

## 54<sup>th</sup> COOLING PRIZE COMPETITION 2023

### Rules and notes for entrants

1. The competition is open to all Early Career Geotechnical Engineers with up to 10 years' experience post receipt of a relevant Level 6 or 7 qualification (equivalent to BEng or MEng) on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.
2. The British Geotechnical Association (BGA) expects that entrants will be based in the UK, OR, are reporting on a project undertaken in the UK within the 12 months before the application deadline. Candidates not based in the UK must be able to attend the competition in person and, if successful, be able to attend the BGA Annual Conference to present their work. The BGA will not cover travel expenses outside the UK.
3. If UK based, it is not essential to be a member of the BGA at the time of submission, but if shortlisted, the candidate will be asked to join the BGA. Candidates not based in the UK must be a BGA member for at least two years on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.
4. Entrants will prepare a **poster** using a standard template available from the British Geotechnical Association on any topic dealing with the engineering behaviour of the ground, whether it be a description of an industrial design or construction project, development of a new piece of equipment, or research. The aim of the competition is to encourage young engineers to present their work. **The poster must be on the contribution of the author to the project.** Although this is not a pre-requisite, the work to be presented should not have been previously published or submitted for publication. Equal merit will be given to high quality industrial experience as to state-of-the-art research. The work does not have to be solely that of the author, but the author's part should be stated clearly. This must be confirmed in writing at the time of submission.
5. Upon receipt, posters are examined by a panel of BGA members. The panel will select up to 4 posters from finalists who will present their work at the competition to be held on **27<sup>th</sup> March 2023** to an audience at an event hosted by the **ICE Wales Cymru Group** in **Cardiff**. This will include a panel of up to four judges who will select the winner. It is expected that the event will be hybrid however **all finalists must be able to attend in person.**
6. Two documents must be submitted: 1. the poster; 2. a completed application form in Excel format. **The closing date is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**
7. If shortlisted, presentations should be 10 minutes in length using appropriate visual aids for the audience of BGA and Local Association members. A panel of up to four geotechnical engineers will judge the competition. Presentations must keep strictly to time and should emphasise the geotechnical aspects of the work. After each presentation the Chairman will allow 5 minutes of discussion in which the judges and audience may question the author on their presentation.

8. After the final presentation, the judges will retire to choose the winner, considering the submitted posters, the verbal presentations, and the way they handled questions. During judging, a special lecture will be given by a guest speaker.
9. When the judges return, their chairman will comment briefly on each submission and announce the winner who is presented with prizes from the BGA and Ground Engineering magazine. Part of the BGA prize is sponsorship to attend a Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference (YGEC), held either by the European region of the ISSMGE or (quadrennially) in conjunction with an ICSMGE. **It should be noted that these conferences require attendees to be aged 35 or under at the time of the conference.** Each finalist will receive a prize (see below). The judges may, at their discretion, recommend a runner-up to be considered for sponsorship to YGEC. Delegates to YGECs must be a BGA member and required to submit and present a paper.
10. The winner of the Cooling Prize is invited to submit their winning poster/presentation as a paper for publication in *Ground Engineering*. Winning and runner-up posters will be made available on the BGA website. Papers must not exceed 2000 words, excluding titles, captions, and references, and should be submitted in PDF format via the online form on the Prize Page of the BGA website. *Ground Engineering* will pay £200 to the winner, once the paper has been submitted for publication, but not later than **November 2023**. Otherwise, the £200 cannot be paid to the winner.
11. After the competition the finalists are invited to join the judges and BGA members for dinner as guests of the BGA and Local Association. Travel and accommodation expenses will be met by the BGA.
12. The criteria on which posters are judged originate from Dr Leonard Cooling and are as follows:

#### Content

- (a) Importance of problem and technical substance
- (b) Grasp of subject and aptness of method of attack
- (c) Clarity of presentation of main results
- (d) Details of descriptions relating to ground and water conditions
- (e) Intrinsic merit in stimulating thought

#### Presentation

- (a) Clarity of delivery
- (b) Aptness of approach and emphasis of findings
- (c) Grasp of subject and skill in summing up
- (d) Confidence and efficiency in dealing with questions
- (e) Audience reaction – interest aroused as evidenced by discussion

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## 11. Prizes

- (a) £200 cheque from Ground Engineering
- (b) Cut glass decanter or alternative trophy
- (c) BGA sponsorship to the YGEC the following year (2024) if eligible
- (d) Either “The Consulting Engineers” or “The Contractors” ICE publication
- (e) Dinner
- (f) CPD days
- (g) Refereed paper added to your list of publications
- (h) CV brownie points!

Runners-up are given (d) to (h) and possibly (c)

BGA/22.10.2022