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Contact: Jacob Hay – (202) 942-2285

## **A ‘Non-Ground Breaking’ Agreement**

### **LIUNA and One of Nation’s Largest Underground Piping Firms To Partner in Use of Advanced, Money-Saving Technology**

#### ***Pact to Create Hundreds of Good Union Jobs***

**Washington, DC (April 16, 2007)** – LIUNA – the Laborers’ International Union of North America – and Michels Pipe Services have signed a collective bargaining agreement covering the company’s employees who use advanced technology to repair underground pipe.

The technology could be called “non-groundbreaking” as it uses robotic remote cameras to locate repair sites, making it unnecessary to dig up an entire line of pipe. Repairs are then made with a material which bonds to the pipe. The money-saving repair method is becoming favored by municipalities across the country.

The Engineering and Utility Contractors Association, which is facilitating and administering the cured-in-place agreement nationally, said the Michels pact puts LIUNA on the leading edge of new technology in construction. LIUNA’s capacity to train workers in cured-in-place skills helped attract Michels to the agreement.

The first phase of work under the contract will be in the five Western states Michels currently has work in: California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Idaho. There will be more than one million man-hours of work for the first year on projects totaling \$100 million.

“With this agreement, LIUNA members across the United States will be able to train and work in one of the fastest growing segments of the piping industry,” said LIUNA General President Terry O’Sullivan. “It lays the foundation for all trenchless technology agreements in the future and it is important for our members that we are ahead of the curve.”

Mark Breslin, CEO of EUCA, said LIUNA’s record of being able to train members quickly on new technology and equipment was an important aspect of the agreement.

“Employers want training that is portable and mobile,” Breslin said. “And the partnership between LIUNA and a progressive, responsible company like Michels allows for workers and management to both prosper and meet the needs of the industry.”

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