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## Preface

Davide Fabbri

President of the Swiss  
Tunnelling Society

Ladies and Gentlemen  
Dear Colleagues

We can look back proudly on a successful anniversary year in 2023, in which we celebrated the STS' 50th anniversary with style. One of the outstanding events we experienced last year was, of course, the "InSight into the Underground" project – a great opportunity to make well-known and lesser-known underground structures accessible to the Swiss public. We are very pleased that this project has attracted so much interest across generations. The "STS Young Members Podium" was also organised for the first time in the STS' history. This event gave young engineers the opportunity to present their projects to a wider audience. The ceremony included speeches, panel discussions and musical performances and provided a memorable setting for the celebration.

After these unforgettable experiences during our anniversary year, we will return to our traditional – but no less interesting – programme in 2024. The STC will take place from 5 to 6 June 2024 in the Lucerne Hall of the KKL Luzern. The subsequent excursions on offer will take place on 7 June 2024. We are very much looking forward to meeting you in person and exchanging ideas with you!

The title of this year's colloquium is "Materials Management and Sustainability in Tunnelling". Materials management is not a new topic, but demands and requirements for efficiency and sustainability are becoming increasingly stringent, especially in the area of underground construction projects. This development is partly due to changing public and political expectations, which demand a sensible and prudent use of resources – as well as technical solutions and measures – that meet the challenges of climate protection.

The colloquium will be organised, as in previous years, in collaboration with the STS young members (STSym). To encourage young, ambitious tunnellers to take part in the STC, tickets can be purchased at special prices.

This year's congress programme is, once again, full of interesting and challenging contributions. Our selected speakers will present information on current developments in Swiss underground tunnelling projects such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rosenberg Tunnel, the SBB Ligerz double-track tunnel, the Gubrist Tunnel, the Ferney cut-and-cover tunnel, the Pyramides d'Euseigne Tunnel and the new rail line in Neuchâtel – La Chaux-de-Fonds. Case studies and lessons learned will also be presented. Presentations on our international tunnelling projects, including talks on the TELT Lyon-Turin Base Tunnel, the Galleria Terzo Valico and the Koralm Tunnel projects, promise an exciting exchange of technical expertise across national borders.

Finally, we are thrilled that Mr Marco Rosso, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Cargo sous terrain AG, will be giving the opening speech on an innovative project aimed at future underground, climate-friendly freight logistics.

The excursions on offer after the congress include visiting the following projects: the Gotthard road tunnel (materials management/pre-lot), the Sihl-Zürichsee spillway tunnel (Thalwil) and the Gubrist tunnel repairs (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> tunnels). Participants will be shown different areas at the construction sites so that they can gain their own comprehensive insights into the activities being carried out.

Finally, the STC would not be feasible without the enormous commitment of our loyal sponsors. I therefore owe them my special thanks. I would also like to thank the speakers, exhibitors and organisers who make it possible for us to hold such a high-quality event so successfully every year.

I wish you plenty of exciting encounters and informative discussions at the STC 2024!

All the very best,  
Davide Fabbri, President

**Swiss Tunnelling Society**