

Outline scope for the Technical Programme for the DFI/EFFC Conference

Objectives for the Technical Programme

- Business development focus - attract infrastructure clients and encourage them to engage with foundations contractors
- Attract and support young engineers and professionals – help them build their personal networks and understanding of the industry
- Provide and share insight on major industry issues
- Promote skills and expertise in the industry and share knowledge of geotechnical achievements and technical challenges.

Target Audience

- Clients and consultants i.e. project owners, main contractors and project designers
- Geotechnical contractors from Europe and the US
- Suppliers to the geotechnical industry – e.g. rig manufacturers, testing agencies etc
- Young professionals, students and engineers

Theme: Urbanisation and infrastructure: new challenges

There is an ongoing global trend of population migration to urban centres. This is creating huge demands on urban infrastructure. Established mega cities need to build additional capacity into existing transit, energy and waste management systems. New cities are being built and urban zones extended.

This conference will explore the geotechnical and industry challenges associated with building the infrastructure to meet modern demands.

Suggested strands

The following are suggested strands that will need a convenor or Chair to approach contributors for papers. Also included are some suggested topics that might be included under these strands.

These are initial ideas and will need approval from DFI and EFFC stakeholders.

1. Client challenges and industry issues

Clients to present their upcoming infrastructure projects and the geotechnical and organisational challenges they are facing. Ideally 4-5 projects to be presented. UK possibilities for this strand could include Crossrail 2, High Speed 2, Heathrow's new runway, other EFFC Member Federations should be able to support this theme.

Also included within this strand are specific topics that the DFI and EFFC are looking to progress e.g. collaborative working, sustainable construction, risk in the ground.

2. Smart construction and technical achievements

This strand seeks to combine innovative technical approaches to projects with innovation within the industry generally. Example topics could include:

- Overcoming new project challenges – project reports and analysis
- Models of BIM implementation – how are foundation contractors adopting BIM and what lessons have been learnt?
- Sustainability in design
- Innovation in the supply chain e.g. innovations in piling rig design, geosynthetics etc – to bring in suppliers and potential exhibitors.

3. Young engineers and fresh thinking

This strand could provide a platform for young, talented engineers to present their findings or thinking on specific industry technical issues. We introduce a competition element to this strand where MSc projects are submitted with the 3-4 selected to present to the conference where they are sufficiently interesting subjects.

4. Health & Safety

There is a huge diversity in the quality of health and safety practices across Europe and across the globe. This strand would seek to educate the industry and drive up standards in this area. It would also encourage the industry to not compete on issues of safety. Example topics could include

- Whose responsible? Safety co-ordination on sites
- Dealing with crystalline silica dust
- Building a strong health and safety culture

5. Workshop programme

In addition to the conference programmes we will offer workshops on specific topics of use to foundation contractors. These could include

- How to investigate an accident properly (EFFC have this in development)
- How to design and build an effective working platform
- Geotechnical BIM