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WHAT TO EXPECT

Programme overview

Welcome to the International Water Mist Conference 2026 in Prague.

Today, the conversation about water mist fire protection encompasses buildings, industry, transport, energy and increasingly complex projects, supported by expanding research, testing, standards and approvals. This conference provides the perfect opportunity to bring those conversations together.

The programme reflects both the maturity of the technology and the challenges now facing the fire protection sector. Battery Energy Storage Systems and electric vehicles are creating new questions around fire behaviour and suppression, while developments in timber construction, industrial protection and culturally significant buildings demonstrate the increasingly diverse environments in which water mist is being considered.

Standards will naturally be central to discussions in Prague. EN 14972 and the EN 17450 series have created an increasingly comprehensive regulatory framework for water mist systems and components. The conference will also address Annex A through a dedicated panel discussion, providing an opportunity for constructive and fact based debate around its implications for the industry.

Equally, electric vehicle fires will provide another important area of discussion. Research into parking garages will examine automatic water mist as an alternative to conventional sprinkler protection, considering factors including fire spread, hot and toxic gases, water discharge and occupant visibility.

The programme also demonstrates the breadth of water mist applications already being investigated and implemented. Full scale testing of turbine based water mist will provide insight into demanding industrial applications. The Centre for Islamic Civilization in Tashkent will offer a very different case study, demonstrating the challenges involved in protecting a culturally significant building containing rare artefacts and extensive archival collections.

Modern construction will also be represented through the Malley Phare case study regarding a development in Switzerland, where high pressure water mist has been integrated into a 60 metre timber building. The project highlights considerations including water consumption, potential water damage, system weight and installation space.

Of course, effective fire protection does not end when a

system is commissioned. Lifecycle performance, preventative maintenance, integrated testing, water quality, connected systems and real time monitoring will therefore form another important part of the conference.

This year also brings a stronger emphasis on knowledge and competence. Alongside the conference sessions, the programme includes a site visit and workshop, while the IWMA is developing a new competence scheme for the water mist sector.

Taken together, the programme demonstrates the breadth of the discussion now surrounding water mist. From standards and testing to BESS, electric vehicles, industrial environments, heritage buildings, timber construction and lifecycle maintenance, the conference provides an opportunity to examine how the technology is being assessed and applied across increasingly diverse fire risks.

I hope you find the conference informative, constructive and valuable, and I wish you a very warm welcome to Prague. **FB**

"The conference comes at an important time for our industry"

KATIE TRACY
EDITOR





WHAT TO EXPECT

INTERNATIONAL WATER MIST CONFERENCE

The 25th International Water Mist Conference will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, on 7 and 8 October at the The Grand Hotel International Prague.

Water mist technology has moved considerably beyond the specialist applications that once defined its place within fire protection. As regulatory frameworks mature, testing programmes expand and new risks emerge across the built environment, transport and energy sectors, the discussion is increasingly focused on where these systems can provide an appropriate alternative to established suppression methods.

The International Water Mist Conference in Prague will bring many of those discussions together. Research into Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and electric vehicle fires will sit alongside developments in standards, system maintenance, timber construction and complex industrial applications. The programme also reflects an important shift towards examining water mist performance as part of a wider fire safety strategy, rather than considering suppression technology in isolation.

This year's programme includes a site visit which will run alongside the event. It will also include a workshop, placing stronger focus on training the market. The IWMA is also working on a new competence scheme for the water mist sector.

From full scale fire testing to the practical challenges of protecting culturally significant buildings, the research presented in Prague demonstrates how the water mist sector is addressing these requirements through testing, standardisation and application specific system design.

Water Mist: In depth, in Prague, in 2026

"The conference comes at an important time for our industry," said Max Lakkonen, President of the International Water Mist Association (IWMA) and organiser of the event. "The technology continues to develop strongly, supported by growing experience, new research, wider applications and an expanding framework of standards and approvals. Its role is no longer limited to selected special applications. Water mist is increasingly considered in buildings, industry, transport, energy applications and complex projects where performance, sustainability and efficient use of water are essential."

The International Water Mist Conference programme reflects this development, opening with an industry review by Max Lakkonen and a keynote by František Kregl, President of PCFP in the Czech Republic.

A key feature will be the panel discussion on "Annex A: Risk or opportunity for the water mist industry". This timely topic deserves open, constructive and fact-based debate.

EN 14972 and EN 17450

IWMA Director, Luciano Nigro (Technical Manager at Jensen Hughes), said: "The European standard EN 14972 and the EN 17450 series on components represent an impressive regulatory project which has now reached a mature technical stage."

EN 14972 the only document worldwide to bring together both the general regulations on the design and installation of water mist systems and a full set of test protocols of the systems.

Luciano Nigro said: "The EN 14972 regulatory packages, completed last year with Annex A1, and the EN 17450 series constitute a complete reference for all operators in the sector. This completeness and regulatory clarity will help operators to overcome the technical divider that in the past has too often impeded the use of this exceptional firefighting tool because it is too complicated. Making the legislation simple, clear and direct was the main driver of the working group and the goal is now within reach."

SafeBESS research project

Kristian Hox (RISE Norway) will talk about the increasing deployment of building-integrated BESS which has highlighted the need for fire testing that captures the interaction between

detection, suppression, ventilation, and explosion protection systems. Existing studies largely focus on isolated suppression performance and rarely address mechanically ventilated battery rooms. This study aims to fill this knowledge gap through large-scale experiments representative of building-integrated BESS installations. The objective is to evaluate the performance of high and low-pressure water mist systems, as well as a dry-pipe sprinkler and IG-541 system. In addition, the work evaluates firewater run-off from different water-based suppression systems, providing a more holistic assessment of BESS fire safety and environmental impact.

Electric vehicle fire in parking garages

Patricio Valdes is an associate at MAPA Fire Engineering, a company founded together with Miguel Angel Perez dedicated to analysing fire safety in complex processes and the mining industry, tunnels, airports.

The study evaluates the feasibility of using an automatic water mist system as an alternative to conventional sprinkler protection in parking garages adapted for electric vehicles (EVs).

Patricio Valdes said: "The introduction of EVs presents new challenges for both facilities and occupants as a result of the fire behaviour and combustion products associated with lithium-ion battery packs that power the cars."

Several fire scenarios were evaluated using CFD technique to assess the performance of a water mist system in controlling or suppressing a fire involving an EV. The results indicate the performance of the system, evaluating the probability of fire spread to adjacent vehicles, hot and toxic gases, water discharged, and occupant visibility. The study provides evidence supporting the adoption of water mist systems as a viable and environmentally advantageous solution for EV fire protection in parking garages.

Turbine-based water mist: expanding the reach of fire protection

Water mist has long been recognised as an effective firefighting technology. Turbine-based water mist goes a step further by projecting the mist over greater distances and distributing it very effectively, even in complex or partially-shielded fire scenarios.

This makes the technology particularly suitable for demanding industrial applications and areas with high fire loads. Extensive testing and demonstrations have confirmed its effectiveness against Class A, B, C and F fires, as well as in environments where electrical current may be present. Its performance has been evaluated by independent testing and certification bodies, including CNPP, MPA Dresden and TÜV SÜD, reinforcing confidence in the technology for critical fire protection challenges.

In Prague, Francesco Fritz, Deputy CEO at EmiControls, will present insights from recent full-scale fire trials. He said: "As industries move away from fluorinated foams, turbine-based water mist is attracting growing attention as an efficient, sustainable and practical alternative, gaining acceptance among authorities, fire protection engineers and insurers alike."

Advancing fire safety through lifecycle maintenance

Sami Autero, Director of Service and Aftermarket at Marioff Corporation, will speak about "Preventative Maintenance with Test Programme to Secure Water Mist Performance During the Lifecycle".

The session highlights how long-term system reliability and operational readiness can be ensured through structured preventative maintenance programmes and advanced testing practices. Drawing on decades of service experience also from outside the fire industry, Sami Autero explores best practices for maintaining system performance in varying operating environments and introduces



"The technology continues to develop strongly, supported by growing experience, new research, wider applications and an expanding framework of standards and approvals"



evolving approaches such as integrated system and water quality testing.

He said: "Preventative maintenance is critical for sustaining water mist system performance and ensuring that fire safety systems operate as designed throughout their lifecycle."

The presentation also addresses the future of digitalisation in fire safety, including connected systems and real-time monitoring, supporting enhanced maintenance efficiency and improved customer safety.

Application of water mist installations outside DIOM

Peutz has conducted research regarding project-based expansion of the application of water mist installations outside the Design, Installation, Operation and Maintenance Manual (DIOM) with laboratory and on site tests. Jaap Wijnia and Alicia Knijnenburg, fire safety consultants at Peutz B.V. in the Netherlands, will give a presentation of this research and results.

They will start with a description of a situation where a proposed water mist system did not comply with the DIOM for the space for which it was designed. To assess the installation, a field test was required. To obtain valid test results, an appropriate test had to be developed. The design process of this test, including the pass-fail criteria, will be presented. The design process includes calculations regarding peak heat release rate and the duration of test fire. In the laboratory tests, the calculations were verified. The results of this design process were translated into a field test, where the water mist system was activated and positively assessed.

Fire protection for the Centre of Islamic Civilization

The Centre for Islamic Civilization is a cultural, scientific and educational complex in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Housed in a monumental three-story structure of 16,700 square metres with a 65 metre central dome decorated with ancient architectural motifs, the centre serves as an exhibition area for rare artefacts and 200,000 archival documents.

A high-pressure water mist system is protecting all floors within the building as well as the centre dome roof structure. Depending on the specific hazards of the protected area, open and automatic nozzles have been installed. The system is combined with mobile water mist guns housed in wall cabinets for manual firefighting at strategic locations with minimised water usage.

Rüdiger Kopp, Managing Director for fixed water mist systems at FOGTEC, said: "I will outline the motivation of the client to utilise high-pressure water mist and detail the design process."

Additionally, he will discuss the challenges encountered during the system's implementation and the associated full-scale fire tests.



High-pressure water mist protection for modern timber high-rise buildings

As sustainable timber construction continues to shape the future of urban architecture, fire protection solutions must combine maximum safety with minimal environmental impact.

Malley Phare is a 60-metre-high new building which expands the existing Malley Lumières shopping centre with modern apartments, communal areas, and flexible co-working and home office spaces.

With this project in Switzerland, Aquasys integrated state-of-the-art fire protection technology into a future-oriented and sustainable building project. Using ultra-fine water droplets generated at high pressure, the system rapidly cools the fire area, reduces radiant heat, and limits oxygen supply around the fire source.

Compared to conventional sprinkler systems, significantly less water is required, reducing water damage and supporting the preservation of sensitive timber structures and interior finishes.

For high-rise timber projects, the compact stainless-steel piping system offers major architectural and engineering advantages, including reduced installation space and lower system weight. **FB**

"The programme also reflects an important shift towards examining water mist performance as part of a wider fire safety strategy"



25th International Water Mist Conference

Prague, Czech Republic
7th and 8th October 2026
Grand International Hotel

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