CELEBRATING ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR IS US-BASED PILE DYNAMICS INC (PDI).

When started in 1972 it made just one product, the Pile Driving Analyzer (PDA) and associated CAPWAP software.

“By providing a ‘Dynamic Testing’ alternative to often costly and difficult to perform static load tests, PDA and CAPWAP represented a major breakthrough in the approach to determine foundation bearing capacity,” said a company spokesman.

PDI’s product line now includes solutions for all types of deep foundations. Among its current products is a Cross-Hole Analyzer, which tests drilled shafts by cross-hole sonic logging (CSL), and an automated monitoring system for auger cast-in-place piles, known as PIR-A.

The original PDA has undergone significant improvements since 1972 too. The latest PAX model allows engineers to perform dynamic foundation testing via the Internet. The picture shows the PDA in 1980 (top) and the new PAX model (bottom), released this year.