

New CATS for Aspect

Aspect Land and Hydrographic Surveys has been accredited by the Institution for its training scheme. The company approved training scheme (CATS) is for both land, engineering and hydrographic surveyors at technical and member level. Aspect is an ISO9001:2000 accredited company offering a range of hydrographic, oceanographic and topographic survey services.

It takes the total number of CAT schemes to 36. A full list is available on w: www.ices.org.uk/training_schemes.php
More details on Aspect can be found on w: www.aspectsurveys.com

Skills review launched for UK construction

The UK government has launched a review of productivity and skills in the engineering construction sector. The review, initiated by business secretary Lord Mandelson and skills secretary John Denham, is set to assess the current levels of productivity in the industry and "identify the key inhibitors", specifically looking at the factors influencing UK-based companies getting work overseas.

Mark Gibson, former director general of the Business and Enterprise Group, will lead the review. Lord Mandelson said: "His remit is to draw up clear recommendations for ensuring that British companies and workers are fully equipped for vital future jobs in industries like nuclear new build, and the other large scale engineering construction work."

See ICES in 2009 at:

Civilex Road Expo	Dublin	24-25 March
Offshore Survey 09	Southampton	1-2 April
XCES	York	22-23 April
FIG Eilat	Eilat, Israel	3-8 May
ICES Forum 09	London	October
Road Expo Scotland	Edinburgh	11-12 November
Civils 2009	London	17-19 November

25% NEC seminar discount for ICES members

The NEC Users Group is offering ICES members a 10% discount on its annual seminar. The seminar takes place on 30 March 2009 at the ICE, Westminster. Topics include the NEC3 supply contract, lessons learned from Rampton Hospital, Crossrail, NEC3 in South Africa and a series of masterclasses.

The fee for the all-day seminar is £396.75, with ICES places at £297.56. To book, visit www.neccontract.com

FIG Eilat technical tours announced

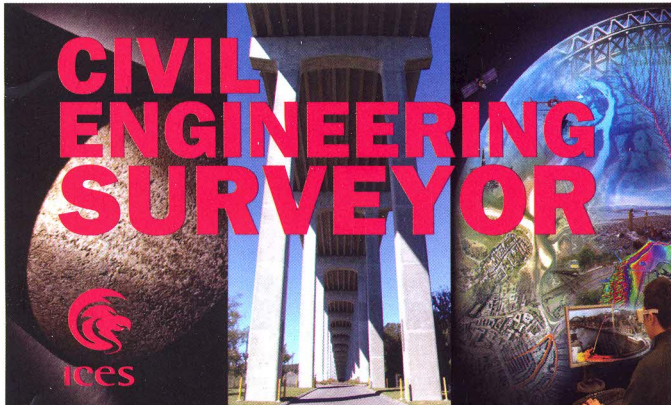
A tour to the Israeli borders with Jordan and Egypt is being arranged for delegates at the FIG working week in Eilat in May. The tour will be led by the director general of the Survey of Israel, Dr Haim Srebro, who was a senior member of the Israeli delegation responsible for boundary settlement and demarcation during the peace talks.

The working week, which focuses on surveyors' role in accelerated development, takes place from 3-8 May. Further technical tours include the seismological research tunnel at Mount Amram, the copper mines of Timna that have been active since King Solomon's times and a city tour of Eilat.

The Licensed Surveyors Association in Israel, the FIG host association, is offering three complimentary tickets for an excursion to Petra on 9 May 2008 and to the FIG Foundation Dinner on 7 May 2009. The winners will be drawn from those who took up the early bird registration offer.

Vietnam hosts regional conference

Hanoi is to host the FIG regional conference from 19-22 October this year. The conference will look at how spatial data serves people and is being organised by the Vietnam Association of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing.

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