

2021 European Navigation Conference: Report on Planning

Contribution: Royal Institute of Navigation

1. Background

The 2021 European Navigation Conference (ENC) is being organised by the Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN). This document contains the status and progress report for the EUGIN Council in May 2020.

The ENC2021 dates and venue are 15-18 November 2021 in Edinburgh, UK.

2. Stronger Together

The April 2019 EUGIN Council meeting agreed that the 2021 European Navigation Conference (ENC) would be held in the UK in November 2021, noting that Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN) is already hosting the International Association of Institutes of Navigation (IAIN) World Congress at this time.

The aim is that the resulting combined meeting will be more attractive and hence stronger, to the benefit of all.

The RIN is proposing to call the resulting conference “Navigation 2021” with all publicity clearly showing the heritage and strengths from the ENC and IAIN World Congress meetings that it comprises.

RIN has decided not to hold its regular International Navigation Conference (INC) in 2020, hoping this can lead to the widest possible participation in the German Institute of Navigation’s (DGON) ENC2020, which is now planned to take place 22-25 November 2020 in Dresden, Germany. RIN would plan to visibly raise awareness of ENC 2021 / Navigation 2021 at this meeting.

3. Conference Vision

The vision is that Navigation 2021, including ENC 2021 and the IAIN 2021 World Congress, will represent the most important conference for the global and European positioning, navigation and timing communities to meet at in 2021.

We believe Navigation 2021 can and should be the “must go to” conference of the year, to bring together diverse disciplines to work together towards a more navigable world.

Navigation 2021 can bring together more than 300 participants and include a significant exhibition and showcase.

4. Conference Programme

The conference programme will include daily keynotes to set the scene for the main sessions.

Peer reviewed technical papers will be welcomed as well as presentation-only formats for those wishing to share knowledge and insights without committing to a full technical paper.

Participation of students will be encouraged, including by special sessions and delegate rates.

The programme focus will be intentionally wider than just technology, systems and applications. The aim is to include legal, ethical and regulatory aspects, as well as updates on animal navigation, human cognition and human factors. We have tried this format at several RIN INC conferences

already and received excellent feedback from participants that the breadth of topics provides valuable perspective to inform their own work.

5. Exhibition & Sponsorship

The conference will include exhibition and sponsorship opportunities.

The exhibit hall will be able to accommodate all sizes of booth, from 2m x 1m “table top” through to 6m x 6m “island” format. The exhibition plan and details will be included in the conference web site and initial announcement.

We are particularly keen to encourage active participation in the exhibition from companies across Europe as well as beyond. The vision is that Navigation 2021 will be *the* meeting not to miss as it will attract truly global interest and participation. The exhibition arrangements at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) are very professional and can easily accommodate international shipments and logistics.

6. Networking to Stimulate Innovation and Ideas

The conference programme is being designed to present multiple opportunities to network and make new contacts and friends. The beautiful city and surroundings of Edinburgh will present the ideal backdrop to enable this.

The Monday evening, 18 November 2021, will offer a welcome reception in the City.

The Tuesday evening will offer a gala awards dinner to all delegates and partners/accompanying people.

The Wednesday evening will offer some local flavour – more details to follow!

7. Congress Organisation and Budget

RIN has engaged a professional conference organiser, InConference <http://www.in-conference.org.uk/>. The selection process followed a competitive tender. InConference is based in Scotland and has a successful track record of organising conferences of this nature. RIN and InConference have been working together now for a couple of months. Good working relationships have been established.

Both RIN and InConference have direct experience of running successful events in the venue, which is the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC). RIN’s INC 2019 was held at EICC. EICC is located in the centre of Edinburgh with ~20-minute airport transfers by either by taxi, rail and bus. After selecting InConference it emerged that they actually organised the “GNSS” 2000 conference, also at EICC.

A detailed conference budget schedule has been prepared to enable the ambitious programme and exhibition to be delivered confidently. A conference plan covers all aspects and is being managed professionally by InConference.

The participation fees have been benchmarked to be comparable with similar conferences and include special rates for speakers and students.

To meet the financial objective of at least a balanced outcome, all EUGIN member Institutes are requested to facilitate active participation in the conference.

Three Committees are being established:

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- a) Local Organising Committee
- b) International Advisory Committee
- c) International Programme Committee

Active participation in the IAC and/or IPC is invited from across EUGIN – please contact RIN (details below) with your recommendations.

8. Initial Announcement and Promotion

The initial announcement was planned for the ENC 2020 which was to have been in early May 2020.

The initial announcement is still planned to be completed virtually before the end of May 2020.

At the time of the initial announcement the following will be in place:

- Conference web site
- First keynote speakers and exhibitor details
- Abstract submission portal and timetable
- Opportunity to express an intent to participate as a speaker, exhibitor and delegate

The RIN, with InConference, will be providing a series of promotional materials to all EUGIN members to raise awareness and encourage broad and early participation in this important conference. We request that these be distributed widely and promptly to local databases and via communications channels.

9. RIN Contacts

RIN contacts may be found at https://rin.org.uk/page/Contact_Us.

The best first point of contacts regarding the Congress are Dr Clare Stead comms@rin.org.uk or Louisa Chanter events@rin.org.uk.

10. Pre-meetings

The following EUGIN pre-meetings are envisaged on Monday 15 November 2021. Organisers are requested to provide details and preferred timings and other requirements to RIN well in advance of the meeting.

- EUGIN Council
- European Journal of Navigation Meeting

In addition there will be an IAIN Officers' Meeting and IAIN General Assembly on Monday 15 November 2021.

11. IAIN Awards

Two IAIN Awards will be presented during an awards dinner. Institutes are welcome to request to present their "own" awards they would like to make during the awards dinner (for example, RIN expects to present at least one RIN award during the dinner).

12. Recommendation

The EUGIN Council is invited to **note** the information in this progress report and, most importantly, to actively support the promotion of a successful and memorable Congress in November 2021.