

Lausanne, 21<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015

**Encouraging international innovation  
in the sector of underground infrastructures:  
ITA's new Awards to be discovered at the  
2015 World Tunnel Congress**



**F**rom May 22 to 28 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, will take place the World Tunnel Congress, the most important international event dedicated to the promotion of the Tunnelling and Underground Space industry. An exceptional occasion for the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association to present its new Awards. Launched two months ago, they have been imagined to bring forward and sponsor outstanding underground infrastructure projects led throughout the world.

The dispositive will be presented by ITA's president Soren Eskesen, in the framework of the official Opening Ceremony on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>. A description of the different prizes will also be developed. 9 categories have been taken on:

- **Outstanding Tunnelling Project of the Year - up to €50m**
- **Tunnelling Project of the Year - between €50m and €500m**
- **Major Tunnelling Project of the Year - over €500m**
- **Renovation/Upgrading project of the Year**
- **Technical Innovation of the Year**
- **Environmental Initiative of the Year**
- **Safety Initiative of the Year**



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- **Innovative Use of Underground Space**
- **Young Tunneller of the Year**

An occasion for several Croatian and international authorities to discover ITA's initiative. Among them, Andro Vlahusic, Mayor of Dubrovnik, Ivo Basic, the Croatian Minister of Tourism, **XXX**, Chinese Economic and Commercial Counselor at the Embassy of China in Croatia, as well as Susan Cox, Ambassador of Australia in Croatia. More widely, the Opening Ceremony will permit to major players of the underground infrastructures sector (public managers, designers, manufacturers, suppliers, engineering companies) to **apply for candidacy**.

**To apply for candidacy online and keep an eye on the ITA Awards' current events, please click on the following link:**

<https://awards.ita-aites.org/>

A short-list of pre-selected projects performed between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and February 2015 will be officially presented in September 2015. The candidates will be selected upon various criteria, such as their **capacity to design and develop disruptive innovations** in terms of design and construction, to develop **cost saving solutions** or **to mitigate construction impacts in urban areas**.

The Prize awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in a unique underground location: the **Hagerbach underground test facility** in **Switzerland**.

#### ***About the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association:***

*The International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association (ITA) is a non-profit and non-governmental international organization, which aims at promoting the use of underground space as a solution to sustainable development. Founded in 1974 and operating out of Lausanne, Switzerland, ITA currently associates 71 Member Nations, 200 affiliated members, 15 Prime Sponsors and 50 supporters.*

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