**FPS ECG – Geotechnics and Piling Careers Event: Proposal**

***Purpose:***

The Federation of Piling Specialists’ Early Careers Group (ECG) as part of the Education Initiative wishes to increase the awareness of career opportunities within the construction industry at for various roles with different educational backgrounds.

***Justification for the proposed event:***

The students choosing a career in construction and the geotechnical industry, once within higher education needs to be addressed. Once students are at university, they have chosen a degree they enjoy, but do not necessarily understand the different sectors their degree can be applied to.

From a questionnaire the ECG sent out to University of Liverpool Geoscience students, 11 responded. (See the Appendix for the results). From the small research carried out at university level, it is apparent that over a 1/3 of geoscience students do not consider a career in geotechnical engineering sector as a matter of course, for numerous different reasons. Furthermore, 100% of responses would like to be informed of the different job opportunities to help make career decisions.

In addition to the recruitment of engineers from university, the ECG initiative also focuses on college level education and apprenticeship schemes. Site/Rig operatives, and technicians are essential to our business thus need to encourage these individuals into the industry. Brexit has also hindered the migration of rig operators into the UK to operate specialist equipment, there we need to endeavour to train the next generation within the UK, to ensure we have workers within this country we can rely on.

Without engaging with young people in higher education whether that be at university or on apprenticeship schemes there is likely to be a continued skills shortage within our industry which will have a causal effect on every other industrial sector present in modern society in the not-so-distant future.

***Target Audience:***

University students studying civil/ geotechnical engineering and/or geology to highlight the various job roles and career pathways available. This will allow for informed decisions with regards to potential careers available to these students and if exposed early enough in their course allow them to be proactive in module choices, work experience and postgraduate education.

In addition, we will be looking to target those from colleges, 6th forms, and individuals with transferable skills, such as ex-army personnel.

***Proposal:***

To hold a careers type event at three different locations across the country (North, Midlands, South). The locations have chosen due to their proximity to FPS ECG member companies and geographical locations across the United Kingdom. The Northern and Southern events are proposed to be held at University of Glasgow and Imperial College London/or another. Both have strong interests and background in geotechnical engineering and the proposal of the event has been received enthusiastically by each establishment. The Midlands event is to be held at a location independent of to a university, to attract our other target audience. We would be looking at a location like to the NEC.

The event is to involve stands from various member/associated FPS companies, BGA companies and perhaps companies from IOM3, to ensure we are reaching out to all, along with talks from individuals within their early career. In addition to presentations from early career members I would like to hold a Q&A panel which could include audience participation. We anticipate this to be primarily a network event that will encourage students to opt for a career within the industry in the future.

We would be looking at hosting around 100 people and would provide catering, which would include lunch and refreshments. This is known to entice and significantly increase attendance to events particularly in a university setting and would also set a more relaxed atmosphere that would be conducive to discussion and networking.

The intention would be to host the first event in the midlands at the venue independent to the university, and then follow on with the other two locations. This way we can gauge the reception to the event whilst this may generate a large attendance due to the target audience and the location.

***Dates:***

*Dates not confirmed but proposed September-October 2022*

***Costs:***

University of Glasgow (awaiting zoom call)

Room hire:

Catering:

AV:

NEC

Quote for room hire, catering and AV: £2000 + VAT for 100 delegates

Imperial College London/Or other London universities

Room hire:

Catering:

AV: