

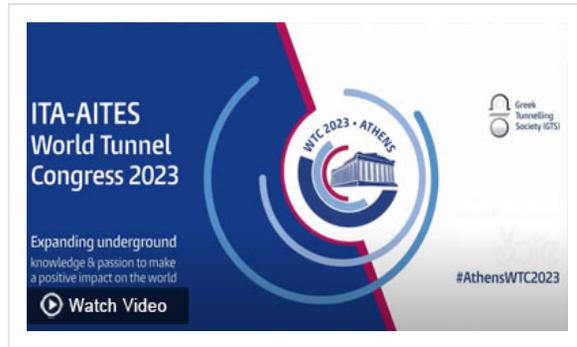
CONFERENCES

Greece wins vote to host WTC2023

11 Feb 2021

TunnelTalk reporting

Greece is to host the WTC2023 for the first time after winning by 33 votes to 14 in a head to head with Turkey at an Extraordinary General Assembly held by the ITA (International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association) on 10 Feb 2021. The 49th annual gathering of the WTC is to be hosted by The Greek Tunnelling Society and held in Athens at the Megaron Athens International Conference Centre from 12 to 18 May 2023 with the theme Expanding Underground. If Turkey had won, the host city would have been Antalya.



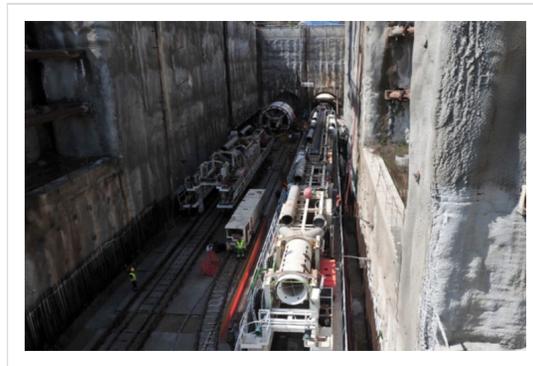
The Greek Tunneling Society has been involved in activities of the ITA-AITES since its creation 25 years ago during which time more than 350km of road, rail and hydraulic tunnels have been constructed in Greece. Following a return from the country's economic crisis 4-5 years ago, the country has experienced a surge in tunnel construction.

Some 65km of single tube road tunnels were recently completed on four motorways and 20km of rail tunnels including 24 metro stations are near completion for the new Athens Metro line 3 and for the Thessaloniki

Metro. Greek public funding of €442 million was agreed recently for the construction of the 120km long North section of the Central Greece Motorway (E65).

"Athens is famous for telling stories about humanity. They are often found deep below the ground, in almost every building foundation and tunnel. Our experts work passionately and deliberately every day to create innovative methods for infrastructure development that respect our culture heritage while continuing to build a modern and beautiful city," said Mayor Kostas Bakoyannis.

Due to the continued disruption to public events because of Coronavirus, the WTC2021 has been moved to 2022 and will be hosted by Denmark in Copenhagen.



Thessaloniki Metro, where 80% of the 14km tunnel was constructed by EPBM