

# LOOKING FORWARD TO GHENT

**This year's FITCE congress in Ghent takes place on 25-27 September, says Ed Smith who hopes to see many ITP members there: "Given that this date is fast approaching I contacted the organising team, José Van Ooteghem, Marlies Van der Wee and Walter Van Hemeledonck, to find out how preparations are going and what we can expect the congress to be like."**

**The organisers are confident that the professional program will be of the highest quality and they have received over 35 papers, in two tracks – a scientific IEEE track featuring original scientific papers and an industrial technology track covering innovative technological contributions directed to companies and public administrations.**

The high-level programme is already finalised, with papers being presented in topical sessions, such as mobility, 5G, smart energy amongst others. To promote networking there is a welcome and networking reception in the city hall, which is a beautiful historic venue. In a break from tradition, the conference dinner will be held on the Thursday evening.

The partner programme will follow the spirit of earlier congresses and include a guided tour of the historical city centre including a visit to the Cathedral with the famous Altarpiece the Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, (Dutch: Het Lam Gods) 15th-century polyptych<sup>1</sup> painting by brothers Hubert and Jan van Eyck. There will be a boat trip with aperitif through the Ghent canals of the historical city and a visit to the Design Museum or visit to the Castle of the Courts. All this and partners also have the option of joining the Congress Dinner.

The congress has secured keynote speeches from a number of high profile industry experts, for example Sofie Bracke, the municipal officer for digital strategy of the City of Ghent, will explain the vision and

**Where?** Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium  
**When?** 25-27 September, 2019  
**How to get there?** <https://visit.gent.be/en/good-know/practical-information/how-get-ghent>  
**More details?** <https://cttefitce2019.eu/>

strategy of Ghent in becoming a true smart city. She will also highlight some recent and future projects the city has engaged in towards this goal. FITCE's president Stefan Rugel will be describing Deloitte's City Synergy solution for managing smart city applications and there will be a special session on best practices for smart cities.

The City of Ghent is sponsoring our event as it acknowledges the importance of smart applications for the future progress of the city. This covers not just sponsoring the event, but also presentation and discussion of Ghent's digital strategy to become a true smart city, in which experts from multiple European cities will share their experiences and goals. This session will be moderated by Wolter Lemstra, a distinguished academic who also has 25 years' experience in telecoms.

The second gold sponsor is POST Luxembourg, who will also present their view on 5G for Smart Cities. POST Luxembourg is the established operator in Luxembourg, delivering telecommunications, post and financial services. There has been additional support by FITCE Luxembourg. The team are still in discussion with other companies that are interested in setting up a booth at our conference, and are open to start new discussions. (It's not too late to become a sponsor and interested sponsors are

invited to look at: <https://cttefitce2019.eu/documents/>.)

The preparations for the congress appear to be well advanced and we can expect a first class professional programme delivered by industry experts, backed up with good opportunities for networking and an excellent social programme. To register and get more information, please visit <http://congress.fitce.eu/>.



## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



The conference timetable has been organised to allow delegates to take advantage of both the formal sessions and to enjoy the ambience of this historic city and its rich amenities. There will also be a separate partner's programme providing a rich and interesting cultural experience.

([www.youtube.com/embed/fLXhjLJ1Rs](http://www.youtube.com/embed/fLXhjLJ1Rs) shows the wonders the city has to offer.)

<sup>1</sup>A painting, often an altarpiece, having more than three leaves or panels joined by folds or hinges.