

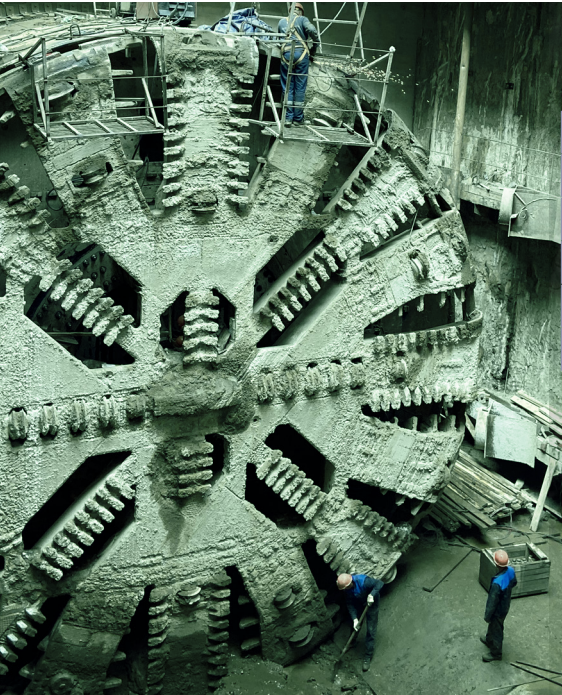


South African National
Committee on Tunnelling

SANCOT SYMPOSIUM 2026

13-14 APRIL 2026
SOUTHERN SUN ROSEBANK,
JOHANNESBURG

Unlocking Africa's Potential: Advances in Tunnelling in Civil Engineering and Mining



BACKGROUND

With the continued pace of urbanisation, economic and population growth, the availability of space for necessary infrastructure in the urban environment is a major challenge. This, in conjunction with climate change and a focus on reducing impact on the environment, are the key factors driving the necessity and relevance of tunnelling. Tunnels are increasingly seen as a means to providing sustainable, safe and reliable transport, electricity, gas, water, sewage facilities and extraction of raw materials. Whilst the public and private sectors come to terms with the high capital expenditure required for tunnel construction, we live in an age of continued technological development and the application of these technologies presents an opportunity to better and more cost-effectively design, construct, and monitor tunnels. Furthermore, it is imperative that tunnelling consultants and contractors keep up to date with rapidly changing tunnelling technologies in order to remain viable in a competitive industry.

THEME

This conference concentrates on advances in the tunnelling industry, current best practice and how technology has improved tunnelling design, construction, supervision and monitoring.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SAIMM
THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE
OF MINING AND METALLURGY



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OBJECTIVES

The conference is intended to promote interaction and closer communication between personnel and companies in the mining and civil industries, and to create a platform where expertise and experience gained in the tunnelling industry can be shared.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The conference should be of value to:

- All stakeholders involved with underground excavation
- Stakeholders involved in the shaft sinking arena
- Mine executives and management
- Civil construction companies
- Stakeholders from Government, Metros and State Owned Enterprises involved in Underground Space
- Explosives consultants and suppliers.
- Engineering design and consulting
- Project management practitioners
- Mine owners and entrepreneurs
- Technology suppliers and consumers
- Health, safety and risk management personnel and officials
- Research and academic personnel.

Selected papers will be published in the *SAIMM Journal*. If your paper is selected by the committee, you will be notified for permission and your paper will go through the Journal review process. Papers that are accepted and published in the Journal will not be published in the conference proceedings which will be ready at the time of the conference. The Journal publication will only be published after the conference.

CALL FOR PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

The conference is being organised by The Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in affiliation with the South African National Committee on Tunnelling and presentations are invited for the conference. Prospective authors are invited to submit titles and abstracts of their papers or presentations, in English. The abstracts should be no longer than 500 words and should be submitted to:
Gugu Charlie; Conferences and Events Coordinator
e-mail: gugu@saimm.co.za
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KEY DATES

24 November 2025 - Submission of abstracts

12 January 2026 - Submission of papers

13-14 April 2026 - Conference

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