



SPOTLIGHT ON THE UK GROUND INVESTIGATION INDUSTRY

The Association of Geotechnical and Geo-environmental Specialists (AGS) and the British Drilling Association (BDA) agreed in 2016 to set up a joint initiative to shine a 'Spotlight' on the UK Ground Investigation industry. This is one of several Bulletins providing statistical feedback from the survey's findings. To read the Position Paper that was issued prior to the survey, [click here](#).

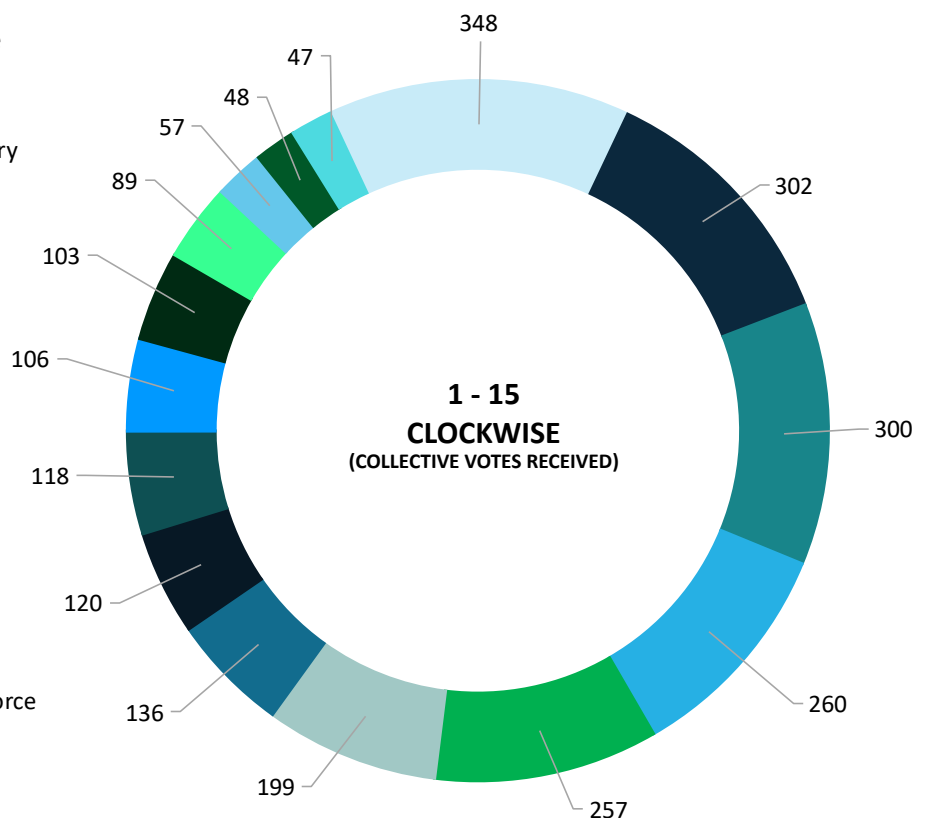
RESULTS FROM THE SURVEY

CHALLENGES IN THE FUTURE FOR THE UK GI INDUSTRY

Question 25 of the survey asked: "Thinking about the future of our industry, what in your opinion, will be the most important challenges we face?" Respondents were asked to select 5 factors.

- Availability of suitably qualified people (348), raising the understanding of those involved in the procurement process (302) and attracting young recruits to the industry (300) were chosen by a majority of respondents.

1. Availability of suitably qualified people
2. Raising the understanding of those involved in the procurement process
3. Attracting young recruits to the industry
4. Improving the image of the industry
5. Encouraging innovation
6. New technologies
7. Collaboration within the industry
8. Political decision-making
9. Continuing professional development
10. Industry leadership
11. Current structure of industry
12. Improving the calibre of trade associations representing the industry
13. Increasing diversity within the workforce
14. Other
15. International competition



Analysis revealed some statistically significant correlations:

- Men and those aged between 16 and 24 years were more likely to choose: 'Availability of suitably qualified people'
- Those aged between 45 and 64; those with more than 20 years in the industry and respondents from Wales and North West England, members of the Association of Geotechnical and Geo-Environmental Specialists were more likely to choose: 'Raising understanding of those involved in the procurement process.'
- Members of the British Drilling Association were more likely to choose: 'Attracting young recruits to the industry'
- Graduate Engineers were more likely to choose: 'Increasing diversity within the workforce'
- Respondents from Scotland were more likely to choose: 'Political decision making'
- Respondents from Midlands, South West and North East England were more likely to choose: 'Improving the calibre of trade associations'
- Those with less than five years experience in the industry were more likely to choose: 'Encouraging innovation'
- Respondents from Scotland were more likely to choose: 'New technologies'
- A further 48 respondents suggested that there were other challenges and when asked to specify identified a range of issues. A total of 77 respondents (13%) took the opportunity to indicate what other challenges the industry faces.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have any immediate responses to the data presented in this Bulletin and would like to engage in further productive discussions, then we want to hear from you.

Due to the time-consuming nature of responding to feedback across various media platforms, we are encouraging all parties keen to open topics of discussion to do so via email: info@ags-bda-taskforce.co.uk

Please forward this Bulletin and future Bulletins on to your colleagues and industry contacts in order to ensure as wider saturation for these discussions as possible. Also follow the AGS BDA Task Force on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to stay up to date with the latest developments.

There are several Bulletins emanating from this survey. Each Bulletin will be available for download from the Trade Association(s) and Task Force websites once published.

The survey has raised some important discussion points which the industry should discuss and debate. The hot topics will be the focal point for the conference at [Geotechnica 2017](#), alongside other prospective upcoming industry events.

Further results from the Survey will be available to download following the distribution of all Bulletins. The data summaries are provided by The Dunsmore Consultancy who independently analysed the survey responses.