

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. 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. 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 23rd, the Sunday before the start of the symposium. Details will soon be on 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, 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?