BELOW THE SURFACE

Geocomp

GeoTesting EXPRESS

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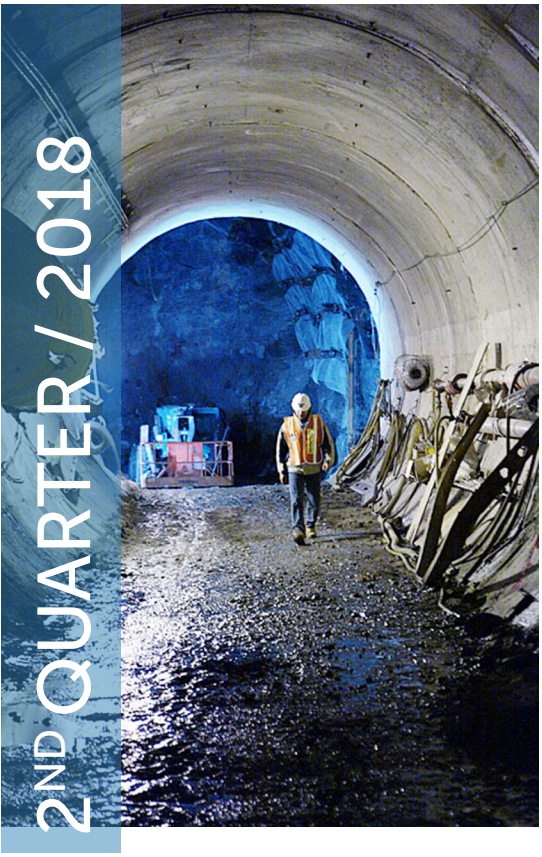

2ND QUARTER / 2018

New Addition to our Soil Testing Systems

Geocomp is pleased to announce the addition of an exciting new product to our series of fully-automated laboratory soil testing systems – a Bi-Directional Cyclic Direct Simple Shear (BDCDSS) machine. This advanced, table-top unit allows simple shear testing to be performed in two orthogonal horizontal directions rather than the standard single horizontal direction. This system can mimic the stresses that occur to soil elements experiencing cycling in multiple directions. Common examples of these situations include dynamic earthquake shaking, offshore structures subjected to waves, and foundations for wind towers. For Geocomp customers performing research related to the effects of cyclic loads on soils, this system is a must have with its more complete replication of field conditions.

The BDCDSS can automatically run consolidation, bi-directional cyclic, and post-cyclic undrained shear phases of a test. The device also can be used to perform direct simple shear and unidirectional cyclic direct simple shear tests. This system, with its compact and modern design and a broad range of testing capabilities, continues Geocomp's commitment to our customers to provide sophisticated, versatile systems that work reliably and are easy to use.

If you are interested in further system details, please contact our Product Sales Group at sales@geocomp.com or 978-635-0012.

Snowy 2.0: GTX Helps Build the Next Generation of the Australian Energy System

Hydro Power Station No. 3 Snowy Scheme
Source: Joe "velojo" A Creative Commons

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme, located in the Kosciuszko National Park in New South Wales, Australia, is made up of 16 dams, seven power stations, and 225km of tunnels. In March 2017, the Australian government proposed a Scheme expansion plan, known as the Snowy 2.0 project, which involves boring 27km of tunnels linking the Talbingo dam to the Tantangara reservoir. A mix of tunnel boring machines, as well as drill and blast techniques will be used for the tunneling and excavation of the 10-meter diameter tunnels at depths up to 1 kilometer. The expansion will increase the Scheme by 2,000 megawatts, enough to power 500,000 homes.

GeoTesting Express (GTX) is providing rock testing support for the project. Results of our testing will be used to design the tunnel boring machines and determine other rock excavation approaches. GTX has performed testing to determine rock behavior, including drillability tests (by the NTNU method), CERCHAR Abrasivity Index tests, and Punch Penetration. The proposed tunnel alignment passes through nine rock formations, including both sedimentary and igneous rocks. The changing geology has required that we test 152 samples from 24 borings so far and drilling is not yet complete so more testing is on the way.

Jon Campbell, GTX Assistant Lab Manager, is leading the rock testing program for the Snowy 2.0 project. In spite of 10,065 miles between GTX and our client and a 14-hour time difference, the test program has proceeded very smoothly. We are thrilled to be involved with this amazing project and look forward to continuing and completing the rock testing support needs of the project team.

Murrumbidgee River below the Tantangara Dam
Source: Conquimbo Creative Commons

Snowy hydro murray 1 machine hall floor
Source: Ear1grey at English Wikipedia Creative Commons

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Geocomp Welcomes

Brian Jones has joined Geocomp's Products group as the Senior Account Manager. He will be responsible for helping lead the global growth and continued success of Geocomp's fully automated laboratory systems. He will focus on developing and gaining new accounts as well as maintaining existing relationships worldwide. Previously, Brian worked for seven years in the Boston area with geological and geophysical consulting and then moved on to selling high-tech ground-penetrating radar equipment for more than 10 years in southern New Hampshire. Incorporating his unique background, Brian will look to leverage his technical skills and successful customer relations history to provide a valuable and rewarding experience for Geocomp's customers.

Brian holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Geoscience from Boston College and is an active member in a number of national and international societies.

Brian Jones
bjones@geocomp.com
(978) 635-0012

Geocomp on the Move

Matthew Tibbutt, a Geocomp Senior Project Manager, has relocated to our Los Angeles, CA office. In this new role, he will provide technical and project management oversight and supervise LA staff on current and future Instrumentation & Monitoring (I&M) work. In addition, he will work on expanding and growing Geocomp's I&M presence in the LA market. Matt was successful in growing the I&M practice while he was in our Acton office and we are confident he will be equally successful on the west coast.

He can be reached at mtibbutt@geocomp.com or (213) 943-1372

UPCOMING EVENTS

Look for Geocomp and GeoTesting Express at the following upcoming trade shows:

ASDSO Dam Safety 2018 (Exhibitor)
September 9-13, 2018 Seattle, WA

2018 Pacific Northwest Bridge Maintenance Conference (Exhibitor)
October 9-11, 2018 Portland, OR

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