

21st UITIC

INTERNATIONAL
TECHNICAL FOOTWEAR
CONGRESS



INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

20-22 September 2023 | MILAN-VIGEVANO | ITALY

CALL FOR TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

We are pleased to invite you to propose your participation as a speaker at the 21st International Technical Footwear Congress of the International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians (UITIC), which will be held on **20-22 September 2023 in Milan**. UITIC will collaborate with ASSOMAC, organiser of SIMAC / TANNING TECH and co-host of the event. The executive implementation is assigned to MESSE FRANKFURT a renowned brand active in the organization of international technical exhibitions and congresses.

Footwear manufacturers and experts will discuss on the future of the footwear companies through sustainability and the main innovations will be presented. The common topic will be:

Moving towards Sustainability through Innovation

The integration of sustainability in all its dimensions is no longer an option for the global footwear industry. It is a pressing and urgent necessity. It is also an opportunity for companies to find new sources of competitiveness and attractiveness.

If innovation and sustainable development have sometimes been considered as two antagonistic principles, they must now be fully associated to ensure the viability of the company. Sustainability is becoming more and more important in society and it is seen by consumers as an increasingly important value. In this context, neglecting sustainable innovation when creating products, services and equipment would be a mistake that could lead to turning one's back on the future.

In our sector, all the processes of design, production, logistics, distribution, all the services and organisations will have to reinvent themselves with this new mindset by integrating in particular the great possibilities brought about by the digital transition. In the same logic, new standards or regulations should be understood as opportunities for differentiation, and this new, more responsible business model will offer young people real opportunities to contribute to the future, including of course that of the footwear industry.

This is the most important evolution for several centuries, and we need to move quickly. That is why the UITIC, in the framework of its 21st Congress, is inviting you to share your work or your experiences on all these subjects.

UITIC and ASSOMAC count on your cooperation to propose an attractive event to the worldwide footwear community!



1. HEADLINES OF THE CONGRESS

SESSION 1: Product, materials and consumers of tomorrow

The objective of this session is to highlight innovations to better meet consumer needs, explore new design paradigm, conceive products with less environmental impact, identify and implement new materials, and propose methods to measure the environmental impact of products and materials. As an example, some of the topics related to this session:

- *Methods of analysing consumers' needs.*
- *Expectations in terms of transparency, future developments, tools to meet expectations.*
- *Connected and empowered consumers.*
- *Customization and its new drivers*
- *New retail landscapes.*
- *The evolution of the shoe as a product; simplification of the concept of footwear.*
- *Knitted upper and 3D printed outsoles.*
- *Additive manufacturing in shoe making.*
- *New products combining comfort, fashion and low environmental impact*
- *Methods to analyse the environmental impact of products and materials, life cycle analysis.*
- *Impact of the future regulation on chemical products and new materials.*
- *New materials to improve the environmental impact, biodegradability.*
- *New way to improve consumer protection.*
- *New packaging and their impact in term of sustainability.*
- *The contribution of biomechanics to improve product performance.*
- *Improving the durability and reparability of footwear.*

SESSION 2: Digital transformation

To deal with major economic, technological, organizational challenges, companies must rethink their tools. New design and manufacturing technologies are fundamental means to provide improved, secure, flexible, reliable, competitive tools. They constitute a vast field of improvement in the overall competitiveness of the company. It is essential to reduce the innovation lead time and the design and production cycle duration, through the massive use of digital models and digital data exchanges. Topics suited for this headline are:

- *Automation of the shoe manufacturing process.*
- *Applied robotics, collaborative robotics in manufacturing processes.*
- *Artificial Intelligence and manufacturing.*
- *Connected machines and systems. Industry 4.0 and beyond.*
- *Cyber physical systems and cyber safety.*
- *Environmental impact of these new manufacturing methods (Life-cycle analysis).*
- *Digital transformation impact on the supply chain.*
- *Intelligent factories (Industry 4.0).*
- *New CAD-CAM platforms, new PLM, and new ICT peripherals.*
- *Multiple and advanced applications of additive manufacturing (3D printing and others).*
- *Modelling and simulation tools (to assess product or process performance).*
- *Assistance to operators: cognitive (through AR and VR) or physical.*
- *Digital and innovative solutions to improve flexibility and reactivity.*
- *Data storing and processing efficiently, securely, reliably.*
- *Valuable data in real time to make decision*
- *Process data gathering and analysis (big data and analytics).*
- *Digital passport for the traceability of sustainable materials in footwear.*



SESSION 3: Human capital for industry 5.0

The new technological age in which we are entering, will impose deep evolutions regarding humans' place in footwear companies. It needs a human-centred factory, to better consider collaborators' expectations all along their active life and to better attract talents it needs. Digital revolution will strongly impact the skills required and it will define new jobs, new management methods or attitudes will emerge. Employee protection, as well as skills development, is a major issue in sustainability. Innovative, realistic and concrete solutions are expected, in particular on the following subjects:

- *New methods for skill development integrating sustainability.*
- *New forms of management to improve motivation in regard to sustainability expectations*
- *New know-how required for advanced design, manufacturing, and sustainability.*
- *New training tools (e-learning, virtual reality...).*
- *Workers 4.0; the "new human" capital.*
- *Retraining of shopfloor workers for new skills and capabilities.*
- *The role of schools and educational institutions in this new scenario*
- *Digital workers for a digital transformation.*
- *New roles for the footwear workers of tomorrow*
- *Working conditions improvements and hardness work reduction.*
- *Methods, tools, approaches to improve working conditions.*

SESSION 4: Successful sustainability stories

Beyond the will of companies to become sustainable manufacturers, they are often confronted with implementation difficulties and the definition of their priorities. This topic is vast and could be approached from the angle of products or of production equipment. There is also often the question of labelling systems to ensure that the approaches are recognised. This last session, based on success stories covering all aspects of sustainability, will allow to present global approaches that had not been dealt with in the previous sessions. Its aim will also be to enlighten participants about the key success factors for implementing their project. Therefore, it will be very wide and may cover topics like:

- *Examples of sustainable manufacturing approaches and circular economy.*
- *Holistic sustainable approaches involving manufacturers and suppliers.*
- *Sustainability step by step: good practices for innovation projects about sustainability.*
- *Waste treatment and waste decreasing throughout the life cycle.*
- *Recycling, dismantling, collection adjusted to the footwear industry needs.*
- *Innovative clean technologies.*
- *Digital passport for the traceability of sustainable materials in footwear.*
- *Standardization agreement for manufacturing components.*
- *Evolution of international regulations.*
- *Concrete approach to voluntary labelling and market expectations.*
- *Standards and certification for low energy consumption manufacturing (green label).*
- *Material and consumer safety standards.*
- *Best practices from other sectors for responsible innovation projects recognised by clients.*





2. CALL FOR PROPOSAL - General Information

The Scientific Committee will accept two categories of presentation:

- **Spoken presentation:** Speech (20 min) and questions
- **Visual presentation:** Posters exhibited in the days of the congress – Work Presentations during the breaks – formal presentation could be organized (depending on the scientific program schedule)

a. Submission Process:

- **The online abstract submission will be open soon on <https://www.uitic-italy2023.com/181/call-for-proposal>**
- **All abstracts must be submitted online no later than 15 May 2023.** Please note that abstracts sent by fax or regular mail will not be accepted. Abstracts submitted after this date will not be considered.
- **One presenting author may submit only two abstracts.**
- The author who submits the abstract will be notified the receipt of abstract and assigned an abstract number by organizers. Please refer to this abstract number in all correspondence. Please contact the Congress Secretariat (uitic@uitic.org) if the notification is not received within a week of submission.
- Individuals may submit their abstract for consideration in either poster or oral presentation. Abstracts that will not be selected for an oral presentation will be offered a poster presentation. Abstracts should contain sufficient contents to represent the proposed presentation and fall within the scope of the Congress. Abstracts that do not include sufficient information or do not fall within the scope of the congress may be rejected.
- The abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee. **The presenting author will be notified about the final decision regarding the acceptance or rejection of the paper by 15 June 2023 at the latest.** If you have NOT received a notification letter about your submitted abstract, please contact: congressabstract@uitic.org.
- **All Full PowerPoint presentations must be submitted online no later than 1 September 2023.**
- Accepted abstracts will be published in the proceedings of the Congress.
- The Scientific Committee reserve the right to allocate abstracts into sessions as they see fit, in accordance with the overall program objectives.
- **Further information on presentation requirements and preparation of posters will be provided on the website in due time.**

b. Instructions to prepare the abstracts and submission:

- All abstracts must be written in English.
- All abstracts must be approved by all authors before submission. The presenting author will receive all correspondence concerning the abstract and he is in charge of informing the other authors of the status of the abstract.
- Presenter Name & Title & Address— List the full name and title of the person who will present the paper. List the name of the department, institution and full postal address (including zip/postal code and country, e-mail).
- Authors' names and other details should be entered in the appropriate fields.
- Indicate the relevant session you are submitting your abstract.
- Select the presentation type (oral or poster).
- Title of abstract: it should be short but descriptive. Title should be entered in the "Title Field".
- Abstract text should be entered in the "abstract field". Abstract should be 200-250 words. The system will not accept the submission of the abstract if it is more than 250 words.
- Abstracts must use correct grammar and punctuation. Standard abbreviations may be used.
- Changes are not permitted after submission deadlines.

Please contact the Congress Secretariat (uitic@uitic.org) for any other question