

Press Release

Managing tomorrow's traffic – fluid, safe and climate-friendly

Future-oriented traffic management will make a significant contribution to advancing the climate protection and enabling sustainable mobility behavior - both in passenger and freight transport. From June 26-30, 2023, around 320 international experts discussed the role of future traffic management at the 4th International Symposium on Freeway and Tollway Operations (ISFO) in Vienna.

Vienna, 13.7.2023

Vienna hosted the 4th ISFO, a U.S. Transport Research Board (TRB) event, from June 26-30, 2023. The focus was on the future of traffic management and its impact potential for sustainable mobility. Austria has been active in this field for decades, as demonstrated, for example, by the implementation of C-ITS solutions - i.e. the connection and communication of infrastructure and vehicles.

The event was organized by AustriaTech, a subsidiary of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. "It was important to us to move traffic management from an often hidden role to the center of future mobility solutions. After all, without comprehensive control, new technologies and mobility services can hardly offer any added value. Whether automated, shared or electric - discussing this topic with all its facets on an international level has enabled us to identify potential and learn from each other," explains Martin Russ, Managing Director of AustriaTech.

A total of 320 experts from 36 countries attended ISFO 2023 in Vienna. 43 sessions and workshops were offered and additionally six technical tours on the topic of C-ITS and automated mobility took place. The event was supported on the Austrian side by the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, ASFINAG, Kapsch TrafficCom, Yunex Traffic und SWARCO.

The event examined aspects of traffic management from all sides and also addressed locally different goals and challenges. Four key messages emerged across all sessions and discussions:

1. **Traffic management is urban and multimodal:** In addition to the construction and operation of highways, traffic management is increasingly being used in urban environments, for example to allow emergency vehicles or public transport to communicate with traffic lights, or to coordinate access to sensitive areas or loading zones.
1. **Focus on climate change:** On the one hand, the effects of climate change must be better taken into account, including extreme weather events. On the other hand, traffic management can actively contribute to making the mobility behavior of each individual more sustainable. Interlinking with e-mobility or sharing solutions is an important approach here.
2. **Increasing safety and efficiency:** We need new and better data to plan better with existing capacities and make neuralgic points safer. Here, too, the options are becoming more diverse and more accurate. A standardized approach and coordinated exchange between all partners involved is essential.
3. **Partnerships are key:** whether public-private partnerships or public-public partnerships, the consensus at the event was that we always achieve more together than alone. The challenges we all face around the world require a joint approach.

Student Paper Award

Tomorrow's experts must be engaged today to successfully meet the challenges of transportation. Within the framework of the Student Paper Award, which was supported by the ERTICO Innovation Platform on interactive traffic management, TM 2.0, the following students received awards for their scientific papers at ISFO 2023:

3. place: Junlan Chen, Monash University, „A Generative Deep Learning Approach for Highway Crash Severity Modeling with Imbalanced Data“
2. place: Chintaman Bari, Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, „Establishment of Warrants for Electronic Toll Collection Lane (ETC) Operations in India“
1. place: Xuerun Yan, Tongji University, „A Simulation Platform for Truck Platooning – Evaluation with Interactive Traffic Consideration“

With ISFO 2023, new approaches to solutions and challenges were made visible and concrete steps were recorded. Take advantage of a global community – think ahead faster! For the good of society.

All information about the event: www.austriatech.at/isfo2023

Contact:

AustriaTech – Gesellschaft des Bundes für technologiepoltische Maßnahmen GmbH

Katharina Schüller, MA

Head of Communications

Raimundgasse 1/6, A-1020 Vienna

Telefon: +43 1 26 33 444-48

Mobil: +43 676 614 00 29

Katharina.Schueller@austriatech.at

<http://www.austriatech.at>

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