Editorial

The first issue of the year provides a good opportunity to review the current agenda/state/standing of *Géotechnique*. In some respects, things do not change: *Géotechnique* aims to provide very high quality papers which will inform the worldwide geotechnical community. In other respects, the world is changing and *Géotechnique* must move with it.

The strong flow of good papers to *Géotechnique* has not diminished, but rather increased. As a result of this, we plan to increase the number of issues from six in 2000 to ten in 2001. This will provide about 30% increase in the number of pages, at an increase in cost to subscribers of about 15%, and will enable us to reduce significantly the time taken from acceptance of a paper to publication. Our policy will be to maintain high standards; we will not feel obliged to fill the larger number of pages, though at present it appears that this will not be a problem.

The December 2000 issue saw the publication of papers for the Symposium in print on the topic *Ground and Soil Improvement*. This issue included 14 papers, which will be presented and discussed at a full-day symposium on 6 February, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, London. The symposium will include state-of-the-art presentations by Dr Andrew Charles and Dr Alan Bell, and it is planned that the complete set of papers plus discussion will later be published in an additional single volume, for separate purchase.

The length of papers is a recurring issue for the *Géotechnique* Advisory Panel. For papers, the limits published on the inside back cover of *Géotechnique* are 5000 words of text, excluding reference lists, or 10 pages

in total. For technical notes the limits are 2000 words of text, or 4 pages in total. Our policy, recently confirmed, is to stick rigorously to these limits, accepting longer papers only rarely when an exceptional case is made by the Referee and Assessor. The page length allows about 950 words of text per page, and authors are advised to consider carefully how much space will be taken by figures and tables when printed at their final scales. Authors can assist the reviewing process by submitting additional copies of figures, reduced to the scales they anticipate for final publication.

The issue of 'originality' also exercises the Panel quite often. Our present policy is that papers must be significantly different from anything previously published, even if the previous publication was in a conference or in a different language. The views of subscribers on this policy would be helpful to the Advisory Panel.

The whole of *Géotechnique*, 1948 to 1999, is now available on CD. This comes with a powerful search capability, making access to past papers remarkably easy. It is also possible to download the last three years' papers from the *Géotechnique* website www.geotechnique-ice.com, and *Géotechnique* Interactive provides an email forum for discussion of papers – a facility which has great potential, not yet fully used.

The Editor is very grateful for the continued enthusiasm and hard work of the *Géotechnique* Advisory Panel, numerous referees worldwide, the Panel's secretariat and *Géotechnique*'s publishers. This team will ensure the continued reputation and value of *Géotechnique*.

B. Simpson