



Organized by
**The Greek
Tunnelling
Society (GTS)**



WTC 2023 • ATHENS
ITA - AITES



Hybrid

ITA-AITES WTC 2023

**Expanding
Underground**

knowledge & passion
to make a positive
impact on the world

Bulletin #1

12-18 May

Megaron Athens
International
Conference Centre
(MAICC)
GREECE

www.wtc2023.gr

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Invitation to WTC2023

Rapid urbanization, natural hazards, climate change and extreme weather phenomena, sustainable energy geo-resources, people's mobility and transportation of goods are first-priority demanding challenges that the globe is facing.

Cities, infrastructure and logistics expansion towards underground provide safe, sustainable and green solutions facilitating the transformation of millions of people's lives into a more resilient lifestyle. A comprehensive understanding, rethinking and reshaping of the underground spaces has become vital and a crucial development alternative, particularly for the urban transformation of future cities, where underground space will be more and more valuable.

The theme of **WTC2023 "EXPANDING UNDERGROUND"**, will focus on the *Knowledge and Passion that our industry offers to Make a Positive Impact on the World*. WTC 2023 in Athens, that will be carried out in **hybrid mode**, will highlight the multiple advantages and solutions that underground space can provide, at the prospect of a whole **new era of smart technology**, where sophisticated "digital tools" change investigation, design, construction and operation methods and strategies rapidly.

We are delighted to announce that the **call for Abstracts** will open very shortly on the **1st of March 2022**. Don't miss the chance to publish your research / best practices at the annual premier event of the International Tunnelling Association (@ITA). Moreover, various exhibition and sponsoring opportunities are available which have been tailored to offer a variety of promotion alternatives.

While we are getting prepared for a hybrid event, the need to host a WTC with an in-person participation is stronger than ever. Thus, we are looking forward to welcoming you in Athens.

Ioannis Fikiris

Chair of the Organizing Committee WTC2023

Nikolaos Roussos

President of the Greek Tunnelling Society (GTS)



Main Topics of the Congress

- » **Knowledge & Passion to Expand Underground for Sustainability and Resilience**
underground solutions; environmental protection; smart tunnels; cost-benefit analysis; future challenges in underground construction
- » **Geological, Geotechnical Site Investigation and Ground Characterization**
geological; geotechnical analysis; ground conditions; face mapping; uncertainty management; 3D geo modelling; geophysical applications; GIS systems; GBR
- » **Planning and Designing of Tunnels and Underground Structures**
planning; modelling; numerical analysis; seismic design; temporary and final support; water-proofing; construction cost; value engineering
- » **Mechanised Tunnelling (and microtunnelling)**
tbm tunnelling, roadheader and/or other mechanised tunnelling; segmental lining design and manufacturing; machine design for soft ground or rock tunnelling; performance; microtunnelling
- » **Conventional tunnelling, Drill-and-blast applications**
conventional tunnelling; excavation by drill-and-blast; shaft design and construction; explosive's design; vibration control; grouting/pre-injections
- » **Tunnelling in challenging conditions, Case histories and lessons learned**
urban tunnelling; archaeological issues; long tunnels in great depth; challenging underground projects; international case studies; failures/ successes and lessons learned; immersed/ under- water/ floating tunnels; construction cost
- » **Innovation, Robotics and Automation**
innovative solutions; autonomous systems; robotics in construction; advanced instrumentation; communication and positioning; lidar applications; real time monitoring – scanning; automation in e/m systems;
- » **BIM, Big Data and Machine Learning Applications in Tunnelling**
building information modelling in tunnels; applications and case studies; big data management and utilization; ML applications in design and construction
- » **Safety, Risk and Operation of Underground Infrastructure**
operational safety and maintenance enhancement through AI; operation optimization through interactive tunnel systems and vehicles; health and safety in construction; safety and security of underground facilities; fire and emergency events; evacuation; risk assessment; maintenance and operation
- » **Contractual Practices, Insurance and Project Management**
contracts; insurance of tunnels/contractors; life cycle asset management; project management of complex projects; cost management; valuation

Reasons to Attend

WTC is the leading conference for international collaboration and growth, uniquely tailored for a tunnelling audience. The international nature of the conference and its plethora of exhibitors classified it as the top performing conference in the industry. For individuals and organisations alike, here are some of the top reasons why **WTC 2023** cannot be missed:



Growth and Success

Help ensure the future growth and success of your career and organization by attending the premier annual tunnelling event. Take some time to break away from the daily routine and surround yourself with thought provoking speakers and technical sessions that will have you thinking outside the box. Immediately put to use all of the fresh ideas and strategies you've learned – and positively affect your bottom line.

Educational Opportunities – Industry Expertise

Immerse yourself in six unique days of numerous Technical Sessions and ITA bespoke courses on the latest tunnelling topics. Chosen for their contribution to the tunnelling industry, insight and ability to connect with the audience, our speakers will broaden your horizons and provide latest trends and knowledge that you can use in your day-to-day operations.

An All Encompassing Experience

More is better – this is the preferred international tunnelling event that offers a hands-on experience on the latest products and most advanced solutions in the global market, all the while our A-list speakers are poised to show how you and your company can advance in the tunnelling and underground construction industry. This WTC is the place to deep dive into advanced subjects by attending technical sessions led by the brightest minds in the tunnelling industry.

Attend, Network, Engage

There is no better place than the WTC to network with thousands of attendees from all around the world. Nowhere else can you connect with such a diverse audience of underground construction professionals in such an enjoyable way. Engage with the other attendees at our opening night reception, lunches, networking events and refreshment breaks, while admiring the luxurious Congress venue "Megaron - The Athens Concert Hall". Do not forget your business cards!

Real Value. Measurable ROI - Improve Your Team

Engage in discussions on real-life project performance. By keeping the conference focused, we bring together greater developmental opportunities and keep your conference learning experience dedicated only to the issues that matter most. Share your newfound knowledge with your co-workers, management team and recruits, and watch your company soar!

Reach Costumers

Be promoted in an international environment, reach - as a sponsor or an exhibitor - thousands of potential customers and interact with highly focused, on the activities of your business, delegates.

Fill Yourself with Memories

Being in Athens and walking around the city is like visiting an open-air museum, with some of the most impressive ancient monuments appearing at every turn. "The Acropolis", "The Temple of Olympian Zeus", "The Panathenaic Stadium", "The Herod Atticus Odeon", "The Academy of Athens" and so on. So don't forget your comfy pair of shoes and let's set out to discover all those must-see Athens landmarks – and when you get hungry there will be countless ways to enjoy the famous Greek cuisine at restaurants or at waterfront traditional tavernas serving just-out-of-the-net seafood.

Indulge Yourself

After tolerating while within a pandemic, the necessary social distancing, the lockdowns and the long-lasting travel restrictions, here is the time to get together again. Hence, feel free to recommence travelling and consider combining your professional activities during the pleasant late spring season with leisure by either offering yourself some time to relax while swimming into the deep blue sea or by exploring some out of the numerous Greek cultural heritage sites.

About Us



GREEK TUNNELLING SOCIETY

The Greek Tunnelling Society (GTS), founded in 1995, is the established and official representative of Greece in the International Tunnelling Association (ITA-IATES). GTS is a nonprofit body and aims to promote the key advantages of tunnels and Underground structures from technical, environmental, social and economic point of view. The steering board of the GTS consists of 7 members, while the body of the GTS has more than 200 members.

The main objectives of the GTS are:

- » To inform the Greek engineering community (individuals, companies, public sectors etc.) for the key advantages of the Underground structures and Underground development.
- » To develop methods and/or update the existing ones for a more efficient design, construction, supervision and maintenance of Underground structures.
- » To record and communicate technical information, knowledge and experience about Tunnelling and Underground structures.
- » To disseminate information related to the development and implementation of new technologies, methods and innovations of Underground projects.
- » To work with the responsible state authorities for drawing up regulations, specifications, recommendations etc.
- » To organize visits to relevant construction sites in Greece and abroad.

ITA-AITES

The International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association (ITA) is the leading international organization promoting the use of tunnels and underground space through knowledge sharing and application of technology. ITA represents all aspects of tunnel and underground space planning, design, and construction.

Since its establishment in 1974, ITA has encouraged the use of the subsurface and has promoted advances in planning, design, construction, maintenance and safety of tunnels and underground space. Currently, ITA gathers 78 Member Nations and more than 260 Corporate or Individual Affiliate Members. ITA holds, its General Assembly Meeting and the World Tunnel Congress (WTC) in a different Member Nation, each year.



General Information

About the Host City - Athens

A bustling and cosmopolitan metropolis, Athens is the centre of the economic, financial, industrial, political and cultural life in Greece. Located at the crossroads of three continents, the capital of Greece with an overall population of close to 5 million people has often been the melting pot of many cultures. Characterized by the spirit of hospitality, the host city embraces every guest with a warm welcome. Athens is an ideal congress destination, combining state-of-the-art infrastructures, excellent congress facilities and easy access from all over the world with world-class cultural attractions, modern amenities and diverse entertainment.

Few "hot" features of Athens

1. **Athens International Airport (AIA)** "Eleftherios Venizelos", is one of the fastest-growing airports globally.
2. **Best Value:** A privileged geographical location at the crossroads of three continents offers easy and affordable access.
3. **Meeting Facilities:** Athens boasts a variety of state-of-the-art meeting venues, conference hotels and unique social event venues which can be tailored to every need.
4. **Transportation:** State-of-the-art transport network including metro, bus, tram, train, trolleybus, taxis and expansive highways.
5. **Accommodation:** More than 30000 rooms at approximately 650 hotels in a constantly developing sector.
6. **Know How:** One of the top 24 most popular meeting destinations worldwide, according to ICCA (International Congress and Convention Association) rankings.
7. **A City to Thrill:** Lively nightlife, world-famous Mediterranean cuisine, make up Athens a unique entertainment scene. Its contemporary urban vibe caters to every segment of the tourism market. From landmark venues to indie hubs, Athens guarantees authentic nightlife experiences.
8. **Culture Shots:** World-famous museums and UNESCO sights go hand-in-hand offering a vibrant contemporary urban experience.
9. **A Sunny Disposition:** With an average daylight of 8-9 hours, famous mild climate and incredible blue skies, Athens will entice you with its atmosphere.
10. **Athens Riviera:** Get away from the bustling city center to the glorious Athens Riviera in under 30 minutes.
11. **Safe Location:** Greece is among the World Safest Countries, taking into consideration all kind of threats such as mugging, crime, road death toll, occurrence of terrorist attacks and wars.

Congress Dates

The Congress Dates are:
Fri 12 - Thu 18 May 2023

Congress Venue

The Megaron Athens International Conference Centre (MAICC)
Vass. Sofias & Kokkali 115 21
Athens (Greece)
www.maicc.gr

Hybrid/ Virtual Performance

via 3D Virtual Platform.

Language

English is the official language of the Congress.

Professional Congress Organizer

CONVIN S.A. K. Varnali 29,
15233 Chalandri, Athens
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www.convin.gr

General Information

Congress Venue

The Megaron Athens International Conference Centre (MAICC), is one of the finest conference venues in Europe.

MAICC is located in the city centre, offers a stunning environment, exceptional aesthetics, cutting-edge technology. The Megaron has ample choice of hall size and style for plenary and parallel sessions. It also has dedicated exhibition space and multileveled sweeping foyer areas.

Virtual Platform

The uniquely immersive WTC 2023 Virtual Environment, available during the Hybrid Congress dates, will provide much more than just streaming content; it will be a thoughtfully curated, interactive journey.

WTC2023 Virtual 3D Platform will host, among other services, a customized 3D Virtual World, where attendees can engage in activities, network, attend keynote/ breakout session presentations and explore new products and business solutions in a Virtual 3D Exhibition Area. More Information will be available soon!

Important Dates

Abstracts Submission



Abstract Submission opens

1 March 2022



Abstract submission deadline

31 May 2022



Notification to authors

30 June 2022

Registration



Registration opens

2 May 2022



Early Registration deadline

31 January 2023

Full Papers Submission



Full Paper submission opens

10 August 2022



Full Paper submission deadline

30 September 2022



Sponsorship & Exhibition Opportunities

Companies are invited to take up a range of exhibition and sponsorship opportunities to promote their brands, products and innovations. Whether you are selling, promoting your company, establishing your corporate message, researching the industry or introducing new products, take advantage of the unique **Exhibition and Sponsorship opportunities** during the **WTC2023 Congress in Athens**.

DOWNLOAD THE SPONSORSHIP & EXHIBITION BROCHURE

[Download HERE](#) or scan the QR Code



For Sponsorship & Exhibition

E-mail: sponsorship@wtc2023.gr

Please contact us to discuss sponsorship packages tailored to fit your needs

Special Notes For Exhibitors:

- ITA Prime Sponsors have the priority (4 weeks in advance of the general public launch) to book their preferred booth location.
- After this period, exhibition booths are offered on a first come, first served basis.



Spread the Word



Help Spread the Word about WTC2023

We invite you to assist spreading the word about WTC2023 and join us for the promoting the conference within your personal networks, on social media platforms, in lectures and meetings.

Don't forget to use the conference hashtag **#WTC2023**

Social Media

Join WTC2023 online community to get all news and updates about the Congress.



Promotional Toolkit

Please use the official branding materials to help us spread the word about WTC2023. You can find below the promotional toolkit for the congress, including the conference poster and official web banners.

Kindly note that for materials with different dimensions and specifications, you may contact us via below communication channels.

Professional Congress Organizer: Convin S.A.

E-mail: promo@wtc2023.gr

E - Congress Poster

Please insert the e-poster of the Congress in your journals, website, event programs or print it as hard copy promotional material (A4 size).

» [Click here to view and download the WTC2023 poster.](#)

Web Banners

Please post the WTC2023 web banner on your website, event calendar, use at appropriate virtual meetings and/or as your e-mail signature.

» [Click here to view and download the WTC2023 web banners.](#)



Contact

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 www.convin.gr

CONVIN S.A is the official Congress partner for hospitality services (i.e hotel accommodation, land arrangements etc) and is the only agency offering hospitality services on behalf of the WTC2023.

A variety of rooms have been secured in a wide range of hotels in the area of the congress venue. Early booking is highly recommended.

E-mail: sponsorship@wtc2023.gr

Please contact us to discuss sponsorship packages tailored to fit your needs



(Registrations and/or hospitality services/accommodation)

E-mail: registration@wtc2023.gr

www.wtc2023.gr

Notes

www.wtc2023.gr

