course located near Disneyland Paris.

"They already had a French drill rig out there, but it wasn't successful when they ran into some tough terrain – limestone and firestone – so they have called us in," says Mr. Kroonen.

Sonic Drill Corporation's patented sonic-drill head works by sending high-frequency, resonant vibrations down the drill string to the drill bit, while the operator controls the frequencies to suit the specific conditions of the soil/rock geology.

Resonance magnifies the amplitude of the drill bit, which fluidizes the soil particles at the bit face, allowing for penetration through most geological formations while an internal air-spring isolates these vibrational forces from the rest of the drill rig.



Conex's sonic rig working in Belgium.