

2012 IWMA Conference Goes to Barcelona

The past 15 years have been distinguished by significant advancement in the commercial application of water mist fire suppression technology throughout the world, so the 2012 IWMA conference in Barcelona, Spain in November has much to offer.

The Montreal Protocol opened the way for water mist technology as replacement for Halon. More than a decade of research and development on water mist systems has revealed a broad variety of applications where this technology can replace not only ozone depleting chemical agents; it also represents a measure equivalent to standard sprinklers. The undisputed environmental advantages embodied in water mist systems combined with efficient firefighting characteristics will certainly contribute to its continued success in the future.

The IWMA

Some years ago a logical conclusion of the continuous development of water mist technology throughout the world was the creation of the IWMA – the International Water Mist Association. For more than ten years the IWMA has supported research, development and the use of water mist technology worldwide. Until then the IWMA provides a platform and a forum for all interested parties active in this field; manufacturers, distributors, insurers and approval bodies, research bodies and private individuals.

The on-going success of water mist systems will strongly depend on reliable codes and standards. IMO has been the driving force that developed guidelines and test protocols for the use of water mist on ships. NFPA, UL, FM, CEN have developed guidelines and test protocols for land-based applications, but there are still gaps to close. It is currently the major task of the IWMA to support the further development of a European Standard for water mist systems.

The revision process of Technical Specification 14972 is not finished yet, so has not yet been transformed into a European Standard. This transformation, however, is urgently needed to serve the



market with mandatory rules all market players can rely on. Basically, this missing standard currently prevents water mist technology from further spreading throughout Europe. Potential users are hesitant because of the lack of a binding document.

As IWMA had proposed, the first step should be the finishing of the general design and installation standard. The second task should be to add step-by-step test protocols for certain applications.

IWMA Conference 2012

This topic will be certainly discussed in depth during the next IWMA conference in the World Trade Centre in Barcelona on 14th and 15th November.

Many experts and researchers from around the world will present the latest findings on water mist technology, will define the current state-of-the-art of this fire protection technique and will, using case studies, describe the latest applications. The current situation on standards and test protocols will also be discussed. The conference language will be English and Spanish, so Spanish-speaking delegates may take advantage of the English-Spanish translation.

This will be a truly international event; delegates from more than twenty countries will make it once more a worldwide come together. Save the date and join this excellent networking opportunity to meet all major researchers, manufacturers, distributors and others interested in the field. Meet the number-one experts in water mist technology from around the world at the World Trade Centre Barcelona; a very special conference location where you might even get the chance to see a cruise liner equipped with a water mist system just few steps away from the conference centre. **APF**



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