



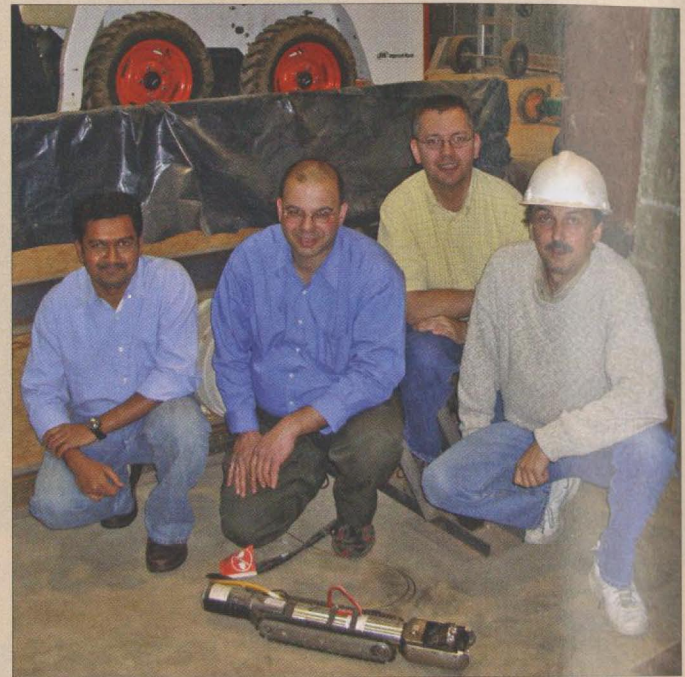
# Trenchless Technology Center *Newsletter*

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## TTC Partners with Cues Inc. on Pipe Inspection

Cues Inc. and TTC were recently awarded a \$3.2 million research grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Technology Innovation Program. The technology, originated at Louisiana Tech University, is aimed at detecting the presence of sinkholes around buried pipes by using robotics to inspect the pipe wall and the surrounding soil envelope.

The technology, called FutureScan, uses an innovative radar system to look for potentially dangerous areas in pipelines and culverts by producing high-resolution images from a scanning robot that travels inside the pipes. In addition to the \$3.2 million award, a 100 percent match is being committed to the project by the participants. The funds received by TTC will total about \$900,000 over three years. The University's business incubator is also involved in the project by housing a start-up company named Beyond Vision that will provide the outlet for the new technology developments. The project started Feb. 1, and Erez Allouche, Associate Professor at Louisiana Tech University and Associate Director of the TTC, will be the Principal Investigator for the TTC work. Joe Purtell will lead the project at Cues Inc. and faculty from the physics program at Louisiana Tech, Neven Simicevic and Klaus Grimm, plus TTC Research Associate, Arun Jaganathan, will form the core of the TTC research team.



From left: Arun Jaganathan, Erez Allouche, Klaus Grimm and Neven Simicevic.