

COB

SUBJECT

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM CABLES AND PIPES

Introduction

Towards the end of 2003 the COB knowledge platform Cables and Pipes came into being. This memo comments in short on the goal and the procedures of the platform. Attention is given successively to:

- Goal and status;
- Participants
- Content;
- Planning;
- Organisation;
- Finance and budget.

Goal and status

Goal of the public-private COB KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM CABLES AND PIPES is to develop, exchange and evaluate knowledge on cables and pipes (utilities) together:

1. Exchange: knowledge and experience on current initiatives, aimed at improvement of arrangement, registration, innovation and management of (underground) cables and pipes;
2. define: the need to fill in knowledge gaps;
3. initiating and organizing: workshops, seminars, research and development;
4. advice: on the way to secure knowledge (publications, reports, etc);
5. advice: on the demand for knowledge transfer (for instance by education);

Status

The status of the conversations within the platform is in the first place informative. Discussions are meant to gain knowledge on each others position and argumentation, in order to come to a shared perception of the problem and a common vision on solutions. This makes it a true **knowledge platform** in which knowledge on relevant subjects is exchanged, where knowledge gaps are established and where agreements on knowledge development are made. The platform can take action in order to address certain issues together, as far as KNOWLEDGE is involved. Agreements, decisions and accompanying negotiations on policy, formal viewpoints and lobbying take place elsewhere in the proper places.

Target group and participants

The target group consists of people who could become member of the platform on behalf of their organisation or backing group, but who especially on the basis of their individual experience and interest participate in the deliberations. The platform should unite a group of people willing to seriously discuss common subjects on knowledge regarding underground infrastructure. If necessary,

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they should be able to gain support for these same common subjects and discussion issues on a higher level within their own organisation or backing group.

The target group of the platform consists of the primary and the secondary ‘players’ in the cables and pipes market. The primary players are companies and organisations with direct business or content-related (legal) concern. These are the direct ‘problem owners’ in relation to cables and pipes: the government organisations concerned (national, provincial, local), land owners and/or pipe and cable controllers and ‘soil workers’ (the diggers i.e. the contractors). Secondary players are parties with indirect stakes: the worlds of advice, insurance, standardisation, information- and knowledge development, etc.: consultancy and engineering firms, insurance companies, standardisation institutes, knowledge institutes, etc.

Participants COB Knowledge platform Cables and Pipes; Version December 2007

Type of organisation	Organisation
Sectors	Energiened
	GPKL
	Bouwend NI
	RIONED
Knowledge institutes	Gem A'dam
	KIWA Gastech
	KIWA / VEWIN
	TU Delft
	Geodelft
Network management organisations	TNO
	Continuon
	Tennet
	Gasunie
	UPC
	DZH
	HHDeffland
Essent	
Contractors	VSHanab
Municipalities	Gem Amsterdam
	Gem Utrecht
	Gem Rotterdam
	Gem Den Haag
	Gem Utrecht
National government	Gem Arnhem
	Min V&W
	Min EZ
	Min V&W
Consultants	Min VROM
	Hompe&Taselaar
	Tebodin
	Tablin
	IFTechnology
	Grontmij
Others	Lievens
	Kadaster

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	HavenbedrijfR'd	
	Prorail	
	St.Pipeliner	
	Kadaster	
	KLIC	
	Buisleidingenstr	

Companies or their branch organisations?

Participants are at present companies from the sectors before mentioned as well as individual companies. Sometimes, like is the case with VELIN, a company represents a certain sector. Branch organisations are in the position to represent their backing group efficiently. Specific or current practical knowledge should be expected to come from companies. Therefore branches as well as companies can participate: the wish and starting point of participants to the platform Cables and Pipes is to work together to reach a good underground infrastructure in the Netherlands.

Participants are therefore invited to participate in relation to a certain backing group, without this meaning to be a formal representation. New information is shared on current initiatives and on progress that is made. Participation doesn't mean just talking free of obligations. Participants can expect from each other to give the latest, correct and full information, or otherwise to state explicitly that one is not free to disclose certain information. The conversation provides project leaders of several projects/initiatives with important information regarding societal backing for a certain policy of for project results.

Content

The subjects of the three last meetings (that is: arrangement, registration, statutory framework and innovation) are as yet the most important issues on the agenda. Future subjects should of course also relate to relevant knowledge in the field of cables and pipes. On the one hand, there are several concrete research projects going on in the field of clustering: the risk of clustering in infrastructures, the societal costs and benefits of clustering, improvement of construction- and control technology, 'findability' and tracing of cables and pipes. Furthermore, thoughts regarding innovation go out to: security, education, training, communication from the platform, etc.

Examples of projects of the knowledge platform:

- Risks of clustering cables and pipes in infrastructures (estimated at 180,000), completed
- Economical weighing of clustering of cables and pipes in infrastructures (estimated at 110,000), completed
- Optimisation, realisation and control of clustering cables and pipes in infrastructures (estimated at 180,000), completed end 2007
- Symposium clustering cables and pipes (estimated 15,000), d.d March 6, 2007
- Tracing techniques for underground cables and pipes (estimated 50,000) start December 2007
- Masterplanning Ondergrondse Ordening en Infrastructuur (M001) (estimated 50,000),

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completed end 2007

- Course on Cables and Pipes (SBO), twice
- Instruction manual Cables and pipes (estimated 60,000), current project
- Vision on transport through pipelines (pm) current project

Planning

Regular meetings are scheduled five times a year, normally months 2, 4, 6, 9 and 11.

Apart from that, the possibility of improvised meetings on specific subject.

Organisation

Frans Taselaar is chairman since April 2005. Co-ordination and secretarial support comes from Anne Kamphuis of COB

For support on other issues, like communication, process facilitation and logistics, a budget is estimated that can be deployed according to demand by the platform or as a consequence of a proposition of chairman and/or secretary.

Finance

The finances necessary for the knowledge platform to function consist of three components:

- Revenues from a yearly contribution of 3,500.-- euros per participant. For COB-participants this amount is considered to be part of the normal COB-participation contribution;
- Revenues coming from a percentage (''hosting fee'') of 15% of the "ambition research budget"; for 2007 the total research ambition amounts to 750,000 euros, which means 112,500 euros are available for covering of the necessary expenses:
- Expenses necessary for support, including housing, administration and co-ordination (4d/w), secretariat (1,5d/w) and chairman (2 u/w)