

Trenchless News

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Bigger & Better

Akkerman is working to manufacture a new Earth Pressure Balance Machine (EPBM). This machine will be used by Buntich Pacific JV on the Avenue 45 and Arroyo Drive Relief Sewer for the City of Los Angeles. The new machine erects pre-cast trapezoidal tunneling segments. As the machine erects the segments in the rear, the EPBM advances off of the segments to move itself forward thus creating the tunnel. This process is referred to as progressive ring building. The new 9.5

foot O.D. EPBM will need to negotiate multiple curves along a 6,200 foot tunnel alignment. The bore logs show a variety of soil conditions along the alignment, ranging from sand and gravel to solid rock.



The creation of the EPBM line presents new market prospects for Akkerman and larger job bidding opportunities for our customers. This is the second EPBM built by Akkerman in cooperation with Hitachi-Zosen of Japan through an exclusive license agreement for technology transfer and business development.

Customer demand has necessitated the need for a plant expansion for some time. This latest expansion will increase

manufacturing space by 50% and add approximately 25,000 square feet.

The overall goals of the plant expansion project are to reduce outside travel and material movement. Four, 30-ton cranes will be installed and two rail carts (self propelled electric carts) will be added for ease of moving large segments of equipment. All these improvements will inherently make better use of space and increase safety and energy efficiency. An above the plant floor mezzanine will feature office space for the engineering and factory office staff. Akkerman plans to break ground in late summer, 2007.



Earth Pressure Balance | Guided Boring | Microtunneling | Pipejacking | Tunneling



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