

IGS Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT **2020**

Message From Our Chairman

Dear sponsors, supporters and friends,

I speak for all the Trustees to say we are so proud to bring you this, the first annual report of the IGS Foundation.

I remember way back in 2014 at the IGS Council meeting in Berlin, Germany, when I first proposed the creation of a foundation to support the initiatives of the IGS. Thanks to the continued support and hard work of IGS members Dr. Jorge Zornberg, Ian Fraser, Boyd Ramsey and other members of the IGS Council, the IGS Foundation was finally created on June 19, 2019, as a charitable corporation.

The stage was set – finally we could start developing initiatives to widen the education, understanding and use of geosynthetics worldwide.

Then less than a year later, the Covid-19 pandemic hit. However, like the geosynthetics industry worldwide we faced these challenges with optimism and resilience, progressing our planning and implementation in 2020 with six virtual meetings.

Our highlights included:

- Recruiting our first 16 founding members who together donated more than \$100,000
- Establishing a recognition program to recognize the contribution of our donors
- Launching our new website www.theigsfoundation.com
- Granting our first funding support, administered by IGS Brazil, for 19 students to attend the virtual GeoAmericas 2020 conference

Our annual report shares more about our achievements so far, highlights the generous sponsors that have helped us begin our exciting journey, and details our plans for the year ahead. In fact in 2021 we aim to raise a further \$500,000 to supercharge our education efforts in the greater and better use of geosynthetics in all applications.

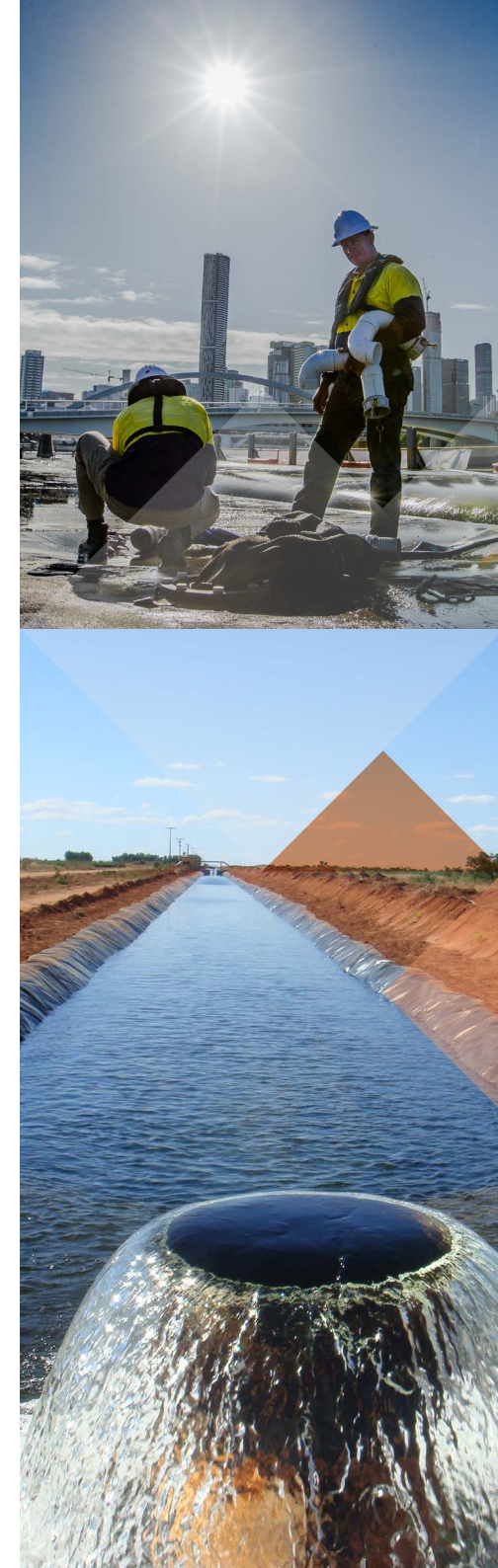
This is important now more than ever, as geosynthetics technology is a key player in sustainable development, the reduction of carbon footprint and greenhouse gases, and making a positive environmental and economic impact to make the world a better place for everyone.

I hope you will continue to support our goals in the year ahead for geosynthetics, for education, and for society in general.



Jacques Côté
Chairman

"We know 2020 has been a challenging year but we enter 2021 with hope, resilience and vigor to build on our exciting start."



Our Year In Numbers



Boyd Ramsey
Secretary/Treasurer

The last year has been extraordinary for so many reasons, but we have been inspired by the incredible generosity of our Founding Donors in such challenging times. Within a year of official formation, we secured more than \$100,000 of donations from significant industry players including geosynthetics pioneer J.P. Giroud and industry giant Solmax.

I am pleased to report tax documentation for 2020 will be prepared and distributed in the first quarter of 2021. The IGS Foundation is now listed on the USA Internal Revenue website of Charitable Organizations.

I would like to thank our contributors for their support, and the board of trustee members who give their time without any compensation other than personal satisfaction. Their efforts together with our donors' contributions ensure all money raised is invested in the ambitious programs of the IGS Foundation.

2020
total income:
\$91,279.33

Accounting
and banking
expenses:
\$912.50

Disbursements:
\$2,090

Operational
expenses
(promotional items,
website creation):
\$6,500.20

Pending
donations:
2

**"I would like
to thank our
contributors for
their support"**

Our Aims

Our industry is an incredible success story and set for phenomenal growth. The geosynthetics market was valued at \$15billion¹ alone in 2020, and is projected to be worth \$22billion by 2027².

OUR MISSION:

To **support educational initiatives** able to provide an **understanding**, and **promote** the appropriate use, of **geosynthetic technology** throughout the world for the **benefit of humanity**

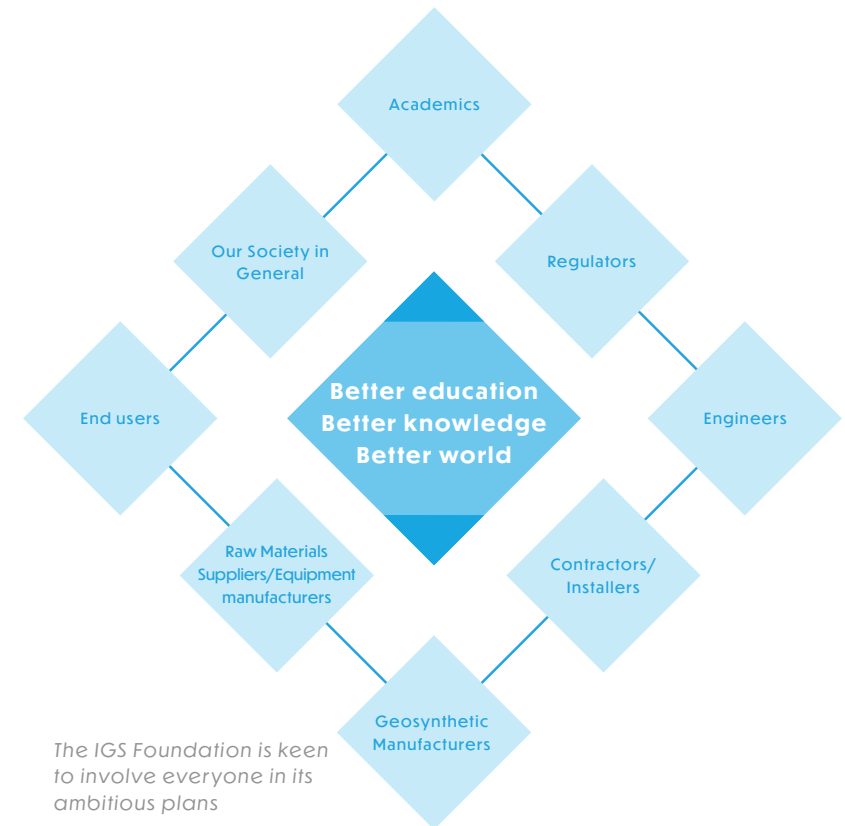
Rising demand in construction and infrastructure projects as well as environmental protection needs have contributed to increased interest. Growing recognition of the positive impact of geosynthetics on sustainable development is also hugely significant.

It is important therefore to ensure geosynthetics' applications and capabilities are clearly understood, materials are being used in the best way, and young engineers understand the full possibilities, potential and power of geosynthetics.

Doing this needs support and funding, and that's where the IGS Foundation comes in. We want to:

- Add impact to IGS initiatives through **education**, **student support**, **market expansion** and **research and development** via...
- **Better education** leading to **better knowledge** leading to a **better world**

We have ambitious plans to attract backing from various sources including regulators, end-users and wider society but we are beginning our journey with you, the dedicated members of our industry.



The IGS Foundation is keen to involve everyone in its ambitious plans

Sources

1. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/global-geosynthetics-market-report-2020-2026-analysis-of-the-15-billion-industry-with-company-profiles-of-50-companies--industry-guide-containing-360-contact-details-301153134.html>

2. <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2021/01/18/2160197/0/en/Geosynthetics-Market-To-Be-Worth-USD-22-11-Billion-By-2027-High-Demand-from-Europe-and-North-America-will-Drive-the-Industry-Growth-says-Reports-and-Data.html>

If you share our aims, please consider **giving back** to the industry in the most impactful way you can, by **donating to the IGS Foundation**.

Our Journey So Far



Meet Our Founding Donors

The generosity of our 16 Founding Donors has allowed us to hit the ground running. We welcome any donation but we also offer exclusive benefits depending on level of contribution.

Founding Donors - Hall of Fame - J.P. Giroud

Platinum


J.P. Giroud
 Solmax


Sam Allen
 TRI Environmental


Ampacet


Perry Vyas
 SKAPS


Anonymous donor

Silver


Clifford Gundle
 Clifford Gundle Philanthropic Trust


Dave McLaury
 Demtech Services


Simon Hwang
 Formosa Plastics USA


Michael Flynn
 FLI Global


François Thivierge
 FC Géosynthétiques


Mark Topp
 COMANCO


Tom Rose
 Layfield Group

Bronze


Yvon Faucher
 FR Liners


John Lefas
 Ingenia Polymers


Mikio Kubo
 Eternal Preserve


SOLMAX


TRI ENVIRONMENTAL


20 YEARS DEMTECH
 1999 - 2019


SKAPS


Formosa Plastics


FC GÉOSYNTHÉTIQUES


COMANCO
SAFETY • QUALITY • SERVICE


LAYFIELD


INGENIA
REDEFINING THERMOPLASTICS


FLI global


FR MEMBRANES F.R. LINERS

After pledging at the Hall of Fame level, geosynthetics pioneer J.P. Giroud has become the first Hall of Fame donor while Solmax's more than \$25,000 gift has earned it Platinum status. Here's why they wanted to give...

"During my 50-year career in the geosynthetics discipline, I received so much, from so many, that today, I am happy to have the opportunity to give back to the geosynthetics industry and community as it moves forward into the next phase of development."

J.P. Giroud

"I think the most important factor is education; we have to educate engineers so they can optimize and create better solutions. This will trigger more demand, which will turn into more innovation."

Jean-Louis Vangeluwe
President and CEO Solmax

"An investment in the IGS Foundation is an investment in defining the successful use of geosynthetics as state-of-the-practice."

Sam Allen
TRI Environmental

Ask us about our sponsorship packages and benefits, or read [here](#) for more details.

Case Study: GeoAmericas 2020 Scholarships

In 2020 we awarded our first ever grants to 19 students to enable them to attend the virtual GeoAmericas 2020 conference hosted by IGS Brazil.

Juliana Reinhert and Mateus Fleury were two of the students who received scholarships. Both agreed being able to experience keynote speakers in person, networking opportunities, and interrogating their fields of interest with peers and academics, greatly benefited their professional development.



"The knowledge the conference gave me was incredible. Without the scholarship it would have been very hard [to attend]. It meant I could see the researchers, learn more about what they are researching about my focus area, and about the gap in knowledge. It has really helped me with my PhD studies."

Mateus Fleury
PhD candidate at the
University of São Paulo, Brazil



"The IGSF is pointing to the right target – we need an organization that is effective enough to bring together all the actors in the industry in an very effective way. If you don't do that the knowledge will continue to be too concentrated. We want to see more people coming in from the beginning and the IGSF will really help that worldwide."

Victor Pimentel
President IGS Brazil



"I was very excited the Foundation helped me attend. For students it's really expensive so a lot of students would not have had the opportunity to be there if the Foundation was not funding us."

Juliana Reinhert
PhD candidate, Queen's
University in Kingston,
Ontario, Canada

Our People

After serving its first annual term in 2019-2020, the board was again selected by the IGS Council to serve a second term and will remain in place until the end of 2021.

Board of Trustees 2020-2021



Jacques Côté
Chairman



Boyd Ramsey
Secretary/Treasurer



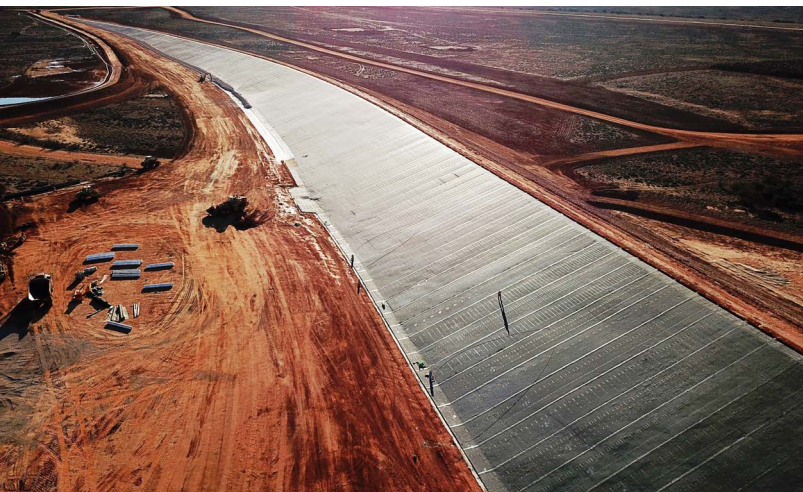
Dr. Jorge Zornberg



Dr. Fumio Tatsuoka



Ian Fraser



Our Vision For 2021 And Beyond

We dream big. We will continue to build on the strong foundations established in 2019 and 2020 with ambitious plans in 2021 to include:

Securing at least
\$500,000
in donations

Developing
education **initiatives**
and **opportunities**

Preparing a **digital version**
of the core of the Educate
the Educators program – the
50-minute undergraduate
lecture on geosynthetics

Supporting the IGS
as the Sustainability
Committee begins a
publicity campaign
on the vast benefits
of geosynthetics in
**building sustainable
infrastructure**

Continue and
strengthen the
Educate the Educators
program – adaptation
to the Covid-19 era

We are off to a promising start. With your help we can achieve amazing outcomes for our industry.

Join Us!

**Giving is easy. Simply contact
IGS Foundation Secretary
Boyd Ramsey at**

Boyd@TheIGSFoundation.com.

**Boyd will also be happy to help
with any further information
and questions.**

**Keep updated with our news and
announcements by visiting the IGS
Foundation website**

www.TheIGSFoundation.com

**We look forward to
hearing from you!**

The IGS Foundation is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt charitable corporation, incorporated within the State of Florida on June 19, 2019, with document number N19000006229. The Foundation's Federal Tax/Employer Identification Number is 84-2175340. The mailing address is 9225 Bee Caves Rd, Building B, Suite 206, Austin, Texas, USA, 78733.

