COMNAP Symposium 2020
First Circular

“Antarctic Station Modernization: Future-proofing Infrastructure to Support Research and to Reduce Environmental Impact”

Sunday 2 August 2020
Hotel Grand Chancellor
Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
“Antarctic Station Modernization: Future-proofing Infrastructure to Support Research and to Reduce Environmental Impact”

Context

COMNAP is the international association, formed in 1988, which brings together its Members, who are the national Antarctic programs.

A recent COMNAP survey of all national Antarctic programs resulted in identification that seventy-three percent (73%) of the COMNAP Member programs are currently planning or are in the process of modernization of their station or stations. A further seventeen percent (17%) indicated they might be in the process of modernization of their station or stations at some point in the near future. The most common reasons given for modernization can be summarized as need to replace old buildings, to meet science requirements or to improve environmental performance, and twenty-two percent (22%) are considering modernization for the main reason of climate change.

The COMNAP Antarctic Roadmap Challenges (ARC) project identified a range of critical innovative technologies that will be required to collect data and find the answers to the 80 horizon scan questions. These technologies include ICTS in order to collect, store and transfer large quantities of data in real-time.

Building on the outcomes of the COMNAP ARC and given the significant level of modernization currently underway or in the planning stages, this Symposium will provide an opportunity for national Antarctic programs to present on innovative engineering and critical technological projects supporting Antarctic science and operations while improving environmental performance at stations.

Topical sessions will include:

- Construction methods and management
- Incorporating life safety systems
- Maintaining, upgrading and scaling data collection, storage and transfer systems
- Energy-efficiency and renewable technologies
- Stakeholder engagement/supporting science during modernization projects
- Managing a “construction site” rather than a “scientific research site”
- Health, safety and well-being during modernization and in design, planning and transition stages.

Suggestions for additional sessions/topics are welcome.
Purpose

The objective of the Symposium is to support COMNAP Member national Antarctic programs in their role as facilitators of Antarctic research and to provide a forum to aid the conversations between engineers, technologists, health and safety managers, scientists, environmental managers and the range of people involved in the Antarctic facilities’ modernization projects.

Keynote Speaker(s)

The Symposium Convener, Charlton Clark, requests that Managers of national Antarctic programs (MNAPS) or Deputy MNAPS to provide possible suggestions for keynote speaker(s) of international standing to open the Symposium. Please send any recommendations to Charlton (charlton.clark@aad.gov.au).

Symposium Review Committee

The Symposium Review Committee is composed of the COMNAP EXCOM Vice Chair with oversite of the Symposium Sergio Gago Guida (Brazil) and the Symposium Convener, Charlton Clark (Australia), along with Simon Garrod (United Kingdom), Stephanie Short (USA) and Bo Sun (China). Recognizing the key role that safety plays in any modernization project, EXCOM Vice Chair with oversite on safety-Agnieszka Kruszewska (Poland), and Safety Expert Group Leader Simon Trotter (New Zealand) will also participate within the Symposium Review Committee.

The Symposium Review Committee will assist with the call for abstracts, will review abstracts submitted in order to select the final programme of presentations and posters, and will assist during the Symposium in the role of session chairs.

Key Dates 2019 and 2020

- 1 November 2019: Symposium Review Committee formed
- 15 December: First Circular
- 1 February 2020: Call for Abstracts (Oral Presentations and Posters)
- 30 March: Deadline for Abstracts
- 30 April: Selection of Abstracts/Speakers
- 1 July: Full Paper or Extended Abstract Submission
- 2 August: Symposium
- Late 2020: Publication of Symposium Proceedings