



DigiTrak® Eclipse® - The Swiss Army Knife of HDD Locators

The DigiTrak® Eclipse® inGround Positioning System (iGPS) is a revolutionary tracking system for the HDD industry. A focus on accuracy, along with ease of use and flexibility, were the primary design criteria for the Eclipse, according to Siggie Finnsson, Project Manager for Digital Control Incorporated, manufacturer of the Eclipse.

"Ease of use leads to short training time and fast operation," said Finnsson, "and this equals quick ROI for the contractor. Not to mention, the opportunity for success on the job site."

The accuracy of the Eclipse is due to the unique 3-D antenna configuration. This design not only makes it easy to use, but also provides real-time locating. "You can actually see the tool (or its representation on the screen) move," adds Finnsson. The operator is able to walk directly to the transmitter's position.

The receiver provides 3-D left/right and up/down remote steering data to the remote display at the drill, and the

large menu-driven display provides an "at-a-glance" view of all of the transmitter's orientation information. The overhead depth, projected depth, and slant depth are presented in real time. The graphic format is simple, and there is no need for the interpretation of bar graphs or arrows. A simple menu system guides the operator to the desired function, such as calibration, frequency change, ultrasonic setting, and depth locating mode.

The flexibility aspect of the Eclipse exists in the ability for DCI to continue to innovate and add capabilities to the system's platform. For example, advanced drilling features include off-track guidance when access over the drill head is limited due to interference or obstacles. A simplified remote steering function extends the applications for the Eclipse and a patented calibration procedure offers superb accuracy and the ability to recalibrate while drilling. The display shows real-time movement of the transmitter to allow "on-the-fly" locating.

"It's the Swiss Army knife of locators," remarked Chris Weise, Marketing Director for DCI. "The capabilities of the Eclipse are a result of intelligent engineering coupled with hands-on field application. We're looking at real-world needs and delivering precision systems to the industry."

Weise added, "Our focus at DCI is to continue to develop locating systems that can successfully carry out a wide range of project specifications and the Eclipse is a success story on multiple fronts, be it gravity sewer installations, project mapping and documentation, interference rejection, down-hole drilling fluid pressure, pull-back load monitoring and documentation and steering tool magnetic guidance system operations."

For more information on the Eclipse and other products from Digital Control Incorporated, visit www.digital-control.com or call 1-800-288-3610. DCI Headquarters are located at 19625 62nd Avenue South, Suite B103, Kent, WA 98032.