**PRESS RELEASE**

**Geneva, 28th Mai 2018**

**ITA Tunnelling Awards 2018 in Chuzhou – A few days left to submit entries**

**Since 2015, the international competition "the ITA Tunnelling Awards" seeks and rewards the most ground-breaking innovation and outstanding projects in tunnelling and underground space utilization.**

**The 2018 edition will take place on 7 November, in Chuzhou-Nanjing during the 20th Chinese Tunnel and Underground works Conference (CTUC) from 5 to 6 Nov. followed by technical visits on Nov.8 in Nanjing, Chuzhou and Shanghai.**

**ITA TUNNELLING AWARDS**

**5-7 NOVEMBER 2018**

**CHUZHOU-NANJING, CHINA**

* Candidacy process :

Entries can be submitted in **9 categories** through a dedicated website[**https://awards.ita-aites.org/**](https://awards.ita-aites.org/)

Nominations for the following categories must contain projects for which the major civil engineering work was completed between **1st January 2016 and 1st April 2018.**

The Young Tunneller of the Year rewards an individual born after 1st January 1984and who has brought an outstanding contribution to tunnelling.

**By now, the ITA has already received more than 40 entries in the different categories.**

* The categories

* + - * **Major Project of the Year - over 500€ million**
			* **Project of the Year - between €50 million and €500 million**
			* **Project of the Year including renovation - (up to €50 million)**
			* **Technical Project Innovation of the Year**
			* **Technical Product or Equipment innovation of the Year**
			* **Innovative Use of Underground Space**
			* **Sustainability initiative of the Year**
			* **Safety Initiative of the Year**
			* **Young Tunneller of the Year**
			* **Life Time Achievement Award (application not required)**
* The judges :

Under the chairmanship of Tarcisio Celestino, ITA President, the panel of the 2018 edition is composed of **7 new judges**:

* WERNER BILFINGER, CBT President, Brazil
* NICK CHITTENDEN, ITA tech Chair, UAE
* ANTONIA CORNARO, ITACUS Co-chair, Switzerland
* BRIAN FULCHER, WG14 Animateur, USA
* ZHU HEHUA, Professor of Geotechnical Engineering, China
* SHANI WALLIS, TunnelTalk, United Kingdom
* MAXIMILIAN WIETEK, ITA COSUF Chair, Switzerland

And **8 judges** who have already participated to the selection last year and decided to renew the experience

* ARNOLD DIX, ITA WG 3 Animateur, consultant, Qatar
* MIKE RISPIN, PS &Supplier, Canada
* CHUNGSIK YOO, ITA Executive Council Member, South Korea
* ALEX GOMES, ITA Vice President, Chile
* MICHAEL BELENKIY, ITA Expert, Russian Federation
* LESLIE PAKIANATHAN, TUCSS Board Member, Singapore
* SOREN DEGN ESKESEN, ITA Past President, Denmark
* BAI YUN, Professor, China

**About Tunnelling Industry:**

Recording an output of almost €**bn 40** for tunnelling and underground construction, China represents almost half of the entire global output for the tunnelling industry.

Over recent years, Asia has had to cope with increasing space-scarcity issues, and the last edition of the AFTES (French Association of Tunnel and Underground Space) in Paris, highlighted “Urban strategies: comparison between Paris and Singapore” as the latter embodies a sustainable model of urban development in a limited and constrained environment.

**Previous editions:**

After editions in Switzerland, Singapore and Paris, the fourth ITA Tunnelling Awards will return to Asia for the 2018 event. The three previous editions of the ITA Tunnelling Awards received more than 240 **entries and** 110 **nominations**, rewarded 30 **projects** and personalities and gathered more than **750 attendees.**

Last year, China received 3 awards for the following projects :

* **Tunnelling project of the year (50-500m€): MTR Shatin to Central Link (SCL) – Hong Kong – China**
* **Safety Initiative of the Year : Telemach Cutterhead disc robotic changing system – Hong Kong - China**
* **Innovative Underground Space Concept of the Year : Cavern Master Plan – China, Hong-Kong**

A video of presentation is available via this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGkFsULYo70>

***About the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association:***

*The International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association (ITA) is a non -profit and non-governmental international organization, which aims at promoting the use of underground space as a solution to sustainable development. Founded in 1974 and operating out of Lausanne, Switzerland, ITA currently has 75 Member Nations, 300 affiliated members, 17 Prime Sponsors and 60 supporters.*

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