

Paris to Host IWMA Conference

Over 130 years have passed since the USA company, F E Myers, manufactured the first firefighting system using small water droplets. About 25 years have passed since the execution of the Montreal protocol prepared the ground for water mist as a firefighting agent. And 15 years ago the International Water Mist Association (IWMA) was founded.

Now, in its 15th year, the Association will hold its 13th annual conference in Paris, France, on 16th and 17th October at the Mercure Paris Porte de Versailles Expo Hotel. The French capital was chosen – as member of the board Luciano Nigro (Marioff Italy) put it recently – because “France is currently more important for the development of the water mist market than other country within Europe.”

The day prior to the conference the members of the IWMA will convene and hold their annual meeting. One item on the agenda will be the elections of the board. However, as five members of the board, including the long standing chairman Ragnar Wighus (Sintef), were confirmed in their positions only last year, only Jonathan Carter (FM Approvals) will have to face the poll.

Another item will be strategies and plans for 2014 and beyond. In fact the board and the scientific council, chaired by Bert Yu (FM Global), is currently talking about last details of a research project that will be carried out in the near future. Apart from that, the IWMA is planning to conduct a survey on the water mist industry in 2014. And there will again be many seminars in 2014.

On 16th October the conference will start – as every year – with the water mist hymn as well as an opening address and an evaluation on the current state of the water mist industry by the chairman of the IWMA.

The call for papers was released some weeks back and the first abstracts from members as well as non-members of the Association are starting to come in. Topics are usually divided into research & testing, standards & codes as well as applications. So far several speakers have handed in presentations on simulations of engine room fires, cost optimisation for commercial applications, innovative extinguishers for fire protection, and fire safety of Cologne main station. So the conference will again cover a wide range of topics and will be as informative as ever.

Last year’s conference in Barcelona was very successful indeed with over 100 delegates from more than 20 countries and 22 high-quality lectures. This year the IWMA expects at least the same number of delegates, if not more. Because with its activities in the first half of 2013 – seminars in Dubai, France and Denmark as well as the booth at the NFPA event in Chicago – the IWMA managed to attract many experts from within the



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firefighting industry. Some of whom have become members and as some of those come from the Middle East region and Australia, there is a certain chance that the event will be even more international than it was in recent years.

At the end of Day One there will be a reception to discuss, network and exchange views and to visit the exhibition. This will be devised by the sponsors to show their innovations and their established products.

The conference will be held in English. However, a French translation will be provided. This event will be the most important networking opportunity for the water mist industry in 2013. It will once again show that water mist is a fully-fledged alternative to the traditional sprinkler systems. To register visit the IWMA’s homepage.

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For more information, go to www.iwma.net