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GBA NEWSlog

A publication of the Geoprofessional Business Association

OCTOBER 14, 2026

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Emerging Issues & Trends Committee



Multi-Scale Remote Sensing Applications in Geotechnical Engineering

The What, Why, and How

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Dimitrios Zekkos, Ph.D., P.E.

University of California, Berkeley

**OCTOBER 15 • 3:30 PM ET**

GBA Members: Explore Emerging Remote Sensing Technologies Tomorrow

All GBA members are invited to join the GBA Emerging Issues & Trends (EIT) Committee on October 15 at 3:30 p.m. ET for a presentation by Dimitrios Zekkos, Ph.D., P.E., Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. Zekkos was a subject matter expert at the 2025 Crystal Ball Workshop. He will discuss "Multi-Scale Remote Sensing Applications in Geotechnical Engineering: The What, Why, and How," exploring how satellite imagery, UAVs, wireless sensors, and digital twins are transforming infrastructure monitoring, resilience, and decision-making. This session will highlight practical examples of integrating data across multiple spatial and temporal scales and the opportunities and challenges these technologies present for geoprofessionals. Use the link below to join the meeting at 3:30 p.m. ET tomorrow:

[JOIN THE MEETING](#)[More GBA News](#)

Why Geoprofessional Value Needs to Be Elevated

Geoprofessionals help clients understand uncertainty, manage risk, protect communities, and make informed decisions throughout the lifecycle of a project. Yet the value behind that work is

often unseen, misunderstood, or reduced to the delivery of a report or test result. The Elevate Geoprofessional Value Accord provides a shared mission and guiding principles for better communicating and advancing the profession's contribution. It encourages geoprofessionals to serve as trusted advisors, visible leaders, lifelong learners, effective communicators, and responsible stewards.

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Committee Spotlight: Multimedia Delivery

GBA committees help transform member expertise into accessible resources, and the Multimedia Delivery Committee (MDC) focuses on delivering high-quality learning opportunities in engaging formats. A recent initiative is the release of new [GBA Podcast](#) Case History episodes and ongoing podcast and video development work.

Current leaders are Chair Elizabeth Brown, P.E., (*JLT Consultants*) and Vice Chairs Abi Corbett (*SME*) and Craig Hill, P.E. (*Kleinfelder*).

MDC meetings are open to all members and are held virtually each month. To learn more or request the schedule, contact GBA Committee Coordinator Stacey Moore at stacey@geoprofessional.org.



Best Practices: Avoiding Absolutes

This resource explains why extreme words (e.g., all, every, always, never) are risky in professional communications. It shows how absolutes can be misinterpreted in disputes or litigation and encourages more precise wording that better reflects actual conditions

[DOWNLOAD](#)

Future GBA Events

[Knowledge Sharing
Webinar
October 29, 2026, 2 p.m.
ET](#)

[CEO Summit 2026
October 29-30, 2026 - San
Francisco, CA](#)

[2026 Fall Leadership
Summit
November 5-6, 2026 -
Denver, CO](#)

GBA Member News



Geotechnical Consultants, Inc. Acquires Spence Environmental Consulting

Geotechnical Consultants, Inc. (GCI) is pleased to announce its acquisition of Spence Environmental Consulting, Inc., effective September 20, 2026. The acquisition expands GCI's environmental consulting capabilities. GCI and the Spence team are working together to provide continuity for current projects and to make additional services available to clients. [READ MORE](#)



WSP to Acquire GCM Corpo

WSP Global Inc. has entered into an agreement to acquire GCM Corpo Inc., a Canadian provider of engineering consulting and specialist services for the energy and industrial sectors. With a presence in Québec, Western, and Atlantic Canada, GCM Corpo is home to approximately 600 professionals and serves clients in a broad range of end markets, including energy, industrial, and mining and metals. [READ MORE](#)



Verdantas Acquires Austin-based Civilitude

Verdantas announced the acquisition of Civilitude Engineers & Planners, a civil engineering and planning firm serving public agencies, nonprofit organizations, architects, and development projects throughout Central Texas. [READ MORE](#)



SewerAI Partnership Will Help Utilities Modernize Infrastructure Management

Burns & McDonnell has formed a strategic partnership with SewerAI, an artificial intelligence and data management platform for sewer and water infrastructure. The partnership will help utilities turn inspection data into coordinated plans that prioritize infrastructure investments. [READ MORE](#)



BGC Appoints Lauren Hutchinson as Next CEO

BGC Engineering Inc. (BGC) has appointed Lauren Hutchinson, M.Sc., P.Eng., as its next Chief Executive Officer, effective October 30, 2026. Lauren, who currently serves as BGC's Head of Innovation and Sustainability, will succeed Steve Hedberg, who has led the company as CEO for the past 18 years. Steve will continue to support Lauren through the transition and will remain a member of BGC's Board. [READ MORE](#)



Chad Michaud Named Next President and CEO

S. W. Cole Engineering, Inc. is pleased to announce that Chad B. Michaud, P.E., has been named as the firm's next President and CEO. On January 1, 2027, Michaud will succeed current President and CEO Robert E. Chaput, Jr., PE, who has held the position since 2014. [READ MORE](#)



G2 Consulting Group Expands Wetland Consulting Services

G2 Consulting Group is expanding its wetland consulting capabilities with the addition of environmental resource specialist Abby Brown. She will be based in G2's Chicagoland office. [READ MORE](#)

Have a story tip? Send it to us!



What We're Reading



Next-Gen Leadership Will Be a Daily Test, Not a Guaranteed Role

In many organizations today, the person with the sharpest context, the clearest judgement or the best reading of the problem often carries more influence than the person with the most senior designation. This is not a collapse of hierarchy. It is a signal that hierarchy alone is no longer enough.



Waterproofing and Drainage of Underground Spaces: The Devil's in the Details

This article reviews issues observed in recent mid-rise and high-rise projects with multi-level underground parking and compares conventional drained foundations with waterproofed (tanked) systems mandated by regulatory policies.



Three Ways Smart People Surrender

Surrender is a rational response to an irrational situation. Taking agency means sharing our thoughts even when we might be wrong or others might reject our ideas. Surrender happens one conversation at a time. So does reclaiming power.



Deep Foundations for Data Centers: Challenges, Opportunities, and How to Compete

Learn how data center projects are reshaping demand for geoprofessional services, the unique project pressures firms face, and practical strategies for competing in this fast-growing market.

GBA POLL: Is your firm currently providing services on a data center project?



More Industry Headlines

[\\$209.6 Billion Needed to Rehabilitate Nation's Non-Federal Dams](#)

[How Construction is Dealing with Cybersecurity in the Age of AI](#)



[Related Resource: Case History #109: We Were Hacked! Cyber Attack Causes Total Business Disruption](#)

[Should Managers Socialize with Employees Outside of Work?](#)

[What We're Reading Playing: GeoFun](#)



"The best thing you can do to help others take responsibility is to authentically practice the behaviors that you want others to practice."
- Dr. Michelle Reina

Connect with GBA



About GBA

The Geoprofessional Business Association (GBA) helps its members and their clients confront risk and optimize business performance by delivering unique professional resources, programs, and services that make them stronger and more successful.



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