



The International Water Mist Association is to begin the next stage of a research project that aims to achieve easier acceptance of water mist technology for the primary protection of particular applications such as buildings.

According to the IWMA, the project will focus on developing existing water-mist fire protocols such as CEN 14972 (*Fixed fire-fighting systems – water-mist systems*) as well as compiling a guide of water-mist systems for applications such as heritage buildings, cable tunnels and data centres that are acceptable to the wider fire industry.

As well as water-mist system manufacturers the project is expected to involve authorities having jurisdiction, approval/certification bodies and insurance companies.

The project is part two of a substantial research programme whose first step in 2014 consisted of comparing all existing test protocols, procedures and corresponding pass/fail criteria related to the protection of buildings with thermally-activated automatic water-mist nozzles.

Water-mist technology is currently experiencing an upward surge in confidence and interest following increasing recognition of its performance capabilities as well as a number of high-profile installations, explained IWMA general manager

Bettina McDowell, who added: 'Those from outside the water-mist community are more interested in the technology than ever before. The fact that the water-mist session during FSI 2016 in Munich was held in the largest hall with an audience three times the size than during FSI 2014 in London shows just how much interest it has gained over the last few years.'

In the course of the development of the scope of step two of the project, IWMA members voted to focus on existing applications rather than applications for which there were currently no approvals. Another research option involving the agreement of a common standard by all approval/certification bodies was also discarded.

Details of the research will be clarified following a two-day conference in Hamburg (date to be announced shortly) when independent institutes will submit their bids to carry out the research. 'We really want the project and the process to continue now,' concluded IWMA president Ragnar Wighus.

Further details will be announced during the 16th International Water Mist Conference taking place 21-22 September 2016 in Vienna, Austria. The early-bird period ends 1 August. For more information visit www.iwma.net.