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**Current reclamation practices • Dredging – environmentally unfriendly • Surcharging with Prefabricated Vertical Drains – time consuming * We need to strengthen soft marine clay in a friendly way, however * Compaction, deep compaction, blasting – environmentally unfriendly * Deep cement and lime mixing, grouting and thermal modification – costly * Electro-osmosis – ineffective

Background

Objectives of this research

- To study technical feasibility of offshore vacuum preloading (under water for at least 2 – 3m), to see possibility of adopting existing approaches from onshore vacuum preloading (shallow water, usually 1m or less) to offshore vacuum preloading
- To study consolidation mechanism and representative stress path in vacuum preloaded clay
- Investigate new techniques for achieving the objectives above and using GPS & other technologies in monitoring ground settlement in this approach

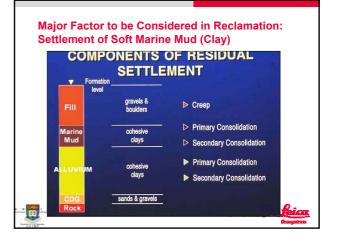


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Two Conventional Methods in dealing with Settlement, by:

- 1. Removing the Soft Marine Mud (Clay) by Dredging and replacing it by Sand Fill
- 2. Expelling water in the Soft Marine Mud (Clay) by Installing Vertical Wick Drains and Pre-compressing it with heavy load (Pre-consolidation Process or Surcharging)



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Disadvantages of Dredging

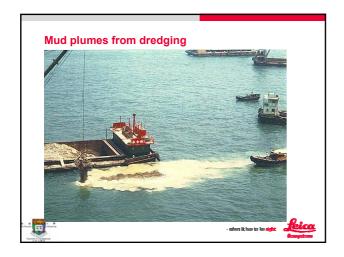


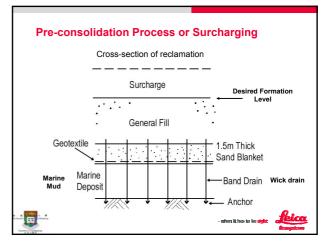
- Adverse environmental impact to the marine ecology during the dredging process
- * Adverse environment impact to the nearby residents
- Disposal of large volumes of marine mud (Diminishing of dumping ground)
- Unnecessary large consume natural resources The more is dredged, the more is the volume of sand required for filling. The more is the sand required for filling, the more dredging is required for sand borrowing.

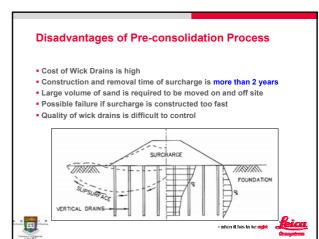


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Set up a Project - and its principle objectives

- To investigate a practical "offshore" vacuum suction technique that could replace conventional dredging such that environmental problems related to reclamation could be completely eliminated
- To establish rational design and construction guidelines for improving the strength of soft marine clay in Hong Kong
- To demonstrate the feasibility of the technique in Hong Kong waters by conducting and monitoring large-scale field tests
- Introduce GPS in the monitoring task and compare the result against conventional manual leveling & geotechnical sensor measuring method.

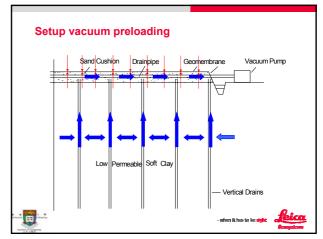






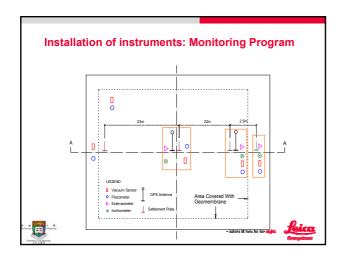


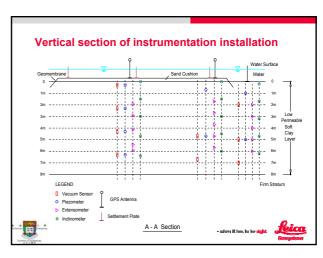


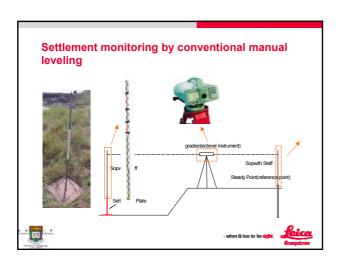


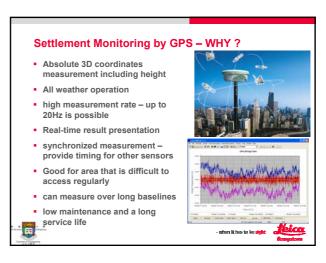


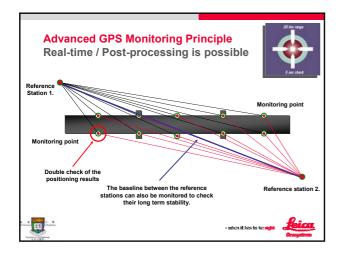




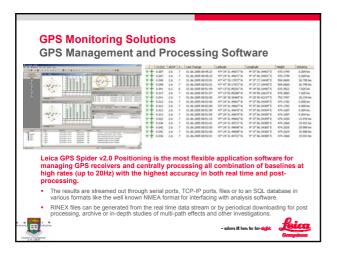


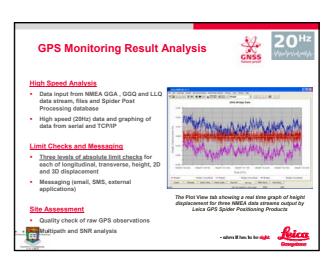


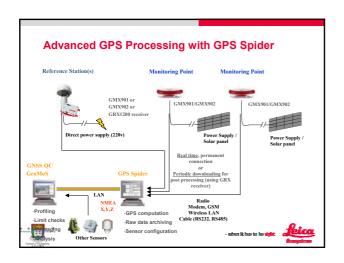




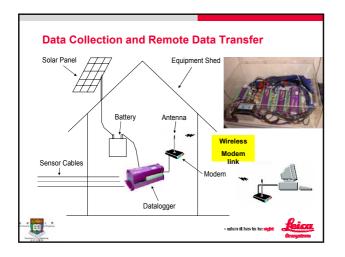


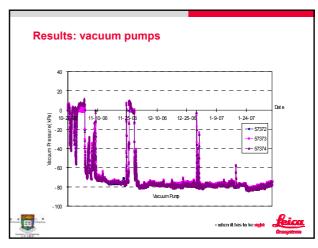


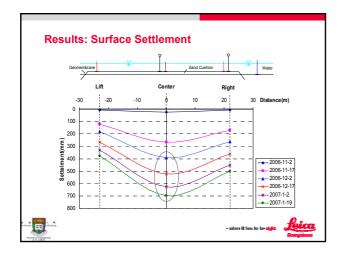


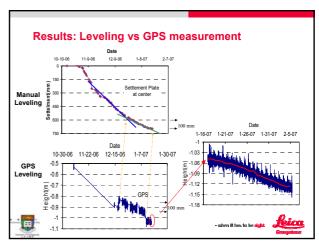












Summary

- Full-scale fully instrumented field test has shown that offshore vacuum preloading is feasible.
- GPS proves to be operating in all weather condition and suitable in operating in difficult access location.
- * Remote wireless instrumentation and GPS provided movement measurements in inaccessible areas.



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