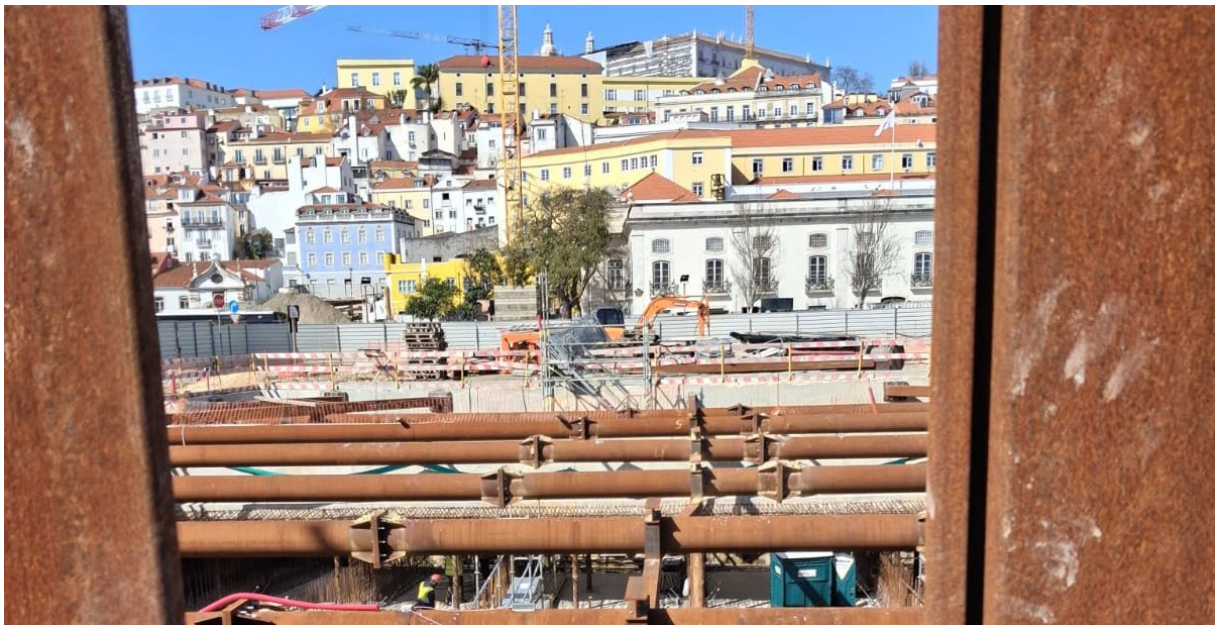


Calling Nominations for the ITA Tunnelling Awards 2026



In collaboration with the Portuguese Tunnelling and Underground Space Commission (CPT)

Recognition of achievement continues to be a vital source of inspiration within the global tunnelling and underground space community. Once again, the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association (ITA) invites the industry to celebrate outstanding projects, innovations, and individuals shaping the future of underground solutions through the **ITA Tunnelling Awards 2026**.

This year's edition is organised **in collaboration with the Portuguese Tunnelling and Underground Space Commission (CPT)**, which marks its **20th anniversary** in 2026. The celebrations will take place in **Lisbon**, forming a three-day programme from Wednesday, 4 November to Friday, 6 November.

This year's event events will provide an exceptional platform for global experts, project owners, engineers, innovators, researchers and young professionals to connect, exchange knowledge and recognise excellence.



**ITA TUNNELLING
AWARDS 2026**



Eight Categories Celebrating Excellence Across the Tunnelling Sector

Projects nominated for the ITA Tunnelling Awards 2026 must have completed their **major civil engineering works** between **1 March 2023 and 1 April 2026**, as defined in the official category criteria. [Find the criteria here!](#)

1. Major Project of the Year – Over EUR 500 million

Recognising large-scale underground projects that demonstrate exemplary safety, innovative engineering, sustainability integration, strategic delivery, cost optimisation, community engagement and outstanding value.

2. Project of the Year – EUR 100–500 million

Celebrating high-impact infrastructure projects exhibiting exceptional design, technological advancement, construction management, environmental responsibility and stakeholder value.

3. Project of the Year – Up to EUR 100 million

Honouring important projects of smaller scale that deliver significant social, environmental or technical benefits to communities and the wider industry.

4. Project of the Year – Rehabilitation, Upgrading & Re-purposing

Acknowledging excellence in the improvement, modernisation or new use of existing underground structures. The focus includes innovation, sustainability, safety, value engineering, client satisfaction, public engagement and successful handling of operational constraints.

5. Technical Innovation of the Year

Recognising pioneering technologies, processes or engineering solutions that materially advance the state of the art in underground construction, with proven implementation during the eligibility period.

6. Product/Equipment Innovation of the Year

Rewarding transformative products, machinery or equipment that extend industry capabilities, improve safety and efficiency, or introduce breakthrough performance based on documented full-scale results.



ITA TUNNELLING
AWARDS 2026



7. Elevated Thinking – Underground: Shaping the Future

Celebrating visionary approaches that transcend engineering, highlighting leadership, advocacy, societal impact, environmental resilience and forward-thinking utilisation of underground space.

8. Young Tunneller of the Year

Honouring exceptional young professionals **born on or after 1 January 1989**, who demonstrate strong leadership, technical excellence, commitment to advancing the industry and measurable contributions to their organisation or project teams.

Nomination Process

Nominations are now open. ITA encourages project owners, contractors, engineering consultants, equipment manufacturers, research institutions and innovators from across the globe to submit their entries.

The submission deadline will be 30th June 2026.

Further information, category descriptions and the online entry form may be found at:

👉 <https://awards.ita-aites.org/>

A Global Stage for Underground Excellence

Winners of the ITA Tunnelling Awards gain international recognition and help set new benchmarks for creativity, sustainability and technical excellence within the industry. With the added significance of CPT's 20-year anniversary celebrations, **Lisbon 2026 is set to be a landmark edition**, bringing together global expertise and highlighting the transformative role of underground solutions in building resilient, sustainable and future-ready societies.

For more details contact awards@ita-aites.org