

The IWMC, organised by the IWMA, will bring together the international water mist community

The future of WATER MIST

Taking place on the 7th and 8th October 2026, the 25th International Water Mist Conference will see industry leaders descend on Prague, Czech Republic.

Commenting on the event, Max Lakkonen, President of the International Water Mist Association (IWMA), said: "The conference comes at an important time for our industry. 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 programme reflects this development. It opens with an industry review by 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".

EN 14972 and EN 17450

EN 14972 is 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.

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

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"The 14972 regulatory packages, completed last year with Annex A and the 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. 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 discuss the increasing deployment of building-integrated battery energy storage systems (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.

Electric vehicle fire in parking garages

Patricio Valdes, an associate at MAPA Fire Engineering, will provide details of his study on the feasibility of using

an automatic water mist system as an alternative to conventional sprinkler protection in parking garages adapted for electric vehicles (EVs).

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, occupant's visibility, etc. 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

Francesco Fritz (Deputy CEO at EmiControls) will present insights from recent full-scale fire trials involving water mist as a solution in demanding industrial applications and areas with high fire loads.

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 will highlight how long-term system reliability and operational readiness can be ensured through structured preventative maintenance programmes and advanced testing practices. Autero will explore best practices for maintaining system performance in varying operating environments and introduce evolving approaches.

The presentation will also address the future of digitalisation in fire safety.



Application of water mist installations outside DIOM

Jaap Wijnia and Alicia Knijnenburg, fire safety consultants at Peutz B.V. in the Netherlands, will give a presentation of the research and results of project-based expansion of the application of water mist installations outside DIOM with laboratory and onsite tests.

They will start with a description of a situation where a proposed water mist systems did not comply with the DIOM for the space for which it was designed.

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The second day includes a new initiative

A workshop as part of the conference programme has been requested by the industry and we are pleased to deliver it. IWMA has also decided to place stronger focus on training the market and is working on a new competence scheme for the water mist sector.

Industrial fryer protection with water mist

Dirk Laibach (Senior Global Product Manager Water Mist at Johnson Controls Internation) will demonstrate how with appropriate planning during the design, procurement and construction stages, fire protection within an industrial fryer can be enhanced and seamlessly integrated into a site wide fire protection system. Multiple water mist fire protection solutions are considered to determine the most practicable, robust and resilient solution.



JCI explores both: FM approved standalone (contained) and centralised solutions (pumped), considering the fire test, project integration and resilience.

The presentation will mirror how to plan and implement water mist systems to robustly protect industrial fryers. It will demonstrate further the effectiveness and optimal utilisation of water mist systems in this application making an integrated water mist system the preferred solution.

Fire protection for the centre of Islamic civilisation in Tashkent

Rüdiger Kopp (Managing Director for fixed water mist systems, FOGTEC) will outline the motivation of the client to utilise high-pressure water mist and detail the design process at the Centre for Islamic Civilisation in Uzbekistan.

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.

Additionally, Kopp 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

Michael Bindreiter, Aquasys, will explore the topic of sustainable timber construction shaping the future of urban architecture, with particular focus on how fire protection solutions must combine maximum safety with minimal environmental impact.

In his presentation he will look at “Malley Phare”, a 60-meter-high new building. 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.

See you in Prague!

In addition, IWMA will offer a site visit and an exhibition, supported by many sponsors. The conference is endorsed by several association partners.