

IWMA: There is always something happening

Now that the 23rd International Water Mist Conference in Antwerp (#IWMC2024) has come to an end, the focus lies on #IWMC2025 which will take place in Manchester on 24th and 25th September 2025

It is the third time that this event will take place in the UK, after 2009 and 2018 when the worldwide water mist community travelled to London to exchange knowledge and to network.

But before we take a look into the future, let's take a look back. One of the highlights of this year's conference was the introduction of the 'IWMA position paper on CFD modelling and water mist firefighting' for which representatives of the different committees within the International Water Mist Association (IWMA) had joined forces. The Chairman of the IWMA Scientific Council and author of the document Max Laakkonen (Managing Director at IFAE) had been wearing the hat during the months prior to the conference during which the task group discussed what details and pieces of information the paper should contain and which message it should convey. "Right now, fire modelling cannot replace real life fire tests – but that could be different in the future" said Beesma McDowell, IWMA General Manager. She continued: "The task group will follow the developments and there could come a time when the document might read quite differently. Let's wait and see! The plan is to review and update the document on a regular basis. Any changes will of course be made public."

The #IWMC2024 programme also included two panel discussions, the first: 'EN 14972 – How to Use Annex A' and the second: 'Lithium-Ion Battery Fires – Update and Opportunities'. Other topics included in the programme were: tunnel safety, car park fire safety and the impact of water mist on combustion products. The audience learned how to recognise a good fire test protocol and got insights into the effectiveness of water extinguishing systems on ammonia absorption in confined spaces, the roles of two

contributors included the words "impingement cooling". Professor Tarek Beji (Ghent University) spoke about CFD modelling of water spray impingement cooling. His former student and winner of this year's 'Ragnar Wighus Award', Cedric van de Vondel gave a presentation on 'Numerical modelling of water spray impingement cooling'. This was also the title of his winning master thesis.

By the way, in 2025, the 'Ragnar Wighus Award' will go to the author of the best Ph.D. thesis. The details on how to apply are published on the IWMA webpage. The deadline to hand in applications is 31st March 2025. The body who will evaluate the submissions is, as always, the IWMA Scientific Council.

What else is worth mentioning? A water mist guide is in the making. The plan is to publish the document towards the end of the year or the beginning of 2025. For the development of this document a different task group from that mentioned above has been formed. Yet another task group has developed The Matrix – a chart showcasing

all current water mist applications and associated fire test protocols that have been published by certification / test agencies. The Matrix is updated twice a year, there are two parts: one for land and the other for marine applications.

Regarding next year's conference in Manchester, two key dates are: the release of the call for papers on 15th January and the abstract deadline on 15th May. "IWMA welcomes case studies as well as scientific presentations as well as topics for panel discussions", said Beesma McDowell.

This year's conference has seen Are Brandt (Norwegian University of Sciences and Technology) saying the opening words for the final time. Are Brandt was elected IWMA president in 2018 and had to step down after two terms during this year's IWMA member meeting. In 2025, the new IWMA president (whose name will be announced shortly) will open the 24th International Water Mist Conference.

The International Water Mist Association was founded in 1998 and was then and is still the only organisation worldwide that is solely dedicated to the further development and promotion of water mist. iwma.net

