

PRESS RELEASE

ITA COSUF still believes in young researchers and professionals

The COSUF Award 2014 is open to candidates!

"ITA COSUF aims at a widespread adoption of best practices in the field of safety and security underground. Consequently we need to develop the culture and know-how of practitioners and scientists. Like in previous years, we wish to attract the interest of the new generations of professionals on safety and security of underground facilities" said Roland Leucker, ITA COSUF chairman, commenting the steering board decision to award the 2014 COSUF prize.

Who can apply

Students, young professionals or researchers (less than 35 years old) are eligible if they have recently (in the last 2 years) completed a research work in theory and/or practice in the area of operational safety or security of underground facilities. Applicants need not be ITA COSUF members.

The prize

Together with the award certificate, ITA COSUF shall grant the winner travel and accommodation costs to attend the award ceremony and a 1000 Euro prize.

The award ceremony

The ITA COSUF Award 2014 will be presented in the 2nd quarter of 2014 during the ITA COSUF Workshop for which date and venue will be set on short notice. The winner shall have the opportunity to present his/her own work during a plenary session of the workshop, which will take place during the ITA World Tunnel Congress.

The deadline

Any other information, including contents of the application file, is available on the COSUF website <http://cosuf.ita-aites.org/>. The application in English language must be received by the ITA secretariat by **28 February 2014**.

The Committee on Operational Safety of Underground Facilities (COSUF) of the International Tunnelling and underground space Association (ITA) was installed in May 2005 following a joint initiative of 8 European research projects which all aimed at improved tunnel safety. In the last 8 years, COSUF gathered among its members some of the most recognized experts, scientists and operators from all continents.

The Committee scope is safety in operation and security in tunnels and other underground facilities. ITA COSUF aims at improving and promoting safety and security underground, through networking activities and dissemination of technical culture and new knowledge.

The hall of fame



In 2009, **Ben Nieman** received the first ITA COSUF Award for his master thesis at the University of Delft, the Netherlands, entitled: "**Cracking on the Unheated Side during a Fire in an Immersed Tunnel**". From both a practical and theoretical side, the thesis deals with a lurking problem of large cracks at the fire-unexposed side of tunnel linings. This is especially relevant for immersed and cut-and-cover tunnels.

The 2010 award was conferred to **Stefan Kratzmeir** from Germany for *his excellent record on tunnel safety research*. He worked as a scientific manager, managed R&D applications and is project coordinator of the SOLIT² Research Project. Stefan contributed to European projects like UPTUN, FIT and the German project SOLIT in a high-level manner, always with a focus on the development of fire fighting and the acceptance of fixed fire fighting systems. Today Stefan Kratzmeir

works as a managing director at the Institute for Applied Fire Safety Research (IFAB).

In 2012, the ITA COSUF Award was granted to **Ying Zhen Li** of SP Technical Research Institute (Sweden) for his work on *fire dynamics in tunnels*. The work of Ying Zhen Li on the latest advance of research on tunnel fire dynamics was included in the September 2012 issue of the ITA COSUF Newsletter, available on the COSUF website <http://cosuf.ita-aites.org>.

In 2013, the award was handed over to **Enrico Ronchi** for his contribution in the area of Evacuation Modelling in Road Tunnel Fires combining various evacuation models to increase the reliability of predictions regarding human behaviour, vali-dated by tests. The corresponding paper of his presentation is included in this September 2013 Newsletter. Details on the call for proposals for the ITA COSUF Award 2014 are available on <http://cosuf.ita-aites.org>.