

HERRENKNECHT



Tunnelling Systems

HERRENKNECHT AG

# THE VERSATILITY OF SLURRY MICROTUNNELLING METHODS FOR PIPELINE CROSSINGS AND LANDFALLS

Milano, Erick Strauss & Simone Schmalzbauer

June 2025





# HERRENKNECHT IN GERMANY

Strongly rooted in the location of  
Schwanau and the surrounding region

Around 2,400 employees work in  
Schwanau and Kehl

Our long-term and sustainable thinking is  
reflected in our support of education,  
environment and society



## Key figures

# HERRENKNECHT GROUP

## 1.394

**Total output**  
2024 in million euros

## 1.288

**Turnover**  
2024 in million euros

## 1.399

**Order inflow**  
2024 in million euros

## EMPLOYEES WORLDWIDE

## 5.490

**Employees**  
at the end of 2024

*\*incl. temporary workers*

## 215

**Trainees**  
at the end of 2024





Mechanized solutions for horizontal and vertical drilling applications

# HERRENKNECHT GROUP

## Traffic Tunnels



## Mining



## Exploration



## Utility Tunnels



## Pipelines



## Shafts & Foundations

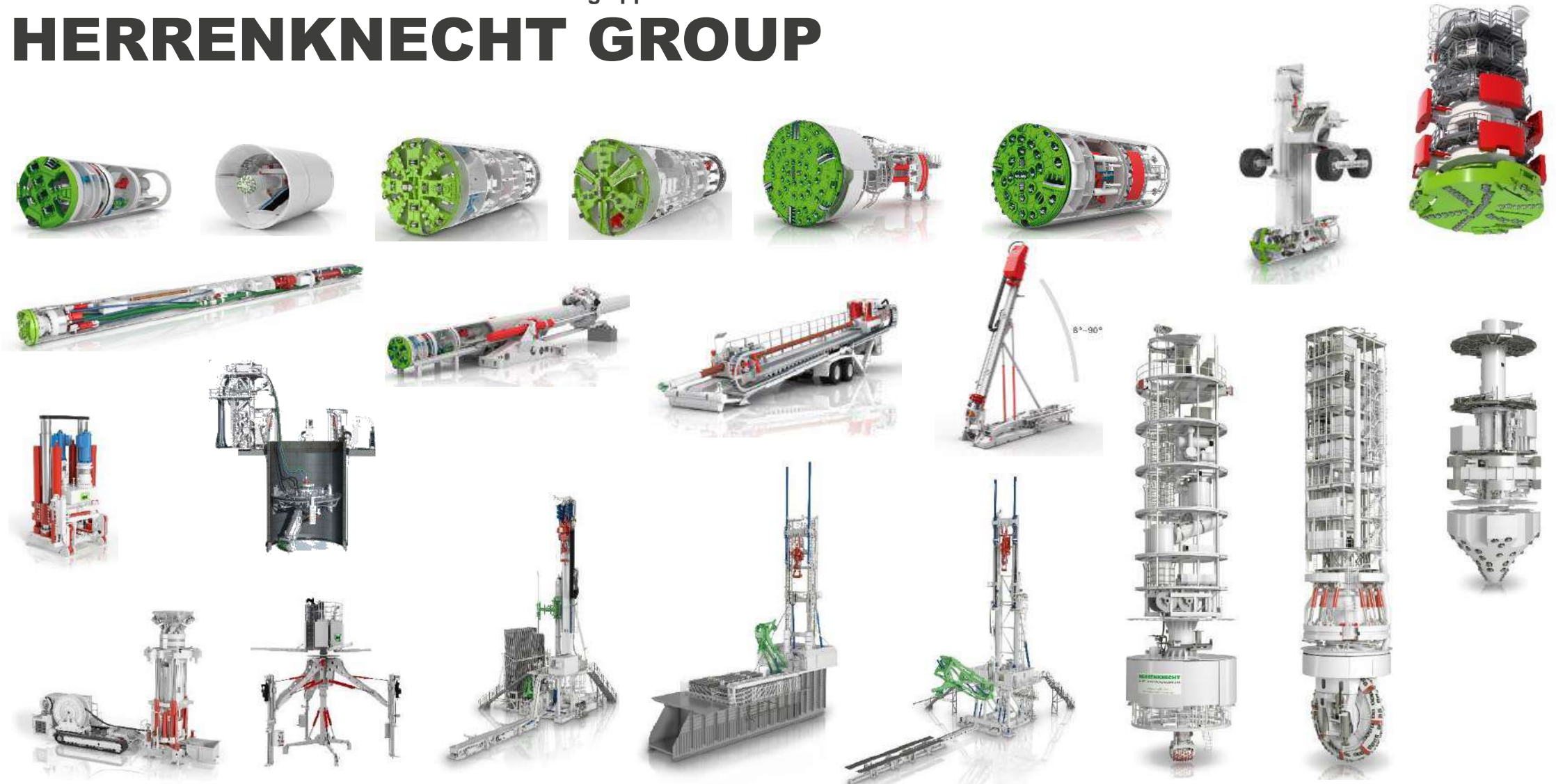


**Business  
Unit**

**Utility  
Tunnelling**

## Mechanized solutions for horizontal and vertical drilling applications

# HERRENKNECHT GROUP



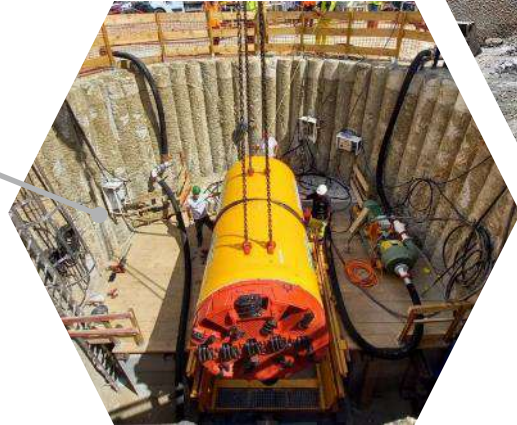


## Business Unit Utility Tunnelling

# UT PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES

## Microtunnelling

- › Pipe Jacking
- › Direct Pipe
- › E-Power Pipe

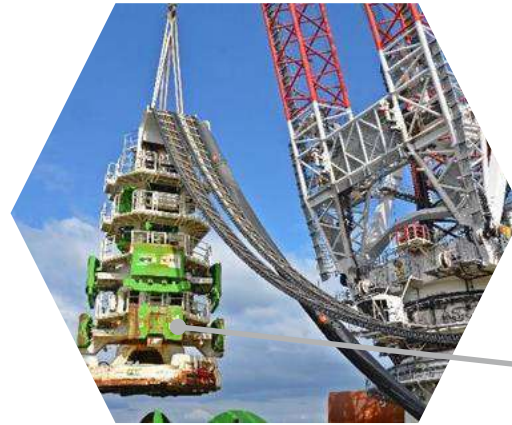


## Segment Lining



## Shaft sinking (VSM)

## Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)



## Offshore Foundation Drilling (OFD)

## Utility Tunnelling

# SLURRY MICROTUNNELLING METHODS OVERVIEW



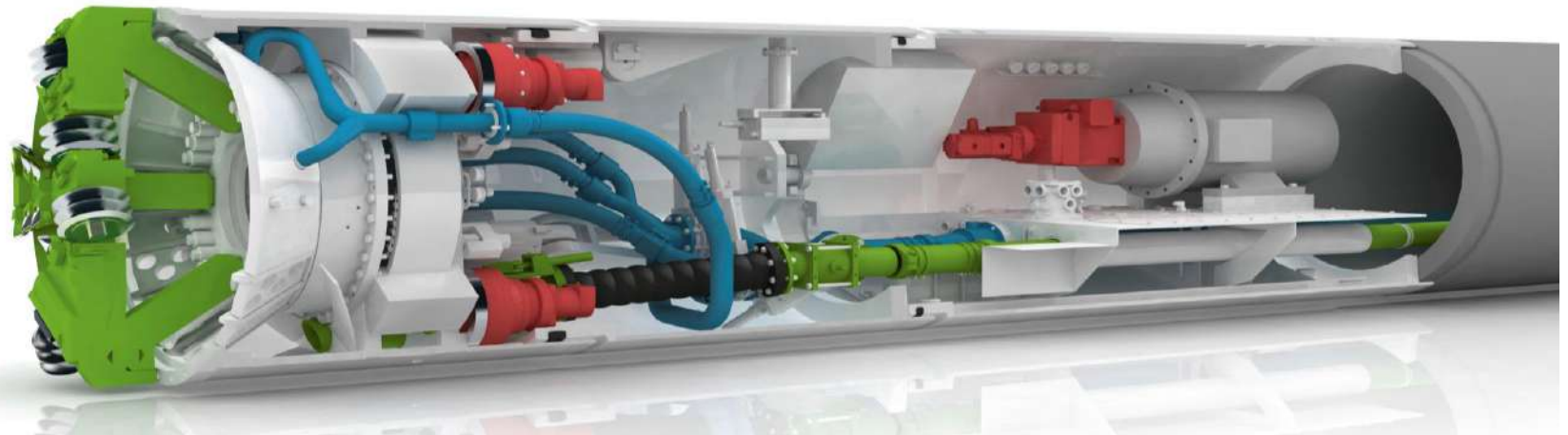
**PIPE JACKING**

**DIRECT PIPE<sup>®</sup>**

**E-POWER PIPE<sup>®</sup>**

**AVN**

Automatische  
Vortriebsmaschine  
Nassförderung





## Utility Tunnelling

# SLURRY MICROTUNNELLING METHODS OVERVIEW



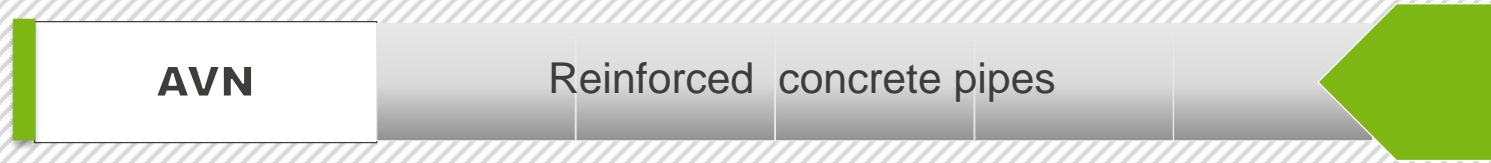
	PIPE JACKING	DIRECT PIPE®	E-POWER PIPE®
MTBM	AVN or AVNS with jet pump		
Borehole support	Mechanical borehole support over the entire installation process		
Pipe material	Pressure resistant typically reinforced concrete pipes	Pressure resistant typically prefabricated steel pipeline	All Pullin of product pipe in second step
Pipe diameter	250 – 4,000 mm Ø Tunnel (ID)	600 – 1,500 mm	250 – 700 mm > 400 mm with backreaming MTBM
Max. installation length	~ 2,000 m Depending on project-specific conditions		



## Utility Tunnelling

# SLURRY MICROTUNNELLING METHODS WITH CONSTANT BOREHOLE SUPPORT

## PIPE JACKING



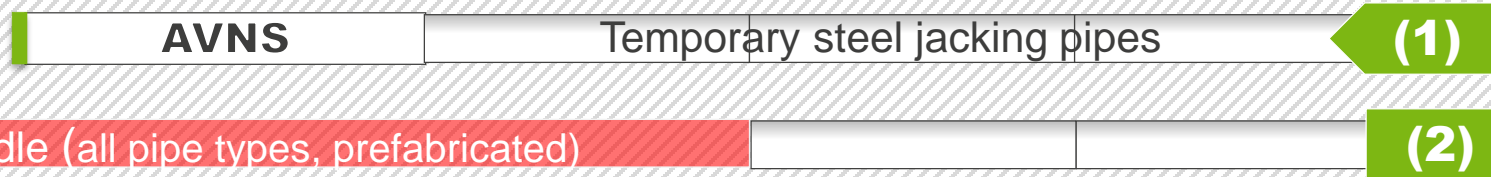
**Jacking frame**  
compact jacking frame or  
main jacking station

## DIRECT PIPE



**Pipe Thruster**  
with clamping unit,  
tested for various coatings

## E-POWER PIPE

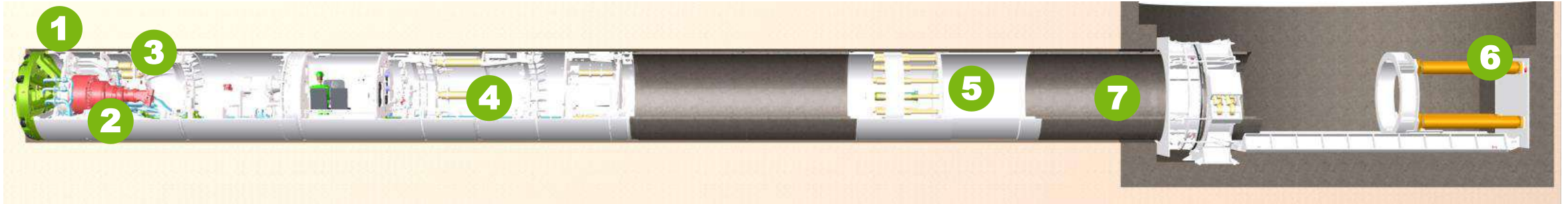


**Rack and Pinion jacking frame**  
pushforce for pilot bore (1),  
pullforce for pipe pullin (2)

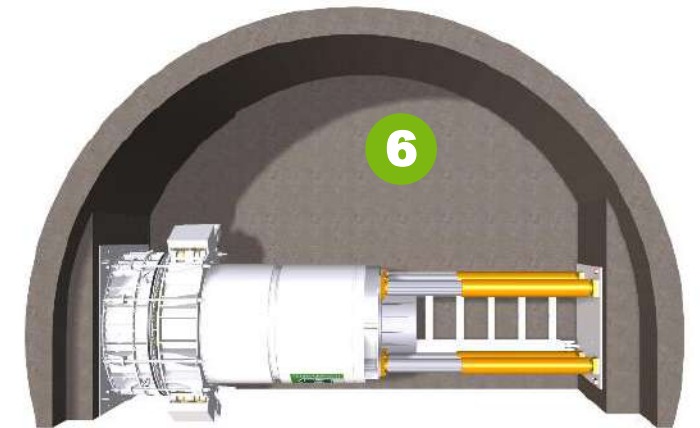
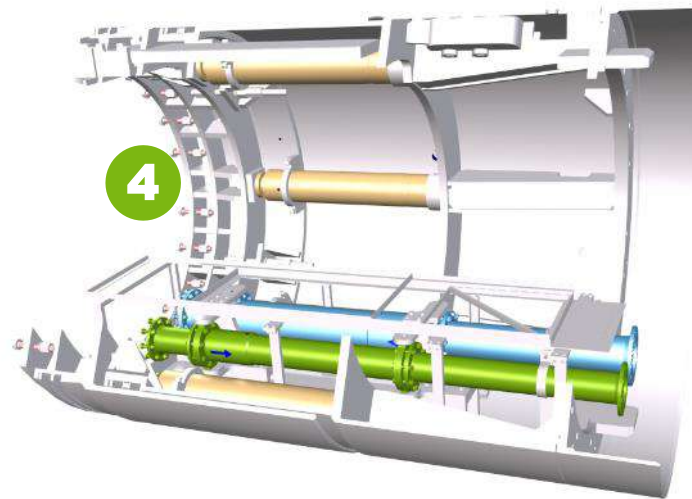


## Pipe Jacking

# SLURRY MTBM MACHINE DESIGN



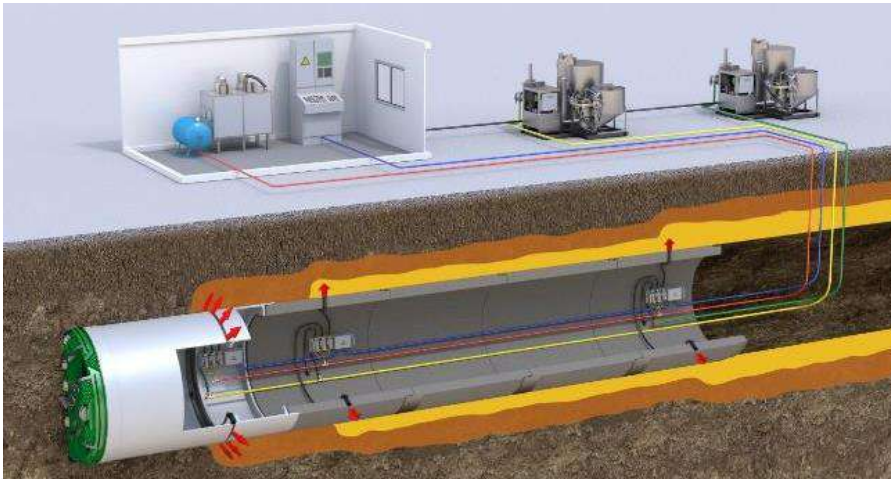
- 1 Cutting wheel and cutter tools
- 2 Main bearing and main drive
- 3 Steering cylinders
- 4 Telecopic station
- 5 Intermediate jacking stations
- 6 Main jacking station
- 7 Jacking pipes





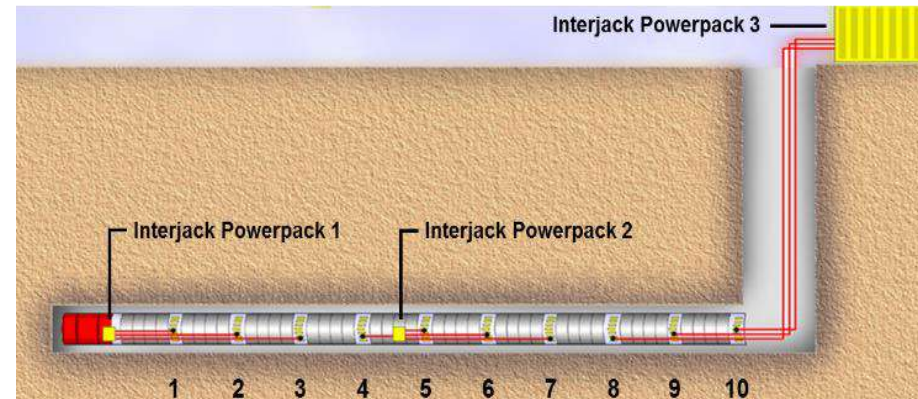
## Pipe Jacking

# KEEPING JACKING AND FRICTION FORCES LOW



### Bentonite lubrication system

- › reduce skin friction
- › adapt to changing geology



### Interjacking stations

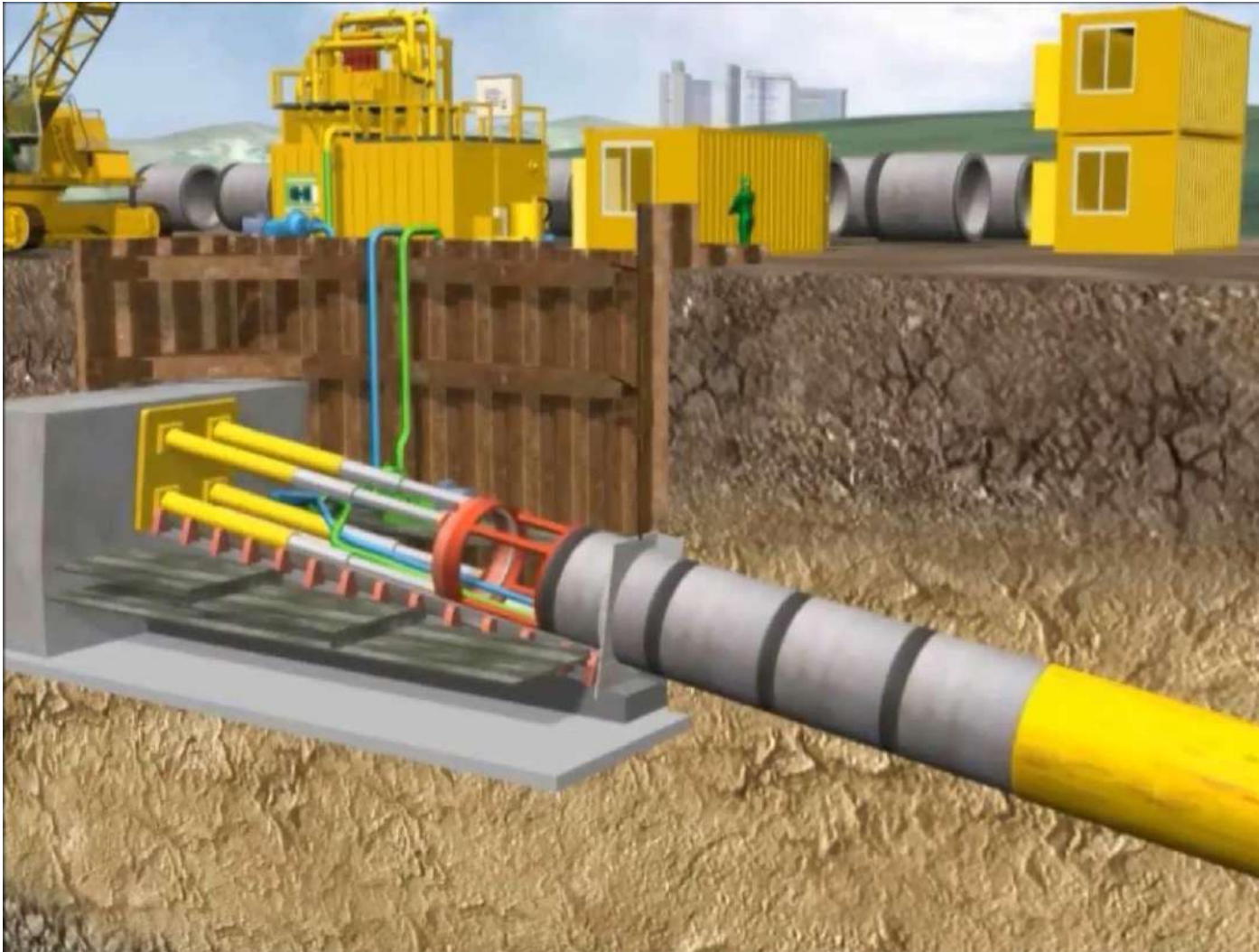
- › regular intervals
- › reduce jacking forces of main jacking station
- › dismantled when finished





Utility Tunnelling | Microtunnelling technologies

# SEA OUTFALL WITH PIPE JACKING



## Sea Outfall Principle

- › With offshore recovery of the tunnelling machine



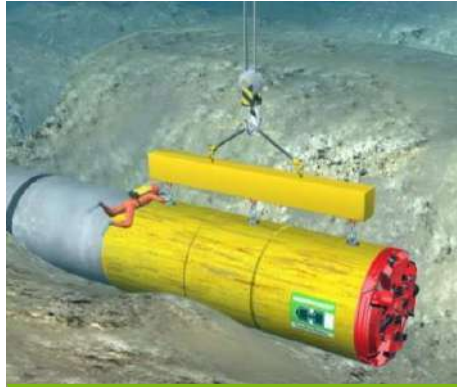
Pipe Jacking

# MTBM SUBSEA RECOVERY PROCEDURE WITH RECOVERY MODULE



**01**

Tunnelling machine is prepared for release from pipestring; bulkhead is closed



**02**

Divers fix the crane to lifting eyes of machine



**03**

Divers connect hydraulic supply lines to machine for the telescopic cylinders



**04**

Cylinders are extracted to release machine from the pipestring



**05**

Tunnelling machine is recovered and lifted up to the surface



Pipe Jacking

# MTBM SUBSEA RECOVERY LIFTING OPTIONS

> With airbags



> Crane in harbor



> Crane on barge / jack-up platform



Pipe Jacking Reference Project | Sea Outfall

# SOUTHEAST GATEWAY PIPELINE PROJECT, GULF OF MEXICO

## Pipe Jacking

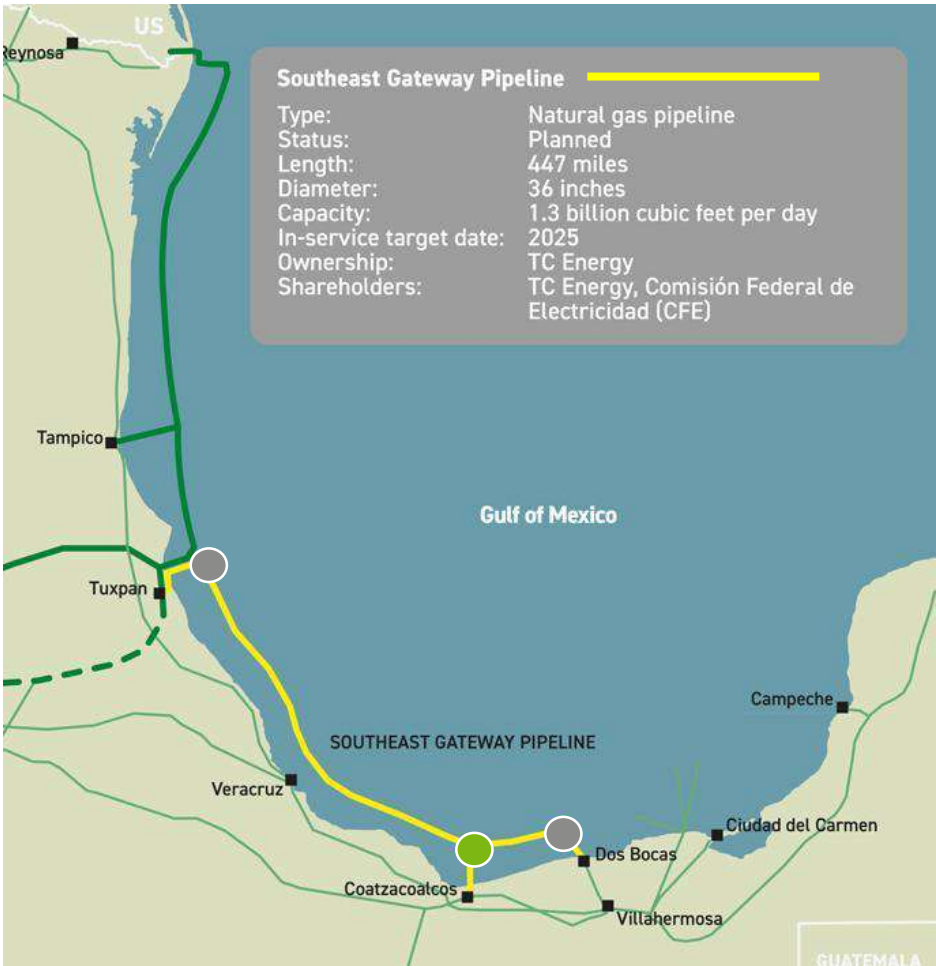
Coatzacoalcos landfall

- › AVND 2400AB, OD 3081 mm
- › Drive length: **1,715 m**

## Direct Pipe 56"

Tuxpan shore crossing

- › Drive length: **1,370 m**
- Dos Bocas landfall
- › Drive length: 1,048 m





UTILITY TUNNELLING

# DIRECT PIPE SLURRY MICROTUNNELLING FOR SIMULTANEOUS PIPELINE INSTALLATION





Utility Tunnelling | Microtunnelling technologies

# DIRECT PIPE® TECHNOLOGY

**24"** up to 60" steel pipeline installations

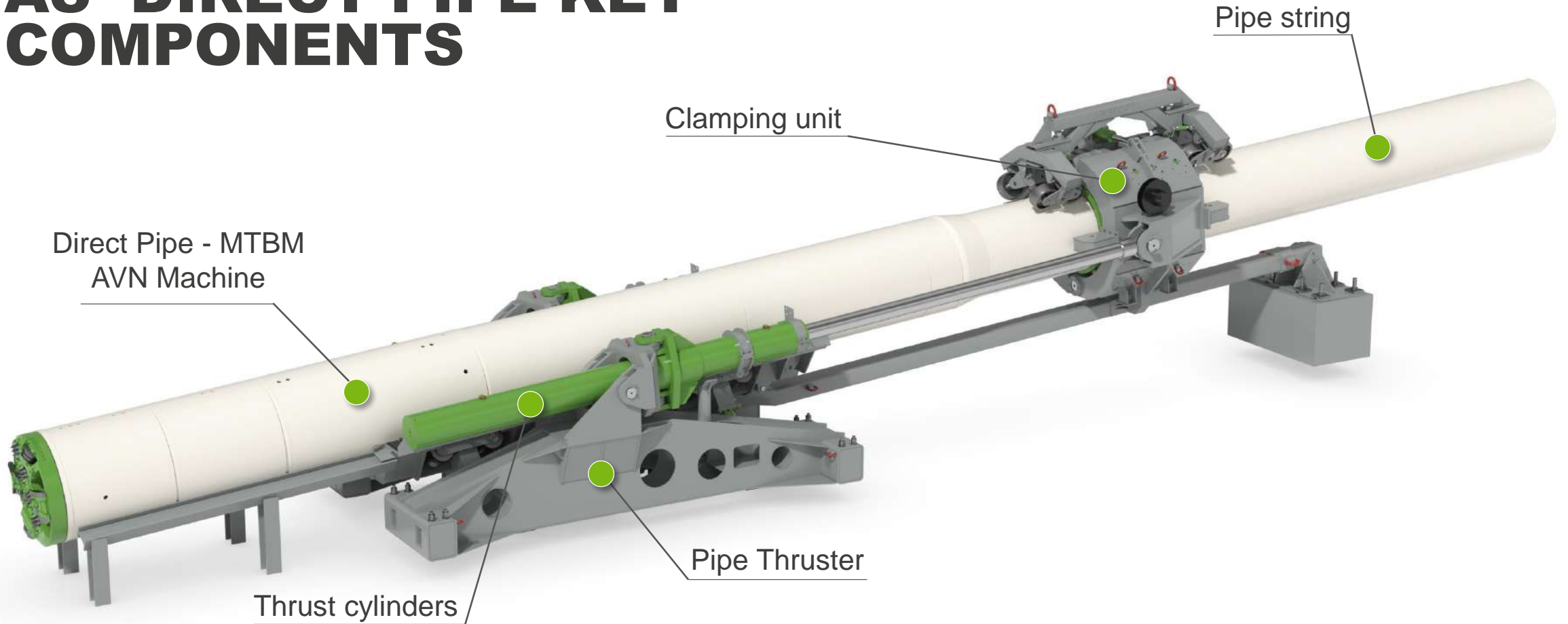
- › One-pass installation
- › min. frac out risk | borehole supported
- › High accuracy





Utility Tunnelling | Microtunnelling technologies

# MTBM AND PIPE THRUSTER AS DIRECT PIPE KEY COMPONENTS



# DIRECT PIPE® Smallest Diameter in ITALY

- ▶ SNAM - Gas Network Adriatic Coastline
- ▶ #1 Tratto Recanati – S. Elpidio  
Geology: some sand, clay, gravel
- ▶ #2 Metanodotto Recanati – Chieti  
Geology: sand, silt, sandy clay, clay, some gravel
- ▶ Pipeline: **26"** w/ PE/GRP Coating
- ▶ Distance: 310m + 521m (1017 ft + 1778 ft)



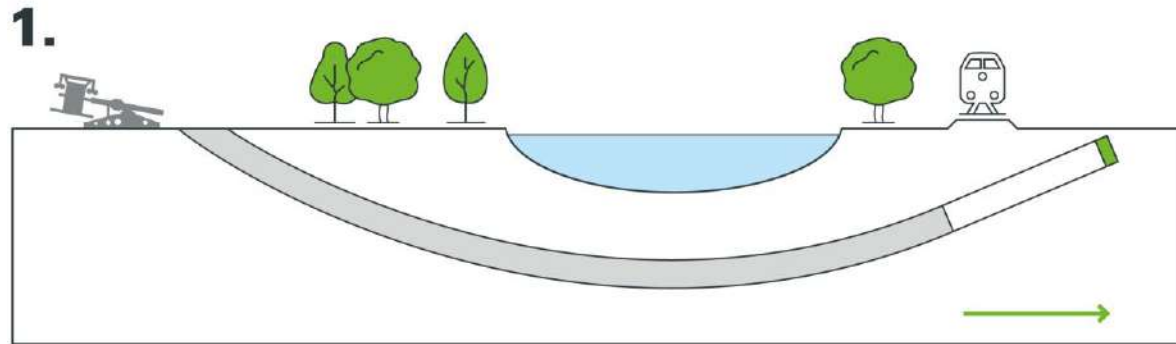
**26"**





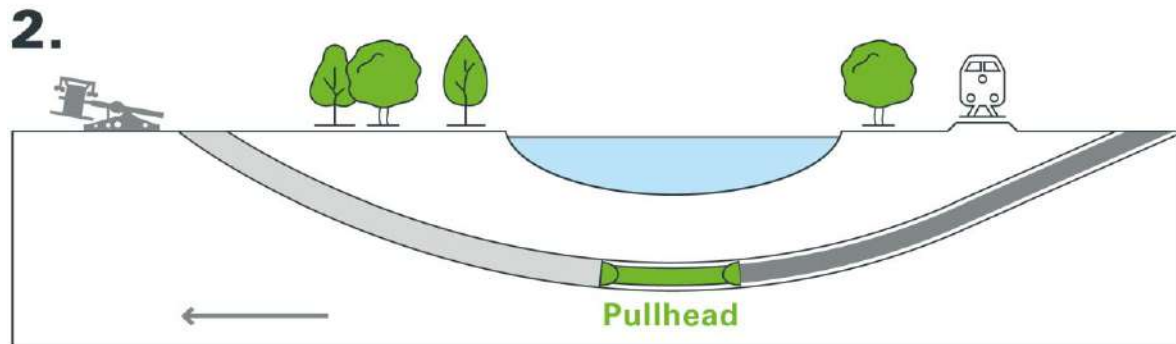
# DIRECT PIPE® VARIATIONS

## INSTALLATION OF HDPE PIPE EXAMPLE RIVER CROSSING



### Installation of steel pipe

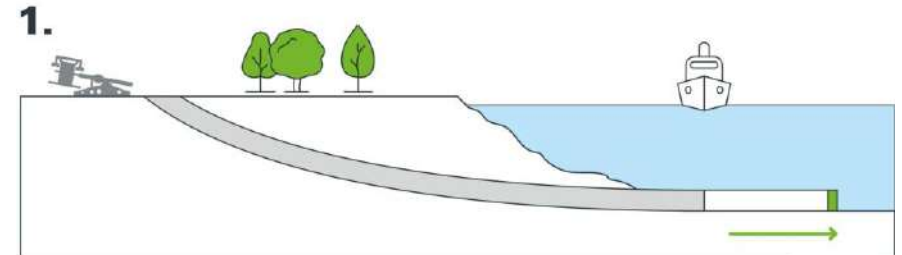
Simultaneous excavation of borehole and installation of temporary steel pipe.



### Installation of HDPE pipe

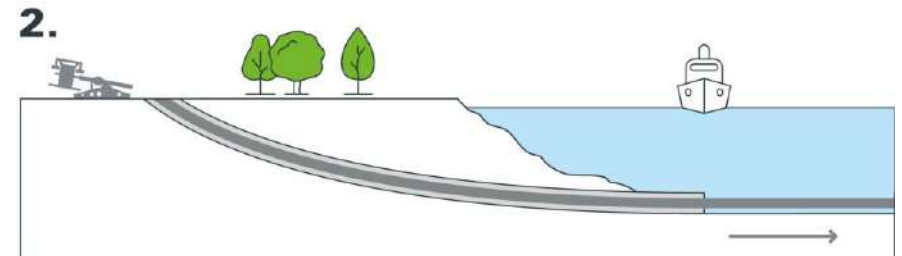
Connection of HDPE pipe via pullhead;  
Pull-in of HDPE pipe by retraction of steel pipe with Pipe Thruster.

## INSTALLATION OF HDPE PIPE EXAMPLE SEA OUTFALL



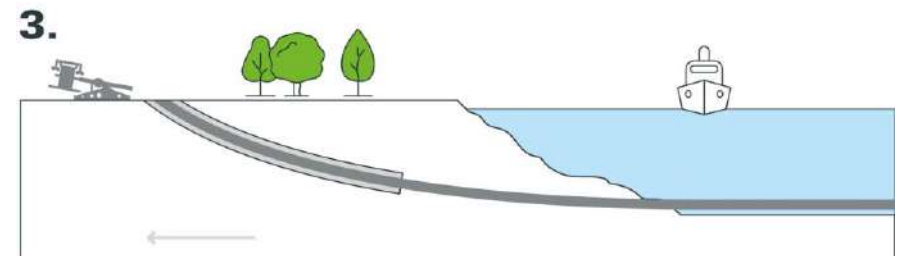
### Installation of steel pipe

Simultaneous excavation of borehole and installation of steel pipeline.



### Installation of HDPE pipe

Subsequent insertion of HDPE pipe into the steel pipe.



Retraction of steel pipe with Pipe Thruster.



UTILITY TUNNELLING

# E-POWER PIPE SLURRY MICROTUNNELLING AND SUBSEQUENT PIPE PULLING

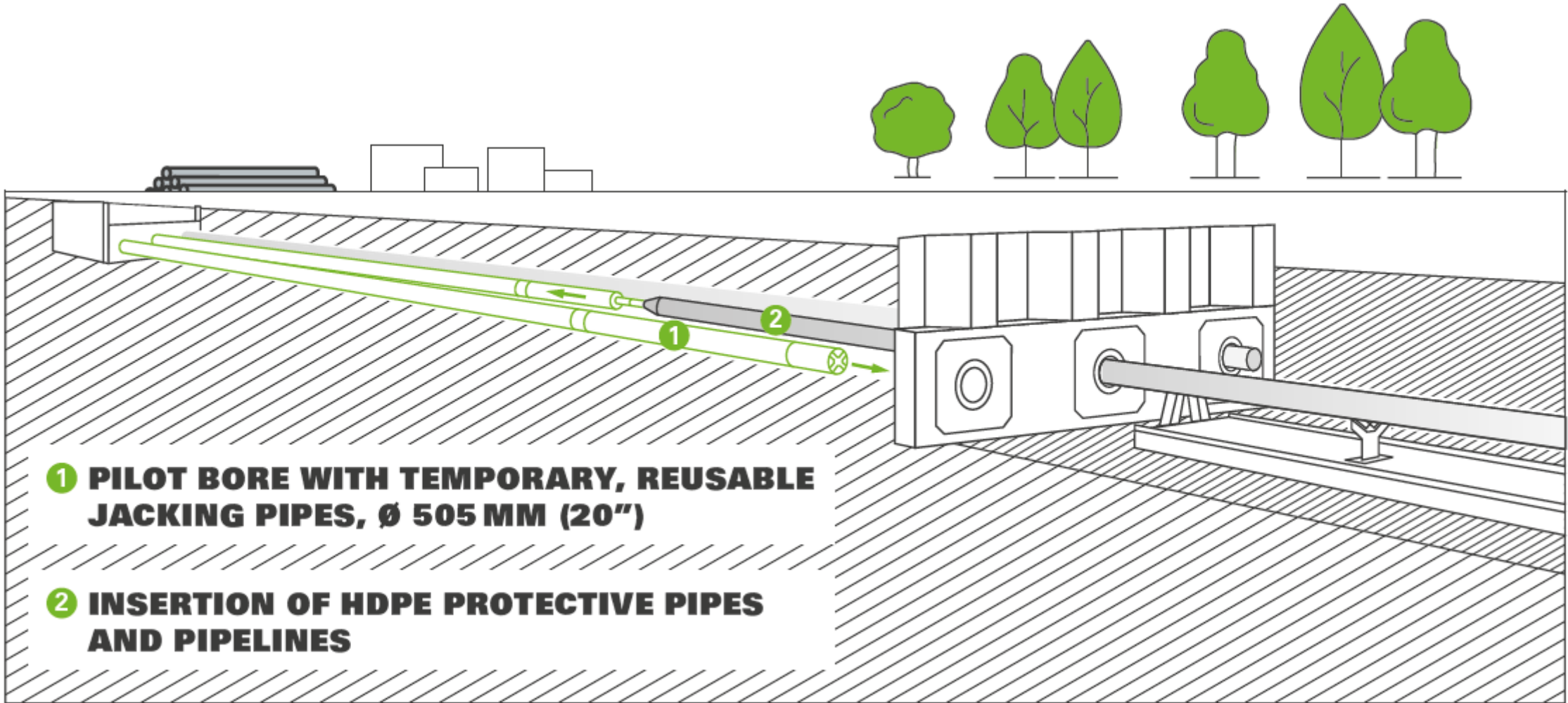
Safe installation of pipelines,  
cable protective pipes and  
bundles





Trenchless Technologies

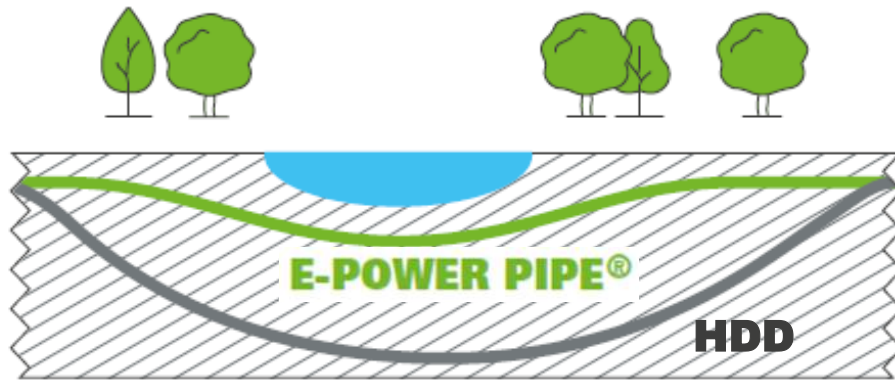
# E-POWER PIPE® INSTALLATION STEPS



## Trenchless Technologies

# E-POWER PIPE® VERSUS HDD

## Installation **depth**



### Benefit E-Power Pipe®

- › Near-surface (shallow) installation and constant depth possible
  - › Min. overburden: **1.5 m | 5 ft**

## Installation **corridor** / distance between lines

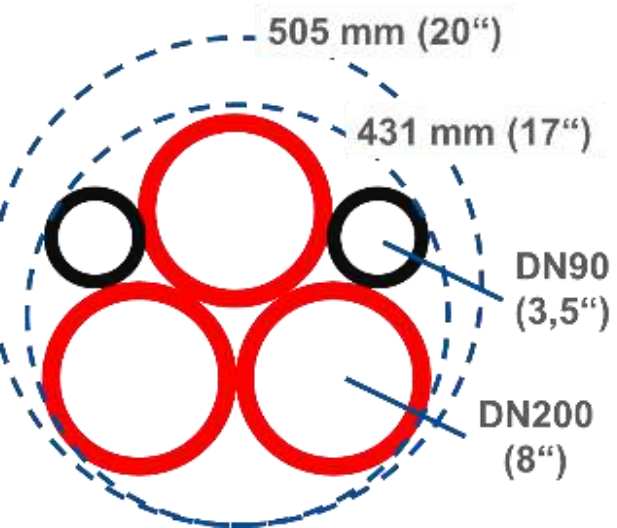


### Benefit E-Power Pipe®

- › Precise, parallel installation distance: only min. **1.0 m | 3 ft**
- › Smaller surface for installation corridor and operation required



# RECORD CABLE PROJECT IN THE NETHERLANDS





An aerial photograph of a construction site for pipe installation. The site is a large, flat, brownish area, possibly a dirt road or construction site. In the center, there is a large, rectangular, yellow structure labeled 'Jacking frame'. To the right of the frame, there are several large, white, cylindrical objects labeled 'Jacking pipes'. In the bottom left, there is a yellow excavator and a yellow crane. In the bottom right, there is a yellow crane and a yellow container. In the center, there is a yellow crane labeled 'AVNS 350XB'. In the bottom left, there is a yellow container labeled 'Bentonite mixing unit'. In the bottom right, there is a yellow container labeled 'Bentonite pump'. In the center, there is a yellow container labeled 'Separation plant'. The background shows a dirt road and some greenery.

# **EPOWER PIPE**

## **JOBSITE INSTALLATION**

**HERRENKNECHT**

**Jacking frame**

**Jacking pipes**

**AVNS 350XB**

**Open trench installation**

**Separation plant**

**Bentonite mixing unit**

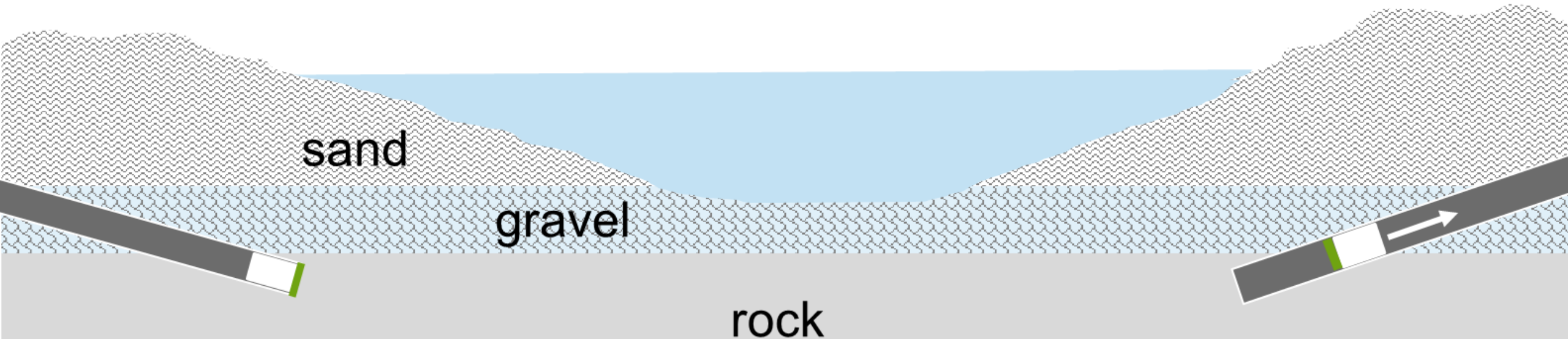
**Bentonite pump**



Microtunnelling assists HDD

# RETRACTABLE MTBM CONCEPTS FOR HDD INSTALLATIONS

- › Steel casings for HDD in unstable ground conditions
- › Retraction of MTBM, e.g. by jacking frame, winch or Pipe Thruster



# FOLDABLE CUTTING WHEEL MTBM RETRACTION THROUGH TUNNEL





Retractable MTBM Reference Project

# RETRACTABLE DIRECT PIPE FOR HDD STARTER CASING

- › For 48" HDD casing of 85m length
- › HDD project: New Jersey Expansion Project
- › New Jersey, USA
- › M-1547M, AVN 800 + HK500PT
- › Geology: fill, wood, sand, cobbles, boulders
- › Client: Spectra Energy
- › Contractor: Michels Directional Inc.



**HERRENKNECHT**



**Tunnelling Systems**