

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to make you aware of a unique session that we are organizing for the 2011 SAGEEP conference, which will be held in Charleston, SC, April 10-14. The session is intended to be an opportunity for researchers and practitioners of seismic refraction traveltimes solution tools to learn the strengths and limitations of those analysis methods, with emphasis on the near-surface environment. The title of the session is:

“S01: Seismic Refraction Shootout: Blind Test of Methods for Obtaining Velocity Models from First-Arrival Travel Times”

There are many different methods for obtaining a velocity model from seismic refraction traveltimes, ranging from forward modeling to analytic methods to inversion and tomographic methods. In near-surface studies, these models provide essential constraint in applications ranging from hydrologic characterization to site hazard evaluation, but often these models include little or no quantitative estimation of uncertainty, resolution or non-uniqueness. Furthermore, it is seldom possible to know the true velocity model that is being sought. In this session we will conduct a blind test of seismic refraction analysis methods for a common dataset. The session chairs will provide the community with a set of P-wave first-arrival times for a synthetic dataset representing a refraction study of a realistic near-surface target. Seismic practitioners and algorithm developers are encouraged to analyze these data using any method they choose and present their final velocity model(s) at the session. The true velocity model will also be revealed for comparison at the session. All participants will be asked to provide the conveners with a digital version of their model(s) one week before the session to facilitate quantitative comparisons during the session. This session provides an opportunity for practitioners and developers to ground truth their algorithms on data from a known model. It also provides an opportunity for users to understand the pros and cons of various approaches. All seismic refraction users are strongly encouraged to participate in this exercise, whether their preferred algorithm is tried and true, or more cutting-edge. Because of the high relevance of this topic, it is anticipated that a special issue of JEEG will be forthcoming to present the results of the session.

We request that participants in the session submit an abstract that summarizes the approach that they plan to take. In contrast with previous SAGEEP conferences, a 300-word abstract is all that will be required in order to present in any of the sessions at the conference. The abstract

deadline is currently November 19. We do not expect that anyone will have a final solution by that date. Rather, we are asking for commitments to participate in the session by that date. The conveners of the session are single-minded in viewing the session as an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of non-uniqueness as it influences solutions to seismic refraction data, and the effectiveness of different approaches to address non-uniqueness, recognizing the limitations of using only one synthetic model for this assessment.

There will be no winners or losers. Both researchers, users of commercial codes, and code developers, are strongly encouraged to participate. We also encourage submissions from students or classroom groups.

Further details on this session, and the travel time data, are available at: <http://terra.rice.edu/departments/faculty/zelt/sageep2011> .

Please note that special concessions are made to encourage student participation at SAGEEP. The early bird registration rate for student members is expected to be the same as last year, \$105.00. Students can receive a rebate of their registration by volunteering to assist in sessions. Also, Geometrics is once again planning to offer a limited number of student scholarships to offset travel expenses.

The Call for Papers for the conference is attached. For more details and updates on the SAGEEP2011 conference and other sessions at the meeting, go to [www.eegs.org/sageep](http://www.eegs.org/sageep) .

Colin Zelt, Seth Haines, Michael Powers, Jacob Sheehan, Bill Doll

## Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society

### **SAGEEP 2011 Announcement: Online Abstract Submission Site Now Open!**

#### **Nov. 19, 2010: Deadline for SAGEEP 2011 Abstracts Submissions**

The Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS) invites you to submit an abstract for the 24th Annual Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems (**SAGEEP**) being held in historic **Charleston, South Carolina USA April 10-14, 2011**. SAGEEP provides geophysicists, engineers, geoscientists and end-users from around the world an opportunity to meet and discuss near-surface applications of geophysics and learn about recent developments in near-surface geophysics. SAGEEP is internationally recognized as the leading conference on the practical application of shallow geophysics. Since 1988, the symposium has been held over a 5-day period at locations throughout the United States, with approximately 150-200 oral and poster presentations, several educational short courses and workshops, numerous vendor presentations, and a commercial exhibition. A set of proceedings, comprised of technical presentations, is distributed on CD and available online. This year's SAGEEP will feature joint SEG and AGU sessions, special sessions, and courses that you won't want to miss. Check the [SAGEEP web site](#) regularly for details and updates.

**Abstracts:** Short, 300 words maximum abstracts are prescribed and due by Nov. 19, 2010. Submission of an abstract will constitute a commitment to attend the conference, and a \$50 fee will be charged upon submission (applicable toward conference registration). Abstracts will be reviewed for both scientific relevance and absence of commercialism, and notices of acceptance or rejection will be sent in late 2010.

**Submit Abstracts Online:** The online abstract submission site is open! You will be asked to select a Session or General Topic under which your paper would best fit. Before submitting your abstract, review the list of Accepted Sessions and the General Topics (scroll to bottom). You may view a description for each Accepted Session (available on the abstract submission site) to aid in making that determination.

**Terms of Submission:** The following are the terms of submission for your abstract or poster :

- Submission of an abstract will constitute a commitment to attend the conference, and a \$50 fee will be charged upon submission (applicable toward conference registration).

- [Click here](#) to pay the \$50.00 abstract submission fee online - click "register for this event" to submit your credit card payment (you'll notice a new "look" to the online payment site - EEGS is converting its website and you will be entering a portal featuring the new "look" - be assured, it is the official EEGS/SAGEEP site). You may also print a form and fax or mail it to the EEGS business offices ([click here](#) for the printable submission fee payment form). These links are also available on the [online abstract submission site](#).
- Abstracts will be reviewed for both scientific relevance and the absence of commercialism, and notices of acceptance or rejection will be sent in late 2010. Authors will then have the option of submitting an expanded abstract, if they choose.
- If the abstract is not accepted, the fee will be returned. If the abstract is accepted, but you do not register for the symposium, the fee is non-refundable. By submitting your abstract and paying the \$50.00 submission fee by the Nov. 19, 2010 deadline, you are agreeing to participate in SAGEEP 2011 with an oral or poster presentation.
- Abstracts without a paid submission fee (or a postmark) by close of business Nov. 19, 2010 will be withdrawn from the conference.
- If you are from a country that requires a visa to enter the U.S., please ensure that you start the process of obtaining any required travel documents in a timely manner.

**Accepted Sessions and General topics:** Our call for sessions resulted in a record number of sessions that cover the spectrum of near-surface geophysics (full descriptions of the sessions can be found on the online abstract submission site):

S01: Seismic Refraction Shootout: Blind Test of Methods for Obtaining Velocity Models from First-Arrival Travel Times

S02: Migration Imaging of Near-Surface Seismic and GPR data: New developments and Case Studies (SEG sponsored)

S03: Interpretation using Multiple Methods -- An Analogy to Mathematical Boundary-Value Problems (SEG sponsored)

S04: Advances in Borehole Geophysics

S05: Development and Applications of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Techniques for Near-Surface Investigations (AGU sponsored)

S06: New Developments in Frequency-dependent Seismic and EM Analyses for Near Surface Geophysics (SEG sponsored)

S07: Airborne Geophysics: Recent Advances and Novel Applications

S08: Educational Innovations involving Near-Surface Geophysics

S09: Geophysical Engineering for Geotechnical Site Characterization Using Seismic Surface Waves

S10: Role of Geophysics in addressing Civil, Geotechnical and

## Geoenvironmental Engineering Problems

S11: Recent advances in Agricultural Geophysics

S12: Involving End Users in the Interpretation and Design of Geophysical Surveys

S13: The Use of Geophysical Data for Evidence-Based Groundwater Management (AGU Sponsored)

S14: Advances in Hydrogeophysical Monitoring

S15: Geophysics in Rivers and Streams

S16: Geophysical Studies of the Vadose Zone

S17: Application of Geophysics to Contaminant Studies

S18: Biogeophysical Signatures of Organic Rich Contaminated Sites (AGU Sponsored)

S19: Karst Geophysics Applied to Environmental and Geotechnical Problems

S20: Near-Surface Geophysics in Cold Climates (AGU Sponsored)

S21: Earthen Dams and Levees: Geophysical Reconnaissance, Exploration, and Monitoring

S22: Geophysics-Assisted Evaluation of Geotechnical/Transportation Process and Construction

S23: Application of Near-Surface Geophysics in U.S. Homeland Security

S24: Advances in Mining Geophysics

S25: Advances in Classification Methods for Military Munitions Response

S26: Advances in Military Geophysics

S27: Advances in Archaeological Applications of Near-Surface Geophysics

S28: Societal Impact of Geophysics: A Case for Underdeveloped Nations

S29: Undergraduate Poster Session

S30: Large-Scale Testing of Geotechnical and Structural Systems with NEES Equipment

S31: Large-Scale Field and Laboratory Liquefaction Experiments involving NEES Equipment Sites

S32: Funding Opportunities for Near Surface Geophysical Research

G01: General Contribution - Techniques

G02: General Contribution - Data Acquisition

G03: General Contribution - Data Processing

G04: General Contribution - Data Interpretation

G05: General Contribution - Application

G06: General Contribution

To access EEGS' website - SAGEEP 2011 - go to:

<http://www.eegs.org/sageep/index.html>.

So don't delay - submit your abstract online at:

<http://www.xcdsystem.com/sageep2011/>.

**Optional Extended Abstracts:** Authors will have the option of submitting an expanded abstract, if they choose. These optional extended abstracts may range in length from a few pages to ten or more pages, and will retain the format of previous SAGEEP proceedings (formatting guidelines are accessible from the

online submission site). They must be submitted by January 14, 2011 to be included in the abstract volume that will be distributed at the conference. Reviewed/revised extended abstracts will be due on Feb. 7, 2011.

Jan. 14, 2011    Deadline for optional Extended Abstracts Submissions

Feb. 7, 2011    Deadline for revised optional Extended Abstracts

For questions concerning the abstract submission process, please contact:

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