

Dr Andrew McNamara  
ISSMGE Secretary General

19 January 2026

Dear Dr McNamara

## **NOMINATION FOR THE OFFICE OF ISSMGE PRESIDENT FOR THE PERIOD 2026-2030**

The British Geotechnical Association is pleased to nominate **Professor Michael Davies** as a candidate for President of the *International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering* for the period 2026–2030. Alongside his membership of the British Geotechnical Association, Professor Davies is also a member of the New Zealand Geotechnical Society, whose Management Committee endorses his candidacy.

Professor Davies is extremely well placed to take on the President role. He has global experience in geotechnical engineering, having worked in USA, UK and New Zealand. He has the senior management experience needed for the President role, having served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering in universities in both the UK and New Zealand. He is, of course, also very familiar with the International Society having served as Vice-President of ISSMGE (for Australasia), including as First Vice-President, and as ISSMGE Treasurer. He is currently the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the ISSMGE Foundation.

He has been highly honoured within the civil engineering profession, and by wider society, by being elected as Fellow of a large number of prestigious bodies; *Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, Fellow of Engineering New Zealand, Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers* and *Fellow of the Geological Society of London*. The Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Learned Society of Wales are the national academies of Scotland and Wales, respectively, providing independent expert advice to those governments. These fellowships demonstrate the respect with which he is held beyond the civil engineering profession. It provides him with the status to be able to promote ISSMGE and its aims to wider society, outside the geotechnical community.

Throughout his career, Professor Davies has taken on leadership roles within professional bodies affiliated to ISSMGE. He has been Chair of regional Geotechnical Groups in Wales and Scotland, Chair of the British Geotechnical Association, Member of the Management Committee of the New Zealand Geotechnical Society and a member of the National Committee of the Australian Geomechanics Society. This demonstrates his huge commitment to our profession and his willingness to lead within our field.

Professor Davies has a very strong technical profile, being well-known for his research in slope analysis and stabilisation, ground improvement, bio-engineering and earthquake engineering. He has established research groups and geotechnical engineering centrifuge laboratories, at both Cardiff University and the University of Dundee, both significant milestones in his academic career. He has published 190+ research papers and conducted more than 60 funded research projects. A particular feature has been his willingness to collaborate in an interdisciplinary way with colleagues in climatology and biology. These are skills that are essential to be able to promote the aims of ISSMGE well beyond the geotechnical community.

Professor Davies' CV and Candidate Statement are attached with this letter. In his Candidate statement he sets out his vision for the role of President and identifies three key priorities:

- Positioning geotechnics at the heart of climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Removing barriers so that every member and Member Society can participate, contribute, and benefit
- Strengthening governance to ensure the Society remains effective, transparent, and resilient

Professor Davies presents a vision to ensure that ISSMGE is at the forefront of dealing with the climate emergency, providing international leadership in this key area of endeavour that is essential for the survival of our world and future society. It is vital that these issues are tackled in an inclusive and interdisciplinary way and with an outward looking approach. Professor Davies has the vision, the communication skills, the technical and interdisciplinary credibility to achieve this for our International Society.

In summary, the British Geotechnical Association strongly believes that Professor Davies is uniquely placed to lead ISSMGE in its aim to **promote international cooperation amongst engineers and scientists for the advancement of knowledge in the field of geotechnics and its engineering applications**. We believe that Professor Davies is the right person to ensure that the ISSMGE serves all its members well and makes a vital contribution to wider society.

If Professor Davies' nomination is successful, the BGA will provide support to him including the use of facilities at our base, the Institution of Civil Engineers, in Westminster, Central London. The facilities could include the use of meeting rooms and arrangements for virtual or hybrid meetings.

Yours sincerely



Chaido Doulala-Rigby (Yuli)  
CEng FICE FInstRE FPWI MHKIE MIMMM  
Chair, British Geotechnical Association

Attachments:

Professor Michael Davies CV  
Professor Michael Davies Candidate Statement ISSMGE President for 2026-2030