

Dear Colleague:

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MICROPILES (ISM)

We hereby invite you to join the newly-formed International Society for Micropiles (ISM). This consortium of international representatives involved in the research and development, design, and construction of micropiles has been in existence since 1994 as the International Workshop on Micropiles (IWM). The core group was formed in 1994 as an international peer review team for the FHWA's State of the Practice Study on Micropiles (1993-1997), which focused on "classic" micropiles, namely drilled and grouted elements of high capacity. The synergy of this group of individuals, allied with major demands for technology transfer to "newer" markets mainly from Japan and Scandinavia, led to the organization of the first IWM in Seattle, WA in September 1997. Eight workshops were held since this initial meeting: Ube, Japan (1999); Turku, Finland (2000); Lille, France (2001); Venice, Italy (2002); Seattle, WA (2003); Tokyo, Japan (2004); Schrobenhausen, Germany (2006); and Toronto, ON, Canada (2007). The workshops included a series of technical presentations and workshops complemented by local site visits and cultural events. Current and past IWM/ISM activities may be reviewed on our website at www.ismicropiles.org.

Dr. Jouko Lehtonen of the Turku University of Applied Sciences in Turku, Finland is the current Chairman of ISM. Dr. Lehtonen has been involved actively in micropile technology for over 20 years, during his employment with Rautaruukki Oyj from 1993 to 2001 and now at Turku University. Dr. Lehtonen's research team at Turku University is currently developing an international survey on the size of the micropile market and a database of micropile loading tests. Dr. Lehtonen may be contacted at jouko.lehtonen@turkuamk.fi.

Dr. Donald A. Bruce, C.Eng. of Geosystems, L.P., was the ISM chairman of this micropile group since its creation. His tireless contribution and dedication to the ISM are gratefully acknowledged, and he maintains his active involvement as ISM's Honorary Chairman.

Micropiles are arguably the fastest growing specialty geotechnical construction technology, with the market likely doubling in the last 5 years. The ISM has been critical in the development of the technology

Mission of ISM:
permanent, proactive ISM organization will act as the international forum for coordinating and promoting all phases and aspects of micropile technology. It will act in the best interests of the technology and the potential users, will be easily accessed and will be strictly non-partisan. It will collect and disseminate knowledge via meetings, reports, and databases, and act as a forum for promoting relevant research.

Vision of ISM: ISM will be respected internationally as the preeminent center of knowledge for the development, advancement, and promotion of micropile technology.

nationally and internationally. Countries sponsoring delegates and providing major contributions to the ISM throughout the years include the United States, France, Japan, Germany, Italy, Canada, the U.K., Finland, Belgium, Sweden, Greece, Austria, South Africa, Spain and Portugal. The IWM has had over 80 active members, and each workshop has been

attended by approximately 50 to 90 delegates.

The past workshops have been co-sponsored by FHWA and ADSC; however, the funding that had been enjoyed could not reasonably be guaranteed in the long term. The delegation agreed that

becoming a full-fledged, independent society was required to continue the workshops that have allowed the micropile technology to be expanded and transferred internationally. The goals of the ISM include:

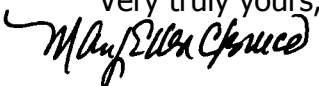
- Organize regular ISM meetings (possibly every 18 to 24 months on average).
- Establish a micropile database, especially of case histories and testing data, for use by designers, contractors, and educators worldwide.
- Act as an international "authority" providing oversight input to local/national codes.
- Act as a facilitator/disseminator of micropile information generated worldwide.
- Issue annual practice updates.
- Help expand use of micropiles internationally by making knowledge available.
- Act as a facilitator/coordinator/promoter for international research and demonstration programs (especially relating to seismic performance).
- Identify fundraising vehicles to support membership needs and research efforts.
- Develop educational tools.

The ISM Steering Committee, which comprises one member from each contributing country plus the ISM Executive Director, Chairman and Secretary, will serve as the ISM's Board of Directors and guide the activities of the group. Operational costs for the ISM will be funded by membership dues, and additional workshop and research activities will be funded through other means, such as corporate sponsorships, grants, etc. Membership dues are \$100/year (Jan-Dec) for Individuals and \$400/year (Jan-Dec) for Corporate Members (including 2 Individual Memberships) [Dues for additional members from the same company (after the first two) are \$100/year.] Corporate Memberships would also include other benefits (e.g., website linking, sponsorship, and advertising/promotional opportunities, etc.) Please use the attached registration form to apply for membership.

Benefits of Individual and Corporate Memberships

- Networking ▪ Education ▪ Workshops ▪ International Exposure
- Posting of Corporate Logo on ISM Website and Website Linking ▪ Access to Technical Resources
- Membership Directory
- Annual Practice Updates
- Access to Micropile Literature Database
- Advertising and Promotional Opportunities

We would welcome you as a new member. Please contact me at (724) 942-0813 or info@ismicropiles.org with questions or requests for additional information.

Very truly yours,


Mary Ellen C. Bruce, P.E.
Executive Director, ISM

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