

Center for Infrastructure Expertise

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tunnels play a significant role in the transportation network and commerce of most countries, including the United States. Whether used to bypass congested highways, rivers, or other barriers, tunnels create unique challenges for safety and security in preventing, mitigating, and responding to fires, vehicle and hazardous materials accidents, and terrorism attacks.

Recent tunnel disasters and dramatic new research reinforces the need to protect tunnels and the people who use them. The NI² Center for Infrastructure Expertise and its co-sponsors will hold an *International Symposium on Tunnel Safety and Security* on **November 16 & 17, 2004** at the Greenbelt Marriott in the greater Washington, D.C. area.

The Symposium will provide a forum for North American and European public and private experts to discuss, for the first time, the strategies, technologies, and procedures to significantly improve tunnel protection, safety and security.

The Symposium is jointly sponsored by the NI² Center, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), SP Swedish National Testing and Research Institute (SP), the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP), and the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM).

Registration and Symposium Website: <http://www.ni2cie.org/tunnels/tunnelmain.htm>

Planned sessions include:

- Case Studies
- Research Projects and Experimental Results
- Human Behavior
- Emergency Operations
- Passive and Active Protection

Recommended Attendees

- Fire, safety, and security responders and experts
- Tunnel managers, operators and designers
- Research organizations
- Public transportation administrators and regulators

Exhibitors

Exhibitors will be present to demonstrate available state of the art technology and resources. Vendors interested in exhibiting at the symposium should contact Jane Donovan at the NI² Center for Infrastructure Expertise via email at jdonovan@ni2.org or telephone at 1 (603) 766-3390 ext. 16.

FOR ADDITIONAL SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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The NI² Center for Infrastructure Expertise is a not-for-profit applied research organization dedicated to improving the management and protection of the built infrastructure in the United States. The Center is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology.