Reflections on the FISITA Technology of Mobility Conference and Exhibition 2023











Chris Mason looks back on FISITA's inaugural Technology of Mobility Conference and Exhibition (TMCE) in Barcelona, which brought together over 2,100 automotive and mobility engineers for three days of networking and pre-competitive knowledge-sharing.

Important things happen when you gather 2,164 automotive engineers in one place at the same time to discuss the future of mobility. And that's what we saw at the inaugural FISITA Technology of Mobility Conference and Exhibition (TMCE), which brought together FISITA World Mobility Summit, FISITA World Congress, EuroBrake, and FISITA Intelligent Safety Conference Europe (ISCE).

There was an overwhelming sense of delight that in-person FISITA events are back, and this was a powerful return; held in Barcelona in partnership with the Spanish Society of Automotive Engineers (STA), the four events across three days hosted 2,164 attendees and 103 exhibitors and delivered 393 presentations, 80 technical papers and 12 panel sessions.

Joan Amigo, CEO of Applus+ was among a list of FISITA World Congress speakers that also included Stefan Deix of EUCAR, Hui Zhang of NIO, and Jaclyn McQuaid, President and Managing Director of GM Europe.

EuroBrake delegates heard from Dr. Panagiota Dilara of the European Commission's DG-GROW, Ford's Jarek Grochowicz, Pierre Garnier of Jaguar Land Rover, and EuroBrake Chair Jan Münchhoff.

Michiel van Ratingen, Secretary General of Euro NCAP spoke to ISCE delegates, as did Pierre Millette of ACEA, Autoliv's Cecilia Sunnevång, and Dominik Schuster, Vice President Vehicle Safety at BMW Group and ISCE Chair.

And Carlos Tavares, CEO of Stellantis opened FISITA World Mobility Summit with a passionate keynote; attendees also heard from Denis Le Vot, CEO of Dacia; Feng Shen, Executive VP of NIO; and Siddhartha Bagri, CEO and founder of Pravaig Dynamics.

After three years in post, Nadine Leclair handed the FISITA Presidency to Mike Anderson, Vice President, Global Electrification and Battery Systems at General Motors; and he in turn welcomed Chang Hwan Kim, Hyundai-Kia's Head of Battery and H_2 Fuel Cell Development, as President-elect of FISITA, who will begin his presidency in 2025.

Climate change, sustainability, affordability, road traffic safety – these are all global problems, but often the best way to address them is with local solutions, and the need for incremental and application-specific solutions, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach was an overriding theme at FISITA TMCE 2023.















The event's keynotes and panel discussions addressed a diverse range of topics, including changing perceptions of mobility, rapidly developing propulsion technologies, the impact of electrification on new vehicle R&D, and ideas about how to decarbonise the existing fleet.

We heard about the evolving role of the private car, the automotive industry's transition from sales to service, the rise of the software-defined vehicle, and the still-undefined role of user data.

Senior-level Euro 7 negotiations are now well under way, and its impact will be felt across the automotive industry, not just in terms of powertrain emissions control, but in other key areas, too, such as tyre wear and brake dust. New material sourcing and lifecycle analysis fed into discussions about the potential environmental and commercial value of circular economy models and the importance of end-of-life vehicle handling. Interestingly, while there was an assumption that some form of automated driving technology is coming, there was less certainty about what that will look like, and when.

And against this complex and challenging backdrop, it's to the automotive engineering community that we turn for competitive products that offer not just safe, sustainable and affordable mobility, but also desirable solutions that delight and excite consumers, whether they are buying products or using them as services.

The value of networking, knowledge sharing, pre-competitive problem solving, and open debate and discussion were underlined in the halls of the Barcelona International Convention Centre (CCIB). This event was designed to help the automotive engineering community understand those issues and feed that knowledge back into their work.

And that's what happens when you get a couple of thousand automotive engineers in one place at the same time. FISITA is the organisation that can make that happen, and FISITA TMCE 2023 was just the start: we're already planning FISITA TMCE 2025.



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