



Summary of Support Opportunities

The EEGS Foundation (www.eegsfoundation.org) was incorporated on September 21, 2007, as a vehicle through which corporations and individuals might direct voluntary contributions intended for the promotion of near-surface geophysics in support of engineering activities, environmental remediation, and a wide range of other applications.

Similar to the petroleum and mining exploration industries, where geophysical methods have become commonplace, the environmental and engineering disciplines are using geophysical methods more routinely, because they offer a safer, more cost-effective, and/or faster means of characterizing subsurface conditions. However, the near-surface geophysics industry lacks the financial incentives that drive other related industries, e.g. the petroleum geophysics industry. Nonetheless, the strength and growth that have occurred within our industry over the past 20 years is due in large part to an increased recognition of the benefits of geophysics. These benefits will be achieved more frequently as successful applications and new techniques are promoted through EEGS.

The profession will be promoted through a wide range of programs, as outlined below: individual travel grants and scholarships; conferences and workshops; information dissemination; and research/publication activities.

Individual travel grants and scholarships

Several programs are envisioned for promoting the profession through travel grants and scholarships.

Student Programs: We recognize that students represent the future of our profession. By attracting the best students to a career in near-surface geophysics, we ensure growth and high standards. The annual meeting of EEGS, the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems (SAGEEP) has been held annually since 1988, and provides an optimal venue for many of the professional activities cited herein. The foundation will solicit contributions to support student scholarships for attending the SAGEEP conference and perhaps, academic scholarships for students pursuing graduate degrees with a near-surface geophysics focus.

International support: EEGS has developed formal associations with many domestic and international professional organizations in recent years. The goal of this effort has been to increase opportunities to inform those in other countries of the technologies and capabilities of near-surface geophysics. For example, many of the world's poorest nations have the greatest need for environmental cleanup and water development. Building construction benefits from characterizing the shallow features of the earth via geophysical methods. Many internationals attend SAGEEP conferences every year (about 30% each year are from outside North America), and many others express a desire to attend but lack travel funds. Travel grants are particularly needed for third world participants and will be provided through the EEGS Foundation. In addition, the EEGS Board receives requests from associated societies for an EEGS representative at their conferences. The EEGS Foundation will solicit support to strengthen our interaction with internationals toward a goal of expanding international use of near surface geophysical technologies.

Conferences and Workshops

The EEGS Foundation will receive funds to strengthen the EEGS Annual Meeting, SAGEEP, to hold joint conferences with associated domestic and international societies, and to sponsor specialized topical workshops to augment both the applications of existing technologies and the development of new and emerging technologies. Because the SAGEEP meeting has been supported primarily by registration and exhibitor fees, it has been difficult to expand the scope, test new initiatives, or conduct other innovations that involve financial risk. Foundation support will help to improve and expand the SAGEEP conference. Similarly, the EEGS Board has fielded many requests to hold the SAGEEP conference jointly with the annual meetings of other societies. Foundation support could enable such conferences to be held to greater advantage. As an example, we have contemplated a joint workshop with the Japanese and Australian societies, but have heretofore been unable to make such a commitment. Thirdly, EEGS would like to sponsor workshops for researchers and practitioners in order to advance sub-disciplines for particular technologies (e.g. ground penetrating radar), or types of applications (e.g. agricultural applications). Foundation support could enable such workshops to be held, thus expanding or accelerating the capabilities, or use of new methods.

Information dissemination

Modern methods for disseminating information are first and foremost centered on an effective use of web sites. The existing EEGS web site (www.eegs.org) records a large number of hits, but remains a bit awkward, difficult to upgrade, and lacks many components that would effectively inform potential users of the technologies. There are no primers in technologies, limited access to publications, and no glossaries or other tools that could be used as a resource by the user community.

Other avenues of information dissemination will be developed, with suitable Foundation support. This might include, for instance, distributing EEGS information at conferences of partner societies or of other societies where applications of geophysical methods

would be appropriate. Materials will be developed to address the needs of these user communities.

Research and Publication Activities

Finally, the Foundation will promote the profession by supporting the development and dissemination of publications, and by sponsoring selected research activities. Although there have been a number of publications that have focused on near surface geophysical methods, few have been specific to a discipline or group of applications. Method-based publications are needed to support the academic preparation of future near-surface geophysicists, or to serve as a resource for active professionals. Application-based publications will help to enlighten potential users of the benefits that would be gained by expanded use of geophysical methods. These publications will also support the academic community, as they enhance their professional credentials when they author such publications.

Support for topical research activities will advance the discipline through needed development, and would strengthen the society as a leader in the research community. We may solicit funds to support a competitive research program to address the many unresolved needs that are recognized.

Management

The EEGS Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors which is expected to consist of practicing professionals in near-surface geophysics.

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