

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **United States to host World Tunnel Congress in 2016**

On June 5, 2013, the World Tunnel Congress (WTC) and the 39th General Assembly of the International Tunneling and Underground Space Association (ITA) in Geneva, Switzerland, announced that the United States has won the bid to host the World Tunnel Congress in 2016 in San Francisco, CA. Jeff Petersen, chair of SME's Underground Construction Association (UCA), provided the presentation to the general assembly on June 2 and UCA incoming chair Bill Edgerton accepted the bid at the ITA's Executive Council Meeting on June 5. WTC 2016 will be held in conjunction with the North American Tunneling Conference (NAT).

"SME's Underground Construction Association is proud to be a part of this dynamic gathering of underground tunneling specialists and professionals," said SME Executive Director David L. Kanagy. "The opportunity to bring the UCA, NAT and ITA together at the 2016 World Tunnel Congress in the United States will be unprecedented."

The UCA of SME is an informative, interactive community of engineers, contractors, owners and government agents with a professional interest in the underground construction industry. Coupled with the NAT, which has also built a reputation for itself as a conference that provides quality programming along with information on various issues related to underground construction and tunneling, the 2016 WTC will be the premier source for networking opportunities and exchange of state-of-the-art technology from experts around the world.

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SME is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation) whose more than 15,000 members represent all professions serving the minerals industry in more than 100 countries. SME members are engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

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