Editorial

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As the editor of *Geotechnical Engineering* I would like to welcome you to the first issue of 2013. You may have noticed that the number of pages has increased to 96, which is the new issue length of the journal. This has resulted in the inclusion of three additional papers in this issue. I hope everybody can find an article of particular interest to themselves.

In December, I thanked the retiring members of the panel and I have the privilege of welcoming their replacements: Andrew Merritt of the Geotechnical Consulting Group and Minh Nguyen of Atkins Ground Engineering. I am also very happy to announce our new overseas panel members. From the USA we have Christopher Bambridge (Hatch Mott MacDonald) and Rodrigo Salgado (Purdue University) and from the southern hemisphere Hossam Abuel-Naga (University of Auckland), James Doherty (University of Western Australia) and also from Perth, Western Australia, Christine Ramshaw of Golder Associates. I am also delighted that Paul Nowak (Chief Geotechnical Engineer, Atkins Ground Engineering) has accepted the role of Deputy Chairman for this year.

At the beginning of this new year I would like to outline the panel's aims for the next 12 months. These include enhancing the international standing of the journal and improving both reader and author satisfaction. One of the ways to achieve the first two aims is to ensure rigorous quality control of the papers handled by the journal. This will be achieved through selection of the most appropriate referees and assessors by the panel (see the end of this issue for a list of last year's referees). Authors also have a role to play through the submission of new and novel work, which has not been previously published, and by contributing substantive rather than incremental material. This material should also be of immediate use or value to a practicing engineer and where possible should actively demonstrate potential application.

One of the main tasks last year was to reduce the time between submission, acceptance and availability of papers. Through changes in panel working practices the time from submission to acceptance was reduced by 2.5 months. In the latter half of the year this was reduced by 4 months on average. Further investment in the Ahead of Print (AOP) facility has also meant that papers are available for download very quickly after acceptance (currently 46 papers available), which avoids the delay in waiting for print space in the journal. In addition the journal has increased the size of each issue for 2013 to 96 pages. To view or access the AOP papers use the link from the journal's website homepage or visit www.icevirtuallibrary.com/content/serial/geng/fasttrack.

Looking ahead for this year, our annual themed issue will be on Geotechnical Challenges for Renewable Energy Developments and will be published in April 2013. Themed issues traditionally provide an important collection of the state of the art in research and practice. In an area currently attracting significant levels of interest from both academia and industry the forthcoming issue will hopefully continue this trend. We are also pleased to report a significant number of abstracts were submitted for our 2014 themed issue on Deep Basements and Retaining Walls.

This issue begins with a briefing note by Ellis (2013) which proposes a simple approach for the serviceability design of piles with negative skin friction. The proposed method is compared with that introduced by Poulos (2008) and Poulos (2009). The technical content concludes with a discussion on a paper by Jesmani *et al.* (2011), which looked at active vibration isolation using trenches.

There are seven papers included in this issue. The first paper looks at the clean-up and remediation operation required to prepare the site for construction of the Olympic Park in East London (Mead *et al.*, 2013). The operation involved the excavation of over 2 million m³ of soil and, where required this was treated using techniques such as soil washing, bioremediation and chemical stabilisation. This approach allowed re-use of up to 80% of the excavated materials thus minimising impact on the local environment and helped create an immediate and future legacy for the country and the inhabitants of East London. This case study will hopefully make a valuable contribution to the legacy material that is created to mark this important event.

The next group of three papers look at the use of both in situ testing and observational methods to inform and improve design. The second paper in the issue is concerned with the deep tube tunnel assets of the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines on the London Underground (Wright, 2013). The study looks how key properties of London Clay may vary from those typically assumed for asset monitoring and assessment with the aid of site investigation (CPT, DPM) carried out from the running tunnels. Results from site investigation showed that the London Clay had lower density, undrained strength and stiffness and higher permeability than might have been expected. The paper is of wider appeal in that it considers the variation of k_0 with depth, includes tunnel monitoring data and CPT testing over a wide area of the tube network.

The third paper looks at the behaviour of an embankment constructed over sulfide clay which is unusual in Europe but found in Bothnia Bay between Finland and Sweden (Müller *et al.*, 2013). The authors demonstrate how use of a trial embankment, supporting laboratory methods and the observational method allowed the efficient design of a major railway embankment in difficult ground conditions. The theme is continued by Harikumar *et al.* (2013) who argue that it is important to obtain site specific in situ measurements for modelling and understanding the performance of rock in the design of important structures rather than adopting commonly used empirical approaches or assumed parameters. In this case the development is a nuclear reactor facility.

The remaining three papers are laboratory studies, the first by Teng and Ou (2013) describes a recently developed triaxial system with a direct drive system. The authors show how that can obtain small strain measurements by monitoring the direct drive system which are comparable to those that may be obtained from on sample hall effects chips. The next paper by Naeini *et al.* (2013) looks at the use of large shear box interface testing of geogrid reinforced silty sand to inform the performance of reinforced earth retaining structures. The final laboratory based paper by Yukselen-Aksoy and Kaya (2013) looks at the control of soil particle specific area on the consolidation and compression behaviour of a wide variety of clay soils.

In this first issue of the year we also include a summary 'Elsewhere in *ICE Proceedings*', highlighting recent papers our readers may find of interest. In my previous editorial I highlighted the success of two papers from the journal at the ICE paper awards day in October (Steedman and Sharp, 2011 and Czerewko *et al.*, 2011); we have included details of these in this issue. We also include a list of our paper referees from 2012 who play an important role in the success of the journal and maintain the required level of 'peer review' quality control.

I hope you find this issue interesting and wish you a happy and productive 2013. If you would like to raise any particular points regarding the papers published please consider contributing to the journal in the form of a discussion piece or a briefing note. Instructions on the preparation and submission of discussion and briefing notes are included at the end of each paper.

For up to date information on Geotechnical Engineering please visit <http://www.icevirtuallibrary.com/content/serial/geng>.

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