

## Geotechnical Instrumentation News

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### Introduction

This is the fifty-first episode of GIN. No articles this time—is anybody out there? Guidelines for articles are on [www.bitech.ca](http://www.bitech.ca). If you find that GIN is useful, please help me keep it alive—the first step is to send me a 200-300 word abstract.

### MEMS

MEMS (micro electro-mechanical systems – or in other references, “sensors”) appear to have potential applications in our business. Perhaps as tiltmeters. Perhaps as sensors in inclinometers. Perhaps as sensors in-place inclinometers, both for horizontal and vertical deformation monitoring. A brief Internet search revealed that they “integrate mechanical elements, sensors, actuators and electronics on a common silicon substrate through microfabrication technology”. Can anybody translate that for me, and/or send me information that I could include in a GIN article?

### The March 2007 Instrumentation Course in Florida

An international event: 61 registrants from 13 countries, 11 lecturers from 5 countries. Among the new content this time were fascinating updates on fi-

ber-optic sensing and time domain reflectometry. I’m hoping to work with the lecturers to create GIN articles on these two subjects.

### International Symposium on Field Measurements in Geomechanics (FMGM), September 2007

The 7th International Symposium on Field Measurements in Geomechanics (FMGM) will be held in Boston, MA during September 24-27, 2007. Details are on [www.fmgm.org](http://www.fmgm.org). Here’s an update.

Over 160 abstracts have been accepted from 21 countries. Approximately 40% of the abstracts are from authors outside the United States. The following is a summary of abstracts accepted for the three themes:

- Theme 1. Case Studies. About 40% of the abstracts (categories; buildings, dams and earthworks, structural foundations, walls, power industry, tunnels).
- Theme 2. State-of-the-art and Future Trends. About 55% of the abstracts (categories: pitfalls and problems, fiber optics, automated total stations, database and data management systems, real time monitoring, wireless remote monitoring, analysis and pre-

sentation software).

- Theme 3. The Business Side of Instrumentation. Less than 5% of the abstracts.

Four short courses are planned for September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Sunday before the start of the symposium. Details will soon be on [www.fmgm.org](http://www.fmgm.org).

### Bingo!

In the previous episode of GIN I told about living in Devon, a largely farming community in Southwest England, and how people can be greeted: “Hello mi luvly”, “mi booty”, “mi little flower”, and “mi ansome”. I said that I was still waiting to experience one of these personally. But in a supermarket recently – “Hello mi luvly”!! Made my day!

### Closure

Please send contributions to this column, or an article for GIN, to me as an e-mail attachment in MSWord, to [john@dunicliff.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:john@dunicliff.eclipse.co.uk), or by fax or mail: Little Leat, Whisselwell, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9LA, England. Tel. and fax +44-1626-832919.

Egé szé gé re! (Hungary). Does anybody know the meaning?