PRESS RELEASE

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Scientists from British Geological Survey scoop major impact award

A team of scientists from the British Geology Survey (BGS) has won Team of the Year at the Praxis Unico Impact Awards 2017 aimed at recognizing knowledge exchange and commercialization professionals. The award was received by **BGS's** GeoAnalytics and Modelling Directorate as a result of their consistent excellence in adding value to the vast datasets held by the BGS in addition to building relationships and overcoming challenges.

GeoAnalytics and Modelling Directorate have developed numerous data models and products all of which focus on societally relevant themes such as ground instability, radon, flooding and mining hazards. They deliver substantial economic and health benefits, to information economy businesses, the insurance sector, government, and the public.

Building better partnerships with the user community was a key part of the success of the team. By understanding the community's needs, the GeoAnalytics and Modelling Directorate have been able to develop usable and understandable bespoke products and services. These include but are not limited to power networks, engineering consultancies transport providers and the insurance sector, all of whom have contributed to the development of a number of key products and services to date including:

- Temporal geo-services including the ability to forecast possible impacts of climate change events including increased landslide susceptibility during storm events.
- Geo-information products such as BGS Civils that provides data models for civil/ground engineering applications. Ground movement-related damage to subsurface assets costs £300 to £500 million a year in the UK and BGS Civils is helping to reduce this cost.
- Other geo-information products include the Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI). This provides information on the vulnerability of the whole coastline and not just small sections, and produced on request after the 2013/2014 winter storms.
- Data products such as the Groundwater Flooding Susceptibility Data product are helping to safeguard properties across the UK. One property in Oxford worth an estimated £46 million has been able to make support cost savings of up to £1.2 million in reduced insurance claims per flood event.

The GeoAnalytics and Modelling Directorate with their award at the British Geological Survey

Dr Katherine Royse, Science Director GeoAnalytics and Modelling from the BGS, who won the Team of the Year award, said: "*BGS GeoAnalytics and Modelling Directorate are very honoured to have won this year's team of the year award. The directorate have made significant impact in developing BGS data assets so that they provide both public good and commercial services. This award recognises the hard work and dedication of BGS staff to support UK innovation agenda, thereby encouraging economic growth and improving societal health and wellbeing.*"

Maxine Ficarra, Executive Director of PraxisUnico said: "*I would like to congratulate the winners of the PraxisUnico RCUK Impact Awards. They, and all of the finalists, should all be immensely proud of their achievements and contributions. It is great to see so many innovative approaches to knowledge exchange and commercialisation, enabling UK research to deliver impact in so many diverse ways. This work is vital in ensuring that the UK remains competitive, innovative, and able to sustain economic growth.* "

The GeoAnalytics and Modelling Directorate was set up in 2014 to add value to the BGS's data assets. To increase the impact of the data assets, it was realised that it had to build better partnerships and co-design solutions with the user community. The process has included converting major digital data products into innovative platforms that engage user communities and enable new services, products and tools to be co-designed. New delivery mechanisms have also been developed that enable easy up take of BGS data into users GIS systems.

The GeoAnalytics and Modelling directorate has led a significant cultural change, where now it is the norm to work with private, public and third sector to develop new and novel user–led data services. There has been a significant growth in new data services and products resulting in an increase in: data licence income by £1M up to £3.1M, commissioned research by £800k and the free OpenGeoscience service that has been completely overhauled and released with new free data products designed with today's user requirements in mind.

Ends

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Notes for Editors:

The following are available for interview:

- Dr Katherine Royse, British Geological Survey

For additional information go to: www.bgs.ac.uk

The British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS), a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users. The BGS maintains and develops the nation's understanding of its geology to improve policy making, enhance national wealth and reduce risk. It also collaborates with the national and international scientific community in carrying out research in strategic areas, including energy and natural resources, our vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and our general knowledge of the Earth system. More about the BGS can be found at www.bgs.ac.uk.

The Natural Environment Research Council

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is the UK's main agency for funding and managing world-class research, training and knowledge exchange in the environmental sciences. It coordinates some of the world's most exciting research projects, tackling major issues such as climate change, food security, environmental influences on human health, the genetic make-up of life on earth, and much more. NERC receives around £300 million a year from the government's science budget, which it uses to fund research and training in universities and its own research centres. www.nerc.ac.uk