NEWS RELEASE
July 9, 2015

Underground tunneling experts to meet in Denver
Cutting Edge 2015 conference to examine challenges of construction under urban areas

Sponsored by the Underground Construction Association of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (UCA of SME) and the North American Tunneling Journal, the 2015 Cutting Edge Conference on Urban Tunneling will be held September 21-23, 2015 at the Grant Hyatt Hotel, Denver, CO.

“We have found Cutting Edge Conferences to be geared to bring decision makers and leaders of the industry into a single location to talk about tunneling’s best practices,“ stated Michael White, Sales Manager, Brookville Equipment Corporation. “As a supplier of transportation equipment, the Cutting Edge Conferences have brought us in direct contact with current and future customers that allowed for valuable discussions about projects and equipment needs.”

More than 80 percent of the American population resides in urban areas. With a population increase of 40 percent predicted by 2050, the demand for new underground utilities and transportation infrastructure, as well as maintaining current facilities, will present major challenges for the continued development of the nation’s foundation.

Subject-specific presentations and discussion sessions that focus on innovations and practical experience have become a trademark of the Cutting Edge conferences. From the planning of underground space, to excavation methods and impacts on adjacent structures, Cutting Edge 2015 will take a detailed look at the current state of practice and examine developments necessary to improve the issues facing urban tunnel projects.

Conference program topics include:

- Mitigating adverse impacts from urban tunneling
- Utility tunneling in urban settings
- Environmental challenges/sustainability
- Tunnel boring machine (TBM) operation and logistics
- Caverns, stations and non-TBM tunneling under major cities
- Project management of urban megaprojects

Offsite field trips include a tour of the Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnels which carry Interstate 70 under the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains. Registration is now open, and sponsorships and booth space are still available. For more information on Cutting Edge 2015, visit www.ucaofsmecuttingedge.com.

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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 include engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

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SME exists to be the premier resource and advocate for the mining community. For further details, see www.smenet.org