DESCRIPTION

This Technical Session revolves around a country: Mexico. During the last years, and thanks to the strong thrust provided by new infrastructure investment programs, tunnelling in Mexico has significantly developed. The aim of the technical session here presented consists in tracing an outlook of this activity. In order to do so, we have some of the main actors of these developments as speakers, providing different points of view, from contractors to engineers. It also covers works of different nature and in many geological environments, thus providing an idea of the diverse and sometimes extreme geotechnics of Mexico.

Given that many Spanish companies are now expanding their activities abroad, this technical session will offer them an opportunity to know, through direct testimony, the practical experiences, techniques and specific conditions of underground works in the most populated country of Hispanic America.

DE LA LLATA inaugurates the technical session with a general vision of the geology and geotechnics of Mexico, which forms the backdrop to further presentations. Antonio ALONSO presents the tunnelling works carried out by PROACON in Durango-Mazatlan, which the Mexican government has qualified as "the greatest work in road history in Mexico". The Federal Commission of Electricity is also breaking records with regards to its construction activity and Humberto MARENGO, project coordinator for the Commission, will give an overview of the most significant underground works. One of these works is La Yesca’s dam, built in volcanic materials and whose main monumental cavern illustrates this program and will give the subject to Fermín SÁNCHEZ’s intervention.

Mexico DF not only is one of the biggest cities in the world but is also built on one of its most peculiar clayey formations. In this technical session two large recent underground works will be discussed in some detail: the Tunnel Emisor Oriente, which will be described by Mario AGUILAR and Adrián LOMBARDO, and Line 12 of the subway, which will be discussed by Ismael BENAMAR and Marc COMULADA. EPB operations, deep excavations, geotechnical and structural conditions of the project, are some of the aspects that will be treated in detail by these speakers. The technical session ends with a round table in which Manuel ROMANA, Leoncio PRIETO and Mario GARCIA, who are greatly experienced in the field of underground works, both in Mexico and Spain, will explain their point-of-view on how better to relocate experiences from one country to the other.

Fermín Sánchez, (Consultec),
Marcos Arroyo (UPC, Ingeniería del Terreno).

Technical conference coordinators