**Ground truthing and geophysics for offshore engineering**

A year on from the EAGE’s Applied Shallow Marine Geophysics conference in Barcelona the SUT will hold its 8th international conference - ‘Smarter Solutions for Future Offshore Developments’. The event will take place from 12th to 14th September 2017 at the historic Royal Geographical Society and Natural History Museum in South Kensington London under the direction of the Offshore Site Investigation and Geotechnics (OSIG) group who have again requested input from the EAGE.

The conference series, which has run since 1979, offers a unique opportunity for geotechnical engineers, geoscientists and academics specialising in offshore topics to share their knowledge and experience. In addition to hosting the prestigious McClelland Lecture, the 2017 conference will focus on new research and developments in site investigation data acquisition, evaluation and integration, geotechnical analysis and design as well as field operational experience. A Special Issue of the EAGE *Near Surface Geophysics* journal will be published preceding the conference with selected papers to be presented at a session on shallow geophysics. The aim is to expand significantly the boundaries of knowledge and practice in offshore geotechnics and geoscience and emphasise their complementary nature.

The challenges currently faced by the offshore oil & gas industry call for innovative approaches to improve efficiency and rigour in practice, while the offshore renewable energy industry has identified and addressed through major research programmes the key technical issues that must be solved to support its growing strength. High profile international incidents have also occurred across all sectors in recent years that posed significant data acquisition, engineering and operational challenges.

The SUT and the EAGE are calling for high quality papers that report on the above topics and other developments, set out new research findings and present innovative ideas as to how the sector can improve efficiency, develop more collaborative approaches and offer innovation towards Smarter Solutions for Future Offshore Developments.

Instructions for conference paper abstracts with conference themes are detailed below. Authors whose abstracts are subsequently selected for possible inclusion as a full manuscript in the EAGE *Near Surface Geophysics* Special Issue should see ‘Guidance for Authors’ at [www.nsg.eage.org](http://www.nsg.eage.org) and <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nsg>.

Call for papers

* 200 word abstracts should be submitted in English and in ‘Microsoft Word’ format, using the abstract template which can be downloaded from [www.sut.org](http://www.sut.org)/event/osig2017. Please do not send ‘pdf’ format abstracts
* All abstracts should be emailed to [osig2017@sut.org](mailto:osig2017@sut.org) no later than **29th February 2016;** a notice of receipt will be emailed by return
* All primary authors will be notified of their abstract status by **30th April 2016**. Technical paper instructions to successful authors will also be provided at this time
* Successful authors are requested to submit draft papers for review by **30th November 2016**
* Following comments, final publication quality papers are required by **30th April 2017**

To aid administration, authors are requested to select the primary categories / keywords for their abstract from the following list: shallow geology & geohazards, seabed slopes, diapirs & slides, hydrates & shallow gas, seismic hazards & tsunamis, tophole drilling & well engineering, advances in geophysical data collection (including use of AUV) & processing, geotechnical site investigation & characterisation, learning from offshore incidents to reduce ground risk, foundation research, design, construction & monitoring, data integration & ground modelling, efficiencies through optimisation & performance based design, piled foundations, suction installed foundations, gravity based foundations, jack-up rig foundations, anchoring, cyclic & seismic loading of foundations, scour assessment & monitoring, pipeline & cable seabed engineering, risers & seabed interaction, environmental & ecological impacts of seabed engineering, decommissioning and seabed clean up, working in polar environments, climate change effects, deep sea mining, monitoring & overburden integrity for carbon storage. It should be noted that these categories are tentative and the committee will consider all abstracts relevant to offshore site investigation, geophysics & geotechnics, including relevant case studies. Please indicate in your covering letter if you wish your paper to be considered for inclusion in the special issue of *Near Surface Geophysics*.