BULLETIN

News from *SubTerra, Inc.*®

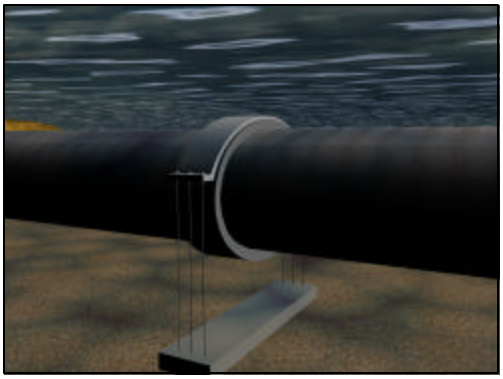
3D Animation of Submerged Floating Tunnel across Lake Washington Seattle, Washington

Although not yet routinely used by engineers, 3D animations can be an extremely useful tool for visualization. The technique has unique application for projects that can't be seen, such as underground construction, or even projects that have not yet been built. This is the case for a recent animation developed by SubTerra, Inc. to support the First US Workshop on Submerged Floating Tunnels.

A submerged floating tunnel, or "SFT", is simply a rigid tunnel structure suspended a short distance below the surface of a body of water. Most proposed designs for an SFT involve a naturally buoyant structure anchored in place to the water bottom. As of 2002, no such structure has been built anywhere in the world, although the technology is quite similar to what has been used for existing immersed tunnels (i.e., tunnels resting on the bottom of a body of water).

SFT's are a viable and useful concept (and in some cases, the only realistic possibility) for crossing deep bodies of water, or water bodies where bridges would be undesirable or difficult to construct. In contrast to transportation options such as ferries, an SFT would provide a fixed link, immune to inclement weather conditions.

Recognizing the need to promote new and exciting technologies as solutions to increasing transportation problems, *SubTerra, Inc.* successfully teamed with the University of Washington and another local consulting firm to acquire National Science Foundation sponsorship for a workshop on SFT's. International experts, local consultants, government officials and media attended the event, held in Seattle in May, 2002.



Still view taken from 3D animation

In preparation for the workshop, *SubTerra, Inc.* developed a 3D computer "drive-through" animation that illustrated what an SFT across Lake Washington might look like. The animation involved a car driving through the tunnel at 55 mph, as well as "fish-eye" views through the water of the tunnel exterior.

As part of the associated outreach activities, *SubTerra, Inc.* personnel visited area high schools to talk about engineering careers and present the SFT animation. Portions of the animation were also televised on a local evening news program.

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