

## **DIANA holds successful 1st International User Meeting in London, UK**

TNO DIANA, in collaboration with the DIANA Users Association, successfully held its 1<sup>st</sup> International User Meeting in London on the 18-19 March. The meeting provided an opportunity for delegates attending from all over the world to hear presentations from the user community on their application of DIANA to solve challenging engineering problems.

Attendees from as far away as Australia and Japan joined with those from Europe and the UK to improve their knowledge of DIANA's finite element analysis capabilities and obtain the latest information about developments in the software. User presentations covered a wide range of application case studies including analyses of concrete structures, floors, bridges and tunnels, refractory kiln linings, geotechnical problems, subsurface geomechanics associated with petroleum extraction and integrated CAD/FEM environments. Full abstracts of the meeting proceedings will be available on this website soon.

In addition to user presentations, the meeting included a preview of DIANA 9.0 and associated introductory workshop training sessions. DIANA 9.0 will be officially launched later this year and feedback from delegates at the user meeting was positive. "The reaction from the user-base is the most important test of the software," said Dr Tim Fox, Commercial Director of TNO DIANA, "these are the people working daily at the sharp-edge of FEA and their opinion is vital, so we were delighted when the preview of version 9.0 provoked a very encouraging response."

In hosting the conference, the new UK office of TNO DIANA gained global recognition as the centre of excellence for DIANA software and services in Britain. "The power of DIANA in solving engineering problems in the built environment is recognised by civil, structural and geotechnical engineers throughout the world," says Dr Fox. "The international user meeting offered us the opportunity to harness and share this collective knowledge for the benefit of our global users and potential customers in the UK, and showcase DIANA activity in Britain."