Introduction

The broader transport environment is undergoing rapid transformation and Smart Mobility is all about moving people, goods and services more efficiently from door to door. Strategies to overcome challenges of the “first-mile-last-mile” in the mobility value chain will give impetus to public transport and enhance interoperability between all modes with a commuter-centric focus.

Urbanisation is growing unabated and causes a high demand for public transportation solutions. The United Nations strongly suggests that this percentage will increase from the current 50% level of people living in cities to 70% within four decades. The future of commuting via public transit is supported by leveraging technology to promote savings and sustainability. The energy and cost efficiency of the public transportation system directly affects urban cities. A Smart City is unthinkable without efficient Public Transport driven by the dual demands of sustainability and smart mobility.

In 2017 and 2018 the Intelligent Transport Society of South Africa (ITSSA) and the Africa Chapter of the International Public Transport Association (UATP) successfully collaborated to host a knowledge-sharing and networking event to promote smart mobility solutions. Public Transport (PT) and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) are fundamental for improving mobility. The collaboration elevated the biennial i-Transport Conference and Exhibition that ITSSA has been hosting every second year since 2001 towards taking a more holistic approach on Smart Mobility solutions. Subsequently significant progress has been made to put integrated and seamless mobility high on the agenda for active steps by multiple stakeholders.

The ITSSA and UATP will again partner to host the 2020 Smart Mobility Conference and Exhibition, supported by the International Public Transport Association (UITP). The synergies released through the joint efforts exceeded expectations and supported by industry feedback, this flagship conference and exhibition will take place in October 2020 as a co-operative project to assist the Public Transport, Intelligent Transport and related industry sectors in pursuing our shared strategic objectives. Raising the cooperation to a higher level, this event will be structured as the Smart Mobility Conference and Exhibition.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is ramping up the challenges. This is true for all sectors of society and mobility is at its cutting edge. 5G connectivity is multiplying the magnitude of devices in the Internet of Things (IoT). Big Data and Cloud Computing are delivering real-time answers while machine-learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are rapidly hitherto unthinkable avenues to make mobility smarter and the Platform Economy introduces novel ways of connecting Mobility as a Service (MaaS) solutions.

Aim

The aim with the Smart Mobility Conference and Exhibition is to focus collective energies on implementing and managing integrated and sustainable mobility solutions in the context of the African Continent while the 4th Industrial Revolution is bringing massive disruptions, but also break-through opportunities to the fore. Africa offers a hitherto untapped market for Public Transport and Smart Mobility solutions and many global experiences can be adapted to the Continent’s unique challenges.

Theme

The conference will take place during “Transport Month” when there is added awareness regarding transport projects and initiatives. Helping to surf along with the 4IR wave, the theme is Re-imagine Mobility in the Digital Age. Presentations on this theme will be incorporated into an industry submission to the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The 4IR Commission provides an opportunity to channel smart mobility solutions into a broader digital policy framework to identify relevant policies, strategies and action plans.

Date and Venue

The Smart Mobility Conference and Exhibition will be hosted on 5 – 7 October 2020 at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria. (Delegates interested to stay longer for wildlife or cultural tourism, will be directed towards a panel of tourism operators.)

Please contact info@itssa.org and visit www.i-transportafrica.com for further details about the Smart Mobility Conference and Exhibition.

Programme at-a-glance

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Event/Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday - Sunday 3 – 4 October</td>
<td>Exhibition build-up</td>
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<td>Monday 5 October</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session</td>
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<td>Networking Reception</td>
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<td>Tuesday 6 October</td>
<td>Technical/Operational and Policy/Planning/Governance/ Funding sessions</td>
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<td>Trade Day for exhibition visitors</td>
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<td>Conference Dinner and Awards Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 7 October</td>
<td>Technical/Operational and Policy/Planning/Governance/ Funding sessions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Trade Day for exhibition visitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8 October</td>
<td>Site Visits and Master Class</td>
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Call for presentations
The call for presentations will be issued and evaluated for adherence to the conference theme of Re-imagine Mobility in the Digital Age. Interpreting the theme, presenters are asked to imagine an ideal state within the mobility network and dedicate their closing slides on building blocks to be put in place NOW to ensure we are making progress towards ideal mobility achievements.

The conclusions of the presenters will be incorporated into a Position Paper that will be developed as part of industry submissions to the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Send a mail to paul@itssa.org to express your interest and to receive updates on the call for presentations.

Deliverables
Event deliverables include:
• Encourage thought leadership to put smart mobility solutions on an accelerated trajectory;
• Develop a strategic conversation towards a master plan for smart mobility;
• Benchmark mobility projects against global best practice;
• Showcase industry achievements;
• Demonstrate products, systems, services and innovations in providing industry solutions;
• Peer-to-peer networking;
• Business opportunities;
• Knowledge sharing and capacity building;
• Gala Dinner for Excellence Awards.

Who should attend
The conference and exhibition is aimed at colleagues in both the Public Sector and the Private Sector involved in, or with an interest in transport, specifically
• Transport Policy-makers and Planners;
• Public Transport planners, designers, implementers and operators;
• Land-use Planners
• Economic Planners
• Consultants, Service Providers;
• Intelligent Transport System specialists in all domains;
• Public Authorities, Metros and Cities/Towns with a responsibility of providing transport infrastructure and services;
• Transport and Logistics Operators;
• Freight and Logistics planners and Operators and its supporting industries such as fleet management and tracking;
• Equipment Suppliers to the transport industry, including R&D, importing and distribution agents;
• Systems Integrators;
• Safety & Security services and equipment suppliers in the transport sector;
• Law enforcement in the mobile environment;
• Researchers, lecturers and senior students in the respective sub-fields of transport.

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