# BUSINESS PLAN

## CEN/TC 341
## GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION AND TESTING

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Standardisation in the field of geotechnical investigation and testing relates to equipment and methods used for drilling, sampling, field and laboratory testing of rock and soil as well as groundwater measurements as part of the ground and site investigation services industry.

The goal of standardisation work is to harmonise the requirements for equipment and methods so as to achieve comparable results whenever standardised equipment is used and standardised methods are applied; this will also ensure that the correct quality of the results is achieved.

Manufacturers and users of equipment and methods for geotechnical investigation and testing should find European standards valuable for common use as they enable comparable results to be obtained and should reduce the variability of the results of geotechnical data which are the basis for the geotechnical design according to EN 1997 "Eurocode 7: Geotechnical Design".

European standards for investigation and testing are important for the safety of all structures from houses to high rise buildings, for roads, bridges, canals, railways, airfields, harbours, tunnels, sewers and communication lines and other structures such as dams and earthworks.

These European standards also facilitate the development of a common European market for the trade of services and equipment for geotechnical investigation and testing. The standardisation in the field of geotechnical investigation and testing will also lead to the potential for cost reduction in the building market.

# 1. BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN/TC

## 1.1 Description of the Business Environment

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal, societal and/or international dynamics describe the business environment of the industry sector, products, materials, disciplines or practices related to the scope of this CEN/TC, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

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Political: European common market requires a common basis for all aspects of geotechnology and European standards for the equipment and for geotechnical testing methods will aid this.

Economical/technical: The establishing of common standards will enable greater compatibility and commonality of geotechnical equipment and services; simplification for improved usability; reduction in the number of models and investigation and testing procedures, and thus reduction in costs; increased distribution efficiency, and ease of maintenance. Assurance of conformity can be provided by manufacturers' declarations, or by audits carried out by independent bodies.

## 1.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

The following list of quantitative indicators describes the business environment in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the CEN /TC:

Facts and figures for the industry across the community are scarce but there is little doubt that it is of considerable size and fundamental to the safety of all construction projects.

Analysis of the market situation of geotechnical investigation and testing is difficult as in most CEN member countries no statistical data on geotechnical investigation and testing are available.

This is partly caused by the fact that geotechnical investigation, sampling and testing are mostly carried out by small companies (e.g. specialist test equipment manufacturers, small field investigation drilling and testing contractors and test laboratories). The designers using the information are often from small companies, although they can also be large international companies; they can be architects as well as structural, civil and geotechnical engineers.

## 2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

Geotechnical investigation and testing is essential for all building and construction activities throughout Europe, such as for the geotechnical design of buildings, roads, railways, waterways, canals, dams, airfields, tunnels and landfills.
Many countries use testing standards that purport to be for the same test, however they do in fact often vary as a result of the local 'evolution' of the test. These differences in practice will affect the reported results. If we are to establish a common basis for design, through the use of EC7, then the geotechnical parameters used need to be 'common'. This can only result if the tests are undertaken in a common and consistent way. For this to happen we need a set of common standards across the community. Harmonisation will result in economies in equipment design and manufacture as well as improvements in design practice.

## 3 PARTICIPATION IN THE CEN/TC

All the CEN national members are entitled to nominate delegates to CEN Technical Committees and experts to Working Groups, ensuring a balance of all interested parties. Participation as observers of recognized European or international organizations is also possible under certain conditions. To participate in the activities of this CEN/TC, please contact the national standards organization in your country.

## 4 OBJECTIVES OF THE CEN/TC AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

### 4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC

The goal of standardisation work is to harmonise the quality requirements for equipment and to achieve comparable results whenever standardised equipment is used and standardised methods are applied. Manufacturers and users of equipment and methods of geotechnical investigation and testing should find European standards valuable for common use as they enable comparable results to be obtained and reduce the variability of the results of geotechnical data which are the basis for the geotechnical design according to EN 1997 "Eurocode 7: Geotechnical Design".

### 4.2 Identified strategies to achieve the CEN/TC.s defined objectives.

Working groups have been established to cover different aspects of the work required. They are encouraged to use the Vienna Agreement to establish EN ISO standards.

The work will be conducted by both physical meetings and, whenever possible, the use of modern communication systems such as video conferencing, email etc.
There is no need for translation in meetings as the TC decided many years ago to use English as the working language at meetings of CEN/TC 341 and its working groups.

When reviewing the scope of and setting the priorities for the TC, close liaisons and cooperation with other CEN and ISO committees as well as with International and European associations and scientific societies are necessary (e.g. CEN/TC 250/SC 7, CEN/TC 288, ISO/TC 182/SC 1, ISSMGE (International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering), ISRM (International Society for Rock Mechanics), IAEG (International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment) and EFFC (European Federation of Foundation Contractors)).

This is essential to ensure that all areas of the geotechnical related standardisation present a harmonised set of standards and guidance.

### 4.3 Environmental aspects

Environmental impacts of all aspects of Geotechnology have to be considered and the relevance will be considered in all standards being drafted.

## 5 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN/TC WORK PROGRAMME

Funding of the secretariats of the TC and its WGs is always a struggle. The estimated costs of the work of the secretariats of the TC and the seven working groups is considerable. Maintaining these secretariats will be fundamental to the success of the work programme. The attitude and drive of WG convenors is crucial in driving the work forward to the required timescales. The success or otherwise of WGs will be reviewed by and discussed at the annual TC meeting and decisions taken on their continuation/organisation as necessary.