

Webwaves



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Interpreting the past, discovering the future

'Interpreting the past, discovering the future.' The theme of the 25th International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition is also an apt theme for this Webwaves column. In the last issue of *Preview* I indicated that a new version of the ASEG's website was imminent. Work started on the new website shortly after the last ASEG conference. Building on previous efforts, a new committee attempted to plan for the next site with a view to moving more of the ASEG's business online as well as addressing some usability issues. The site would be implemented using an open source content management system to eliminate maintenance requirements for a single vendor. We set ourselves the goal of having the new site rolled out by this conference.

Did we interpret the past correctly? Did we seek feedback from the right people? Did we communicate that feedback to the new site's designers? Did we test site drafts sufficiently? What did we forget? Are we going to have sufficient entries in the photo competition to stock the web site (we can always use more, and would welcome any appropriate submission any time)?

How many more questions can I pose before delaying the need to write?

The new site will contain similar topics to the current one:

- Technical standards;
- Publications;
- The wine offer;
- A simpler authentication procedure; and
- Desktop AND mobile versions.

The new site also offers the possibility of additional features. The History Committee has acquired a number of vintage instruments and plans to document them in some form electronically. We hope that Members will be able to access this information through forums. Networking, more questions. Whether this aspect will thrive depends on Member interest. More of the Federal Executive's business will also move online, ideally saving on email traffic, which will require more storage over time.

At the time of writing, six weeks out from the conference, the future is a haze of potential. A long drill hole that, after much modelling, has been sited and started. At the time of writing, progress was good. Initial drafts looked even better than the mock ups, which looked very good.

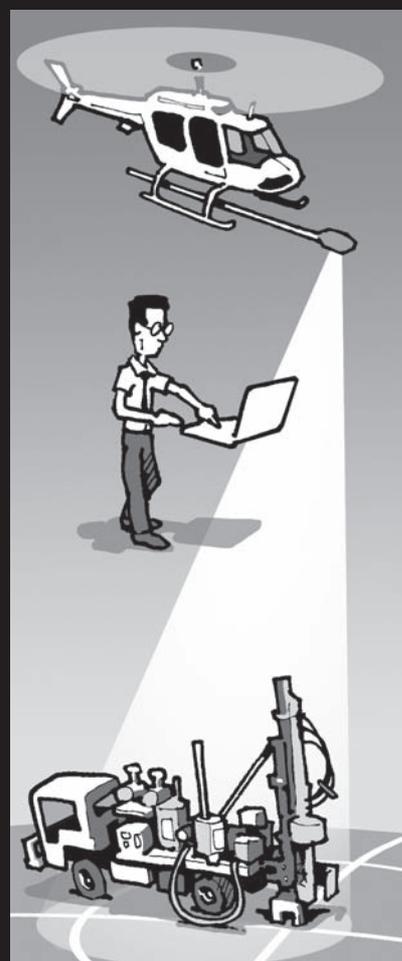
Now that the conference has commenced, we'll all know whether the Web committee (Karen Gilgallon, Chris Bishop, Ian James and myself), the ever present Kim Frankcombe, and the designers (SpringDigital) have intersected the target, and how well we've done.

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