



## **Press Release:**

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### **New Chair at the Helm of the Federation of Piling Specialists**

The Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) has appointed Alasdair Henderson as its new Chair.

Alasdair Henderson, presently Divisional Director of BAM Ritchies, replaces Martin Blower who has completed his statutory two-year tenure at the helm.

In addition to the Federation's core aims and goals, Henderson will focus on training, which is one of his big interests, as well as developing a route for pilers / geotechnical specialists to become professionally recognised as EngTechs, ideally through vocational routes recognised by the major engineering institutions.

Speaking about his role with the FPS, Alasdair commented: "It is an honour to be appointed as Chair of the FPS as its status and respect within the specialist contractors sector is extremely high. It is also encouraging to be a Chair from outside the mainstream foundation industry, as it demonstrates the FPS's role in championing the full range of ground engineering specialisms."

Alasdair added: "Training is my 'thing' which goes hand-in-hand with my mission to see geotechnics recognised widely as a highly skilled industry."

Alasdair's knowledge of the piling and foundation / specialist contractor sector is vast having more than 20 years' experience working for BAM Ritchies, the specialist ground engineering division of BAM Nuttall Ltd. He is also a Divisional Director of BAM Nuttall and sits on their Engineering Board to support technical delivery and promote research and development initiatives across the business.

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Alasdair's enthusiasm for learning and development and in promoting the professional recognition of those with non-traditional educational backgrounds is well known in the sector. He holds the appointment of Visiting Professor at Strathclyde University's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and is a member of the International Advisory Group for the DISTINCTIVE consortium of universities undertaking research into nuclear decommissioning.

On a technical level Alasdair's interests cover the geotechnics of underground infrastructure, particularly relating to injection grouting and the management of radiological waste.

For more information, contact the FPS by email [fps@fps.org.uk](mailto:fps@fps.org.uk) or visit the FPS website [www.fps.org.uk](http://www.fps.org.uk).

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### **Notes to Editors | About the FPS:**

Established in 1964, the Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) has proactively worked with its members to drive up standards within the industry. From a handful of members back in the days when rotary techniques were coming into use and crane-mounted and hydraulic equipment was in its infancy, the FPS represents most of the leading piling and geotechnical specialists in the construction sector.

Its independent auditing process, which all prospective members need to go through ensures the highest standards are met, and this audit is repeated every three years to ensure standards are maintained and continually improved.

The FPS works closely with its members to establish standards and provide guidance across all piling and geotechnical areas as well as on wider construction related issues that affect the sector such as Building Information Modelling (BIM). Safety and training are the highest priorities.

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**Alasdair Henderson, Chair of The Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS)**