



2010 CASE HISTORIES

Geothermal Heats Up for Allied Well Drilling

“When you’re buying a rig that’s going to pound rod 500 feet into the ground all day long, you do your homework.” And that homework led Adam Santry, vice president and owner of Allied Well Drilling, to the Schramm T450GT. Allied Well

Drilling is based outside of Baltimore, primarily focused on the geothermal market these days. The family business has been drilling wells and excavating for more than 17 years, and began providing geothermal services about 6 years ago. Geothermal now accounts for 90-percent of the company’s business. The firm serves the Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Delaware

“We had specific production capabilities in mind. The tracked chassis was a must-have.” Santry points out how sloppy things can get when you drill up to 200 holes in the ground. A typical geothermal job would entail drilling anywhere from 40 holes to 200 holes between 300 feet and 500 feet, into which heat exchange geo-loops are inserted.

“At the Delaware Welcome Center on Interstate 95, we were getting water coming out of the ground at 300 gallons per minute. It was a muddy mess. Something on wheels wouldn’t function too well on a site like

that. Plus, the tracked chassis is more maneuverable, so we get more done.”

Allied knew it wanted a rig capable of delivering higher productivity rates. The Schramm T450GT filled the bill. The unit’s rugged construction and super-fast pipe-handling got the job done. According to Santry, the T450GT offers the best, safest lazy susan carousel in the business. It stows 12 pieces of 4 1/2-inch pipe or 15 pieces of 3 1/2-inch pipe. With its duplex 7-by-10 fully hydraulic mud pump, the unit, “blows away anything else.”

“We love it,” states Santry. “On the jobsite, it gets around, handles the rods quickly and is easy to use. The controls are easy to master.”

But it’s not just the rig’s capabilities that have Santry so pleased: “Service. That’s the best feature by far.”

With 45 employees, Allied needs to keep its rigs running. “The Schramm Rotadrill is rugged. But with the beating it takes on a daily basis, you need the



Allied Well Drilling’s new Schramm T450GT gets put through its paces at a geothermal installation just outside DC.



From left to right, Dionisio Martinez, Bill Sima, Adam Santry, Brett Sweeney with the new Schramm T450GT geothermal rig.



Schramm lazy susan carousel holds 15 pieces of 3 1/2-inch drill pipe

backup of a great service program. Schramm is all about service. From classroom training to field training and commissioning the drill, they gave us their full attention,” says Santry. He goes on to say that, at one point, a Schramm technician drove from the factory to the jobsite at 10:30 at night to deliver a part.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) contains provisions for up to a 30-percent tax credit for homeowners who install geothermal heat pump systems in 2009 and later years, and up to a 10-percent grant for commercial building installations. Additionally, there are added depreciation incentives to equipment buyers. The future of geothermal energy looks particularly bright. “We’re looking forward to the next decade,” says Santry. “This technology is really starting to take hold, particularly with commercial installations. We expect we’ll be taking another drive up I-95 to Schramm’s headquarters pretty soon for another rig.”