

COSMOS  
Consortium of Organizations for Strong-Motion Observation Systems

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

6 November 2009  
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Clarion Hotel  
Millbrae, California

Forty-four participants from Technical Session stayed in the room once it was announced that the Business Meeting of COSMOS would commence. The meeting was called to order by President W. D. Iwan at 12:38 p.m. The Minutes were approved by the Membership at 12:40 p.m.

**President's Report:**

President Iwan reported that by a vote of the membership, he had been elected to a three-year term. There were no changes to the Executive Committee of the Board. R. L. Nigbor was nominated and elected to Board of Directors by a majority of the membership. The organization remains healthy, with an active Board of Directors. He thanked C. M. Johnson for all her administrative help.

Six main activities had occurred in the last year.

1. The COSMOS website was slated to be updated soon. President Iwan asked for feedback from users and/or members when it debuts.
2. The conversion of the Virtual Data Center to the CESMD continues. Software conversion remains an issue, with new formatting and the inclusion of international data a priority.
3. Committee Reports:
  - a. The International Committee is now chaired by J. Steidl, who is reaching out to non-U.S. participants and requesting that they become involved in COSMOS. Part of this effort was a strong-motion forum in Beijing last year at 14thWCEE.
  - b. Data Tools Committee is chaired by C. B. Crouse. This committee determines the types of software and other type of tools needed to make strong-motion data more useful.
  - c. Instructional DVD Committee is chaired by D. Dreger. This committee is developing innovative ways to provide information to the membership, including investigating recording the Technical Session and potentially making this available to the wider community.

- d. Standards Committee is chaired by T. Shakal. This committee has just completed a review of what's been done so far and where the gaps are. The focus will now be on how to fill those gaps in the future.

Iwan reminded the audience that there are opportunities for funding of new projects through COSMOS and to contact him if they were interested.

COSMOS was considering playing a larger role in the NEHRP reauthorization

Iwan would like to expand the membership, and asked for greater involvement of the existing membership in COSMOS activities. He requested that if people in the audience were interested in participate in COSMOS activities to contact Bob Bachman, Claire Johnson, or himself.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Treasurer Maury Power reported on the financial status of COSMOS, noting that COSMOS principal sources of funding remains the membership, with the majority of the support coming from the four core members. He thanked all members for their contributions.

The contracts and grants funding in 2009 were as follows: a contract from the California Geological Survey for \$39,500 for services to advocate for collection of strong motion data on an international scale, and facilitate the use of strong motion data; and a contract with PEER for \$71,539 for the development of a Geotechnical Virtual Data Center.

He noted that COSMOS was in good financial condition, and had adequate resources to fund its activities and operations. In 2008 COSMOS had assets of \$210,000, and for 2009 the number projected is for the same.

Jim Bela asked where the EERI Membership funds come from. Power responded that this is a question for EERI.

### **Director of Engineering:**

Bachman noted that the Technical Sessions have become a critical part of COSMOS' mission, serving the engineering strong-motion user community, especially practicing engineers.

He discussed the status of the COSMOS Geotechnical Data Center and stressed the need for a central repository for geotechnical data. He suggested that members of the audience visit the PEER website on Phase 3 for information on this project. A new proposal is in the works for Phase 4 of this project.

Per his efforts on COSMOS' behalf, a code change proposal before the structural committee of the IBC for instrumentation requirements for buildings was rejected initially, with the suggesting that it go in as an appendix. This year it was re-submitted and approved by the structural committee, and has one more approval to pass in Spring of 2010 before it makes it into the code.

Bachman noted that strong motion data standards work is another important task that COSMOS is active in working on.

Jim Bela commented on the actual numbers in the code change and queried where did this 0.4 number come from. Bachman replied that the COSMOS Board discussed this issue and decided on the number. Although 0.4 covers Zones 3 and 4, and not Zone 2, as did the older UBC code did, this number was chosen to get approval of the change by the IBC structural committee.

### **The Bruce A. Bolt Medal:**

On behalf of the three sponsoring agencies, W. U. Savage gave some background on what prompted EERI, SSA, and COSMOS to come up the idea to have an award in Bolt's honor. Given Bolt's contributions to the field, the three agencies agreed to create a medal that recognizes individuals who follow the Bruce Bolt legacy of leadership and accomplishment in the field of Strong Motion seismology and Earthquake Engineering. Every awardee is given the opportunity to choose at which organization's annual meeting (either EERI, SSA, or COSMOS) he or she wishes to receive the medal. The first recipient of the first Bruce A Bolt medal was W. D. Iwan. Bruce Bolt's widow, Beverley, presented the medal.

Jim Bela commented that COSMOS should to look into a way to perpetuate excellent Bolt's book *Earthquakes: A Primer*, suggesting that it be revised as new earthquake happen.

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:15pm**