

FRENCH TUNNELLING
AND UNDERGROUND SPACE ASSOCIATION

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#AFTES2026



AFTES CONGRESS 2026 : CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

We are pleased to invite you to submit a paper for the next edition of the AFTES Congress. **Abstract submissions are exclusively conducted online** via the submission platform available on www.aftes2026.com, after reading the following instructions.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 7 th , 2025	Opening of the abstract submission platform
June 30 th , 2025	Abstract submission deadline
July 21 st , 2025	Deadline extension for abstract submission
October 1 st , 2025	Notification of abstracts' acceptance to authors
	Opening of the full paper submission platform
January 5 th , 2026	Final deadline for full paper submission
April 2 nd , 2026	Notification to authors of final acceptance of full papers
October 12 th – 14 th , 2026	Opening of the congress

CONFERENCE THEMES

1. Sustainable solutions to environmental challenges

- Sustainable management of natural resources** : Responsible management practices for excavated material and water during underground works.
- New materials for underground infrastructures** : More durable, resistant, and lightweight materials (composites, high-performance concrete, etc.).
- Assessing and reducing environmental impacts**: Methods for assessing environmental impacts, strategies for minimizing the impact of works and preserving biodiversity, examples of solutions reducing the carbon footprint.

2. Technological and digital innovations in underground works

- New digital and decision-making tools** : BIM (Building Information Modeling), digital twins, drones, augmented reality, immersive training, and AI applied to the design and management of underground projects,
- Automated systems and robotization/mechanization of construction sites** : Use of automated tools for construction, automated monitoring systems (proactive risk and emergency management), robotic maintenance (reducing downtime and optimizing equipment lifespan)
- New calculation tools, advanced modelling**: improvement of design methods and advanced modelling



3. Opportunities offered by the city and underground infrastructure

- a) **New uses for underground spaces** : Use of underground spaces to respond to demographic pressure and the lack of urban space: overview of uses (housing, mobility, storage, public services); reuse of existing infrastructure: how to take advantage of existing underground heritage for more sustainable management.
- b) **Underground infrastructure for sustainable mobility** : Metro tunnels, underground transport networks, and their role in managing the cities of tomorrow.
- c) **Public policy for the management of the urban subsurface** : Regulations, underground urban planning and distribution of subsurface use rights in large cities.

4. Health and safety of workers in underground environments

- a) **Prevention of risks related to underground works since the design phase**: safety of workers in the face of specific risks (pedestrian collision, gas, temperatures, etc.)
- b) **Working conditions in confined spaces**: lighting, ventilation, ergonomics and protection of workers in extreme environments.
- c) **Training and skills development** : ensuring the development of operators' skills to master new technologies and working methods.

5. Complex underground projects: financial and organizational challenges

- a) **Contractual Models and Financing of Underground Projects** : Economic and Financial Models Adapted to Complex Underground Projects, Impact of Financing and Political Choices
- b) **Implementing complex underground projects** : Managing time, cost, and risk in large underground infrastructure projects, impact of the geopolitical context on projects
- c) **Interdisciplinary collaboration and stakeholder integration** : How to successfully coordinate between engineers, architects, geologists, and other experts for successful projects; acceptability by local people; active communication

6. The Future of Underground Infrastructure: Flexibility, Resilience, and Innovation

- a) **"Smart" underground infrastructures**: integration of new technologies (IoT, etc.) for real-time management and maintenance of underground networks. Impact of AI on underground works: design assistance at the various phases of project design, preventive/performance management of infrastructure maintenance, etc.
- b) **Adaptating to new climate and energy challenges**: How underground technologies can contribute to the energy transition (e.g. exploitation of geothermal resources, underground energy storage); resilience of underground infrastructure to extreme weather events; role of the underground in the prevention of climate risks and preventive measures...
- c) **Men and women committed to projects**: matching the needs of projects with the available capacities, making our sector attractive for the younger generation, new professions to be anticipated, specialized training, etc...

PRESENTING AUTHOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

As the primary contact for the abstract, the presenting author will be responsible for:

- Communicating to all co-authors regarding the acceptance of the abstract



- Obtaining conflict of interest disclosures from them

ABSTRACT FORMAT AND SUBMISSION

To submit an abstract, go to the congress website www.aftes2026.com, under the "Call for Papers" section, click on "Submit a Paper," and follow the steps.

The abstract may be submitted in either French or English. Please ensure that you submit your abstract in French on the French version of the platform, or conversely, submit your abstract in English on the English version of the platform.

Following items are required:

- Authors' Information (first name, last name, organization, etc.)
- The number of co-authors should not exceed 6
- The title should not exceed 200 characters
- Abstract Topic: please select the theme that best describes your abstract. If the suggested themes do not match your abstract, please select "Other" and indicate your theme suggestion
- Abstract should not exceed the 400 words
- Specific characters are allowed
- Images and tables are not allowed.
- Abbreviations should be avoided as much as possible and must be explained if used occasionally.

Warning: Abstracts that do not meet all these submission criteria will be automatically rejected by the platform.

ABSTRACT REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE

All abstracts submitted will be examined by the Scientific Commission, which will notify each author of the decision, possibly accompanied by a comment. Only accepted abstract authors will be able to submit a complete paper. However, acceptance of abstracts is not worth final acceptance of the communications that will be pronounced only after examination of the quality and the relevance of these. The instructions and format for full papers will be made available to authors at a later date.

AUTHORIZATION FOR PUBLICATION AND SALE

By submitting a summary for inclusion in the book of abstracts, the author grants the organizers the right to publish and distribute their text in print and/or digital format. This publication may be sold to cover production and distribution costs.

The author retains full rights to their work and may reuse it freely. However, any request for withdrawal of the summary after submission must be made in writing before the finalization of the book.

CONTACT

For any questions regarding your submission, please do not hesitate to contact the Scientific Secretariat: aftes@gl-events.com