



NEWS RELEASE – May 2, 2019

## **Rapid Excavation & Tunneling Conference headed for Chicago** *4-day event to focus on underground systems worldwide*

Registration is now open for the Rapid Excavation & Tunneling Conference (RETC) sponsored by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME), June 16-19, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, IL. For more than 22 years, RETC has been recognized as the leading conference for tunneling innovation, technological information exchange, and provider of the latest developments and advances in the field of underground construction. Every two years, industry leaders and practitioners from around the world gather at RETC, the leading authoritative program for the tunneling profession.

Tunnels are getting larger and deeper, and are excavated in increasingly-challenging conditions. The expectation is to successfully complete projects while meeting the heavy construction challenges of sustaining quality, scheduling, performance and safety. This all-inclusive conference will help industry professionals keep up with the ever-changing and growing tunneling industry.

Technical programs include:

- Pressure Face TBM Technology
- Environmental, Health & Safety
- Tunneling for Sustainability
- New and Innovative Technologies
- Design/Build Projects
- Large Span Tunnels & Caverns
- Difficult Ground



More than 1,400 industry professionals from around the world will have access to 34,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space with more than 180 booths featuring the latest in industry technological advancements. In addition to the programming, RETC and UCA of SME Young Members are offering scholarships for attendance. The scholarships provide selected students with an opportunity to attend RETC where they can experience firsthand the challenges, opportunities, and rewards of a career in the fields of tunneling and underground construction.

For more information, visit [www.retc.org/](http://www.retc.org/).

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SME is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation) whose members represent all professions serving the mining, minerals and underground construction industries in more than 100 countries. SME members include engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

For more information, contact Jackie Dorr, Communications Manager, [dorr@smenet.org](mailto:dorr@smenet.org).

*SME exists to be the premier resource and advocate for the mining community.*

*For further details, see [www.smenet.org](http://www.smenet.org)*