Alkali-activated cements, including 'geopolymer' materials, are now reaching commercial uptake in the UK and elsewhere, providing the opportunity to produce concretes of good performance and with reduced environmental footprint compared to established technologies. The development of performance-based specifications for alkali-activated cements and concretes is ongoing in many parts of the world, including in the UK where the world-first British Standards Institute (BSI) Publicly Available Specification PAS8820:2016 has been published to describe these materials and their utilisation. However, the technical rigour, and thus practical value, of a performance-based approach to specification of novel cements and concretes will always depend on the availability of appropriate and reliable performance tests. This presentation will outline the requirements of PAS8820, and discuss the activities of RILEM Technical Committee 247-DTA in working to validate durability testing standards for alkali-activated materials, to feed scientific insight into the standardisation process.

**Speaker: Prof John Provis, University of Sheffield**

John Provis is Professor of Cement Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Sheffield and also Head of the Engineering Graduate School. He has a combined BE(Hons)/BSc in Chemical Engineering and Applied Mathematics and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Melbourne. John was awarded the 2013 RILEM Robert L’Hermite Medal “in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the research and development of geopolymers and other construction materials” He is Chair of RILEM Technical Committee 247-DTA, a Voting Member of committees of ASTM and ACI, Associate Editor of the journals Cement and Concrete Research and Materials and Structures, and Speciality Chief Editor for the Structural Materials section of Frontiers in Materials.

**Non-members are especially welcome**

To help us with numbers, please email Homayoon Pouya (Homayoon.Sadeghipouya@atkinsglobal.com) before 15th Sept 2016 with your request to attend.