Smart City Expo 2023 outlines a New Urban Era in a record-breaking edition

- The event brings together over 1,000 exhibitors, representatives from 800 cities and more than 600 experts

- Airbnb co-founder Nate Blecharczyk, computer scientist Margaret Mitchell, and former UK Minister Claire O’Neill lead the speaker lineup

Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC), the leading international event on cities and smart urban solutions organized by Fira de Barcelona holds a record-breaking edition in 2023. Under the theme “The New Urban Era” the show and congress brings together over 1,000 exhibitors and representatives from 800 cities to share their latest projects and solutions aimed at using new technologies such as AI to take a much-needed leap towards more sustainable cities and make smart cities even smarter.

The event becomes the largest global showcase of innovative urban solutions and projects focusing on strategies to transform current metropolises into more sustainable, efficient, and livable spaces. To achieve this goal, SCEWC has structured its program in eight main tracks: Enabling Technologies, Energy & Environment, Mobility, Governance & Economy, Living & Inclusion, Infrastructure & Buildings, Safety & Security, and Blue Economy.

Amongst the highlights are the keynotes from the co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer of Airbnb, Nathan Blecharczyk, who will discuss how the company faces the future, and FC Barcelona, whose president Joan Laporta will explain how the football club is leading the urban transformation of the surroundings of its stadium. Other keynote speakers include computer scientist and expert in Algorithmic bias Margaret Mitchell who works on shaping AI towards long-term positive goals; AI-specialized lawyer Micaela Mantegna; and former UK Minister for Energy & Clean Growth and sustainable development expert, Claire O’Neill.

The event’s director, Ugo Valenti, said that “The 2023 edition of Smart City Expo will be the biggest ever. The numbers prove that urban innovation ecosystem is in full force again. Amid the so-called Decade of Action, it is time to speed up urban transformation worldwide. We must future-proof our cities so they can effectively become more sustainable, efficient, and livable. Many are already on this path, and the event is a chance to contribute to this goal.”

Innovation showcase
SCEWC features a fully booked floorspace, with companies such as AWS, Aramco, Axis, Cisco, Dassault Systèmes, Dell, Deloitte, FCC, Honeywell, Microsoft, Nvidia, PWC, Roehn, Siemens, Smart Ports: Piers of the Future, and Veolia. The event also includes pavilions from countries and cities from around the world including Brazil, China, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Nordics, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, and USA, among others.

To showcase examples of tangible innovations that are reshaping the urban landscape, SCEWC is including a Demo Area with almost 20 examples of solutions being deployed in cities worldwide. Among these products feature AI-equipped electric scooters, modular cabins capable of creating workspaces in public areas, AI smart waste bins that sort out waste by themselves, self-driving shuttles for public transportation, space-efficient foldable cars, and drones ready to delivers goods and pharmaceutical supplies.
Capital city of cities
Barcelona will become once again the Capital of smart cities during SCEWC. The event will bring together representatives from 800 cities from 140 countries. Among the highest ranking representatives are over 50 mayors, including Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris (France); Kostas Bakoyannis, Mayor of Athens (Greece); Pablo Javkin, Mayor of Rosario (Argentina); Kenneth Sim, Mayor of Vancouver (Canada); Mihhail Kõlvart, Mayor of Tallinn (Estonia); Daithi De Roiste, Mayor of Dublin (Ireland); Sylvester Turner, Mayor of Houston (USA); and Sang-jin Shin, Mayor of Seongam (Republic of South Korea).

As a loudspeaker for city governments, SCEWC will be the stage where a group of European mayors, from cities such as Barcelona, Bilbao, Ghent, Malaga, Milan, Oulu, Paris, Sant Boi, Tallinn and Tirana among others, and with the collaboration of Eurocities network will formally present the Barcelona Declaration "European Cities for European Policymaking and Democracy". This is a declaration of European city governments to strengthen their participation in EU policymaking and European democracy. By this announcement, European Mayors request to create a Council of Cities at a European level. This Council aims at contributing to establish a formal role for cities within the EU governance architecture.

Along these lines, Barcelona will also host the World Smart City Awards that acknowledge the most outstanding initiatives and projects in the innovation and urban transformation industry. With a total of 411 entries from 63 countries, the 12th edition of these accolades is the biggest to date. The winners of the 10 categories featured – City, Leadership, Innovation, Enabling Technologies project, Energy & Environment project, Mobility project, Governance & Economy project, Living & Inclusion project Infrastructure & Buildings project, and Safety & Security project – will be announced during a special gala hosted on the evening of Wednesday, November 8th.

Global Innovation Hub
In addition, Tomorrow.Mobility World Congress, Tomorrow.Building, Tomorrow.Blue Economy –focusing on the opportunities of the blue economy–, and PuzzleX will be held alongside SCEWC to strengthen the role of the event and Barcelona as a global hub of smart solutions and provide answers to these the challenges faced by today’s cities.

Tomorrow.Mobility holds its third edition with the aim of accelerating the transition to sustainable urban mobility. Under the slogan "Make your Move Matter" the event, jointly organized by Fira Barcelona and EIT Urban Mobility, will focus on eight fundamental aspects for the transformation of urban mobility: Mobility Data Spaces, Inclusivity, Affordability and Equity, Connected, Cooperative and Automated Mobility, Sustainable Urban Logistics, Multimodality, Urban Air Mobility, Energy Transition, and Active Mobility.

Tomorrow.Building is a new space focused on transforming the construction industry towards a more sustainable and digitalized horizon. Major companies and experts such as Samsung C&T, Siemens, Samoo Architects & Engineers, B&O, CBRE or Drees & Sommer showcase their latest developments. Topics such as digital and sustainable construction, building renovation and decarbonization, smart buildings and infrastructure, and PropTech will be the themes at the heart of the conference.

PUZZLE X is set to return to Barcelona to explore exponential technologies that promise to reshape the future in unprecedented ways. Topics to be discussed include Exotic Computing, Embodied AI, Quantum Cities, Ultimate Connectivity, Matterverse, Brain interfaces, DNA Data Storage, 6G, and Digital Atoms. The conferences will feature speakers such as Nobel Laureate Roger Penrose; Christian Larsson, CIO of UNICEF; Robin Saxby, Founding CEO & Chairman of ARM; and Johanna Sepúlveda, Chief Engineer at Airbus, among others.

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Els accolades are presented in a total of nine categories

**The World Smart City Awards 2023 choose 33 finalists**

The World Smart City Awards presented annually by Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWOC) to acknowledge the most outstanding initiatives and projects in the innovation and urban transformation industry now have their finalists. A total of 33 initiatives are competing for the award in each of the nine categories: Safety & Security, Enabling Technologies, Energy & Environment, Governance, Infrastructure & Building, Living & Inclusion, Tomorrow, Mobility, Innovation Award and City Award. The awards will be presented at a gala that will take place during the show, held from November 7 to 9 at Fira de Barcelona's Gran Via venue.

In the Safety & Resilience category, the projects presented by the Korean city of Gangnam-gu, for its active policy of supporting marginalized social groups; the Indian start-up Awiros from the city of Gurugram, which uses Artificial Intelligence to analyze data from 5,500 distributed cameras to ensure public safety; and the company Citymesh from the Belgian city of Oostkamp, which has deployed a network of 70 drones to support emergency services such as the police and the fire department.

In Enabling Technologies, competing for the award are Tampere in Finland, which has developed an urban-social digital twin to harness its Data & Insights platform to make data-driven decision making for purposeful urban services; and Kaohsiung in Korea, which uses IoT to unify devices and connect data with medical services; as well as the Spanish firm Libelium, which has created a platform for the conservation of historic buildings using digital twins, IoT sensors and remote sensing technologies.

**Environmental and management projects**

In the Energy & Environment category, the projects presented by the cities of Bordeaux, which has created tools to obtain reliable indicators on the comfort temperature in the city; Bamenda in Cameroon, where a cooperative has been created for the marketing of agricultural products; and the SIMPaCT initiative of Transport for NSW (Australia) the largest Australian smart green infrastructure project that uses a digital twin and machine learning to manage irrigation and maximize cooling and that has managed to reduce the temperature by 7°C in the 42-hectare area where the pilot test has been done, have been selected.

The Governance & Economy category has as finalists the US Mayor Roundtable initiatives from the United States and those of the cities of Buenos Aires (Argentina), which promotes dialogue between the different sectors of society and the Administration to involve citizens in climate actions; and Lublin (Poland), which has developed the Lublin 2030 Strategy so that citizens can be co-creators of the city’s development concept.

The projects of Saudi Aramco Dhahram Smart City (Saudi Arabia), a platform that integrates the advantages of IoT and AI to manage facilities and services; Water Resources Corporation of Daejeon (Korea), which presents its Smart Village project implemented in the city of Busan; and Kitchener (Canada); whose Growing Together initiative uses a 3D printed model to bring citizens’ proposals to scale, are the finalists in Infrastructure & Building, while the cities of Kigali (Rwanda), for a project to provide comprehensive support and empowerment to the country’s single teenage mothers; Breda in the Netherlands, for making it easier for people with disabilities to enter cities and events through accessible information; and Anji in China, for closing its mines and adopting eco-tourism, are the finalists in the Living & Inclusion category.

In Tomorrow.Mobility, the finalists are the city of Meram in Turkey, where old streetcars have been restored to make them available exclusively to cyclists as a means of
transportation; and the start-ups Bruntor from the Latvian city of Iekšile; which has developed a 4-wheeled electric scooter with charging space for faster urban deliveries; and Karos Mobility from the French capital, Paris; a network of shared vehicles for daily commuting.

Finally, the Innovation Award category finalists are the city of Bogota (Colombia), which has managed to bring together the various players in the city’s public innovation ecosystem; the start-up Tetratinu Limited from Lagos (Nigeria), which is promoting safety and health policies; the Helpful Places company in Toronto (Canada), which is implementing an open source communication standard; the Smart D8 project in Dublin (Ireland), a district to solve health and wellness problems; United Nations IOM in Geneva (Switzerland), whose SPIRE initiative renatures polluted urban soil; and Marrakech (Morocco), with the ECO-HEROES project for vocational training in the field of ecotourism.
The event gathers over 100 experts aiming to speed a global revolution

**Tomorrow.Mobility charts a path to a better future with green and smart transportation**

Is a shared mobility data space the ultimate enabler of a revolution in global transportation? How can zero-emission vehicles spearhead the fight against climate change? Will public autonomous mobility lead us to the future? These are some of the questions that over 100 international experts will address in Barcelona from November 7 to 9 at Tomorrow.Mobility World Congress (TMWC), an event jointly organized by Fira de Barcelona and EIT Urban Mobility, an initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.

The conference program is structured around 8 themes – Data Spaces, Inclusivity, Affordability & Fairness; Connected, Cooperative & Automated Mobility; Sustainable Urban Logistics; Multimodality; Urban Air Mobility; Energy Transition; and Active Mobility – and will focus on some of the key topics, including strategies to support public transport as a crucial element to make cities more liveable and meet ambitious emission reduction targets, the creation of a shared mobility data space to deploy extensive multimodal travel, and overcoming the challenges to fully implement autonomous vehicles.

Among the more than 100 speakers are Timothy Papandreou, former Chief Innovation Officer at San Francisco MTA and advisor for X (Alphabet’s Moonshot Factory); Karima Delli, Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism at the European Parliament; Seleta Reynolds, Chief Innovation Officer at the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Jacob Bangsgaard, Secretary General for Automobile Mobility and Tourism at the FIA; and Jill Warren, CEO of the European Cyclists’ Federation.

Maria Tsavachidis, President of Tomorrow.Mobility World Congress and CEO of EIT Urban Mobility, said: “As we prepare for the event, we are constantly reminded of the urgency to create more sustainable urban mobility solutions. The mobility sector is a strategic one as it acts as a connector to all economic activities. As cities strive towards climate neutrality, we can see that technological innovations alone will not be enough to reach this goal, but working in collaboration across sectors and geographies will be key to our mutual success. This third edition of Tomorrow.Mobility will act as an opportunity to share knowledge and solutions, leading us to a smarter, cleaner, and more interconnected future of mobility.”

Tomorrow.Mobility World Congress will also feature an exhibition space where 130 companies including BSM, Deloitte, KIA, Moventis, PTV Group, PWC, Racc, Renfe, and Sener will showcase their latest products. In addition, many institutions such as Alamys, AMB, FGC, TMB, CARNET, ETRA, and International Road Federation, Polis, will also take part in TMWC.

**Global Hub of Innovation**

Tomorrow.Mobility World Congress will be held alongside Smart City Expo World Congress, Tomorrow.Building, Tomorrow.BlueEconomy – focusing on the opportunities of the blue economy – and PuzzleX, setting an unparalleled knowledge platform that strengthens the role of the event as a global hub of urban solutions capable of providing answers to the challenges that our society faces. All together the events will gather over 25,000 visitors, 1,000 exhibitors, over 800 cities and more than 600 speakers in Barcelona.
The event takes place in the framework of Smart City Expo

**The most disruptive and sustainable construction meets at Tomorrow.Building World Congress**

Showcasing the most groundbreaking projects to promote innovative and sustainable construction. This is the main goal of Tomorrow.Building World Congress (TBWC), an event featuring leading companies in the transformation of the sector, as well as startups with innovative initiatives. In addition, TBWC also aims to promote debate on the future of the sector with a hundred experts who will address its challenges in decarbonisation, digitalisation and sustainable urban development.

The event, held within the framework of Smart City Expo World Congress, will gather from November 7 – 9 some 50 companies characterised by their disruptive spirit and their firm commitment to sustainability to transform the construction sector.

These include major international companies such as Samsung C&T Corporation and Siemens, leaders in the development of smart cities; Samoo Architects & Engineers, a Korean architecture firm with sustainable and efficient designs worldwide, as well as CBRE, Drees&Sommer, Johnson Controls, Roshn Group and SPIE. There will also be room for companies with innovative projects such as Bioo, which has developed an initiative to produce electricity through plant photosynthesis.

The director of Tomorrow.Building World Congress, Ione Ruete, pointed out that “we have managed to bring together major companies of international relevance to promote business opportunities and open doors to new markets, as well as to publicise new technological advances for more efficient, circular and sustainable industrialised and modular construction”. She added that “in this sense, the profile of the visitors is one of high decision-making and purchasing power in the real estate segment and infrastructure construction companies from all over the world”.

**Technology and decarbonisation**

The event also aims to promote knowledge and debate in the sector on issues such as design technology, green districts, decarbonisation and PropTech, as well as issues of today’s and tomorrow’s cities, such as access to affordable and sustainable housing, urban readiness to welcome refugees and the acceleration of the energy transition.

To this end, the congress programme will feature a hundred experts including, among others, Nate Blecharczyk, Co-founder and Director of Strategy of Airbnb; Lebanese architect and specialist in Artificial Intelligence, Chantal Matar; Peter Köte, Director of Technology at Siemens; Peggy Deamer, Professor Emeritus at the Yale School of Architecture and Founder of The Architecture Lobby; Natalia Oliver, architect and specialist in BIM; and Piero Pelizzaro, Director of the National Hub for the Regeneration of Public buildings and expert in climate change policies.

In addition, FC Barcelona will present the latest details of the construction project of the new Spotify Camp Nou and its initiative for the renovation of its urban environment, Espai Barça.
TOMORROW. BLUE ECONOMY

November 7-9 2023
www.tomorrowblueconomy.com

Focusing on topics as water management, biodiversity and smart ports

Tomorrow.Blue Economy explores an ocean of opportunities for a sustainable future

Promoting and developing the potential of the blue economy and encouraging the preservation of marine and ocean resources as an engine for economic growth. This is the aim of Tomorrow.Blue Economy, that will gather experts from all over the world from 7 to 9 November at Fira de Barcelona’s Gran Via venue to address the opportunities and challenges of this sector, which is key for the future of the planet.

The event, organized by Fira de Barcelona with the collaboration of Barcelona City Council, through Barcelona Activa; Port of Barcelona; the World Ocean Council (WOC), the leading international business organization in the field of sustainable maritime economy; and Smart Ports: Piers of the Future, an alliance comprised of the Ports of Antwerp-Bruges, Barcelona, Busan, Gottemburg, Hamburg, Los Angeles, Montreal and Rotterdam that promotes the digital and sustainable transformation of ports, will highlight the importance and potential of the responsible use of ocean resources.

In its second edition, the congress will be attended by experts, scientists, companies, startups and institutions that will share solutions and experiences to advance along this path based on innovation, in an interdisciplinary approach and through public-private collaboration. The program will address key issues such as climate change, finance, offshore energy, water management, biodiversity, green shipping, smart ports, recreational boating, tourism and careers in the blue economy sector.

Among the experts speaking at the conference feature Aurora Catà, Vicepresident, America’s Cup Events Barcelona; Michael DiBernardo, Deputy Executive Director Marketing and Customer Relations, Port of Los Angeles; Vasileios Latinos, Head of Climate Resilience and Adaptation, ICLEI’s European Secretariat; Jens Meier, Chief Executive Officer, Hamburg Port Authority; Lluis Salvadó, President of the Port of Barcelona; Jordi Valls, Deputy Mayor for Economy, Tax, Economic Promotion and Tourism; and Erwin Verstraeten, Chief Digital & Innovation Officer, Port of Antwerp-Bruges.

The founder and president of the World Ocean Council, Paul Holthus, stated that “Barcelona is a global hub for the Blue Economy, making it the perfect place to engage the global ocean business community worldwide to generate new business opportunities in support of smart and sustainable coastal cities and maritime industries”.

The Deputy Mayor for Economy, Finance, Economic Promotion and Tourism, Jordi Valls, highlighted the importance of “Tomorrow. Blue Economy being held in Barcelona, a city with a historical link to the Mediterranean, and which has placed the blue economy as one of the main drivers of its economic diversification strategy. This industry offers huge potential opportunities for companies and the development of talent, innovation and technology, while reinforcing the city’s commitment to sustainability and the fight against climate change.”

The President of the Port of Barcelona, Lluis Salvadó, explained that “after organizing four editions of Smart Ports: Piers of the Future, an event that places Barcelona as the world capital of port innovation, our commitment to lead the smart transformation of ports is now backed by a broader and more powerful strategy that includes the themes of the blue economy, which goes beyond ports and cities and takes the sustainable ocean as a reference to turn it into an economic powerhouse and a source of wealth”.

According to data from the United Nations, the blue economy is estimated to contribute US $1.5 trillion in value-add to the global economy, it generates over 30 million jobs and supplies a vital source of protein to over three billion people. In addition, a report by the OECD forecasts that the ocean economy may double in size to $3 trillion by 2030.
PUZZLE X 2023 charts the frontiers of the future through exponential technology

PUZZLE X 2023, a groundbreaking event that explores the frontiers of exponential technology, is set to captivate the global stage from November 7th to 9th at Fira de Barcelona’s Gran Via venue. Organized by MATTER with the support of the Spanish government, the Government of Catalonia, and the Barcelona City Hall, the event will delve into a range of topics including Planet Tech, Quantum world, Physical AI, Exotic Computing, Quantum Cities, Bio Tech & Genomics, Ultimate Connectivity Matterverse, Brain-Machine Interfaces, DNA Data Storage, 6G, Digital Atoms, Fusion Energy & Helium 3.

To tap into every possible disruptive discipline, PUZZLE X brings together pioneers ready to share their pieces of the technological puzzle but also to shed light on how groundbreaking advancements in areas such as Hydrogen Cars, Neuro Twins, Origami Robots, AGI, Brain-Machien Interfaces, Lab Grown Hearts, Programmable Matter, Computers Made of Biology, and other exponential technologies that will reshape the future of our cities, our citizens, and a myriad of industries.

The event boasts a lineup of over 200 world-renowned speakers and will draw more than 3,000 attendees from 80 different countries. Among the experts taking part are Sir Roger Penrose, Nobel Laureate; Christian Larsson, CIO of UNICEF; Sir Robin Saxby, Founding CEO & Chairman of ARM; Johanna Sepulveda, Chief Engineer at Airbus; Nabil Alnuaim, CEO of Aramco Digital; and Andreu Mas-Colell, Founder of BCN School of Economics.

This year PUZZLE X will be showcasing transformative demos and interactive sessions such as “Live capturing of attendees’ memories and storing them inside a single strand of DNA”, a collaboration with New Media Artist Soliman Lopez and some of leading DNA companies in the world; a quantum bartender, new concept “hbar” where you can order a truly random beer chosen for you by a quantum machine “Turning air into electricity”, a demo showcasing on the stage a device without batteries or any energy source capable of charging a phone by simply putting it in humid air; and unveiling a world’s first piece of music “The Quantum Symphony of Biology”, a collaborative project that will reveal the haunting music of a stem cell and gene expression interpreted by a quantum computer.

The Director General of MATTER and Chief Creator of PUZZLE X, Dr. Zina Cinker, said: “PUZZLE X is not a futurist forum. Every year we invite the world’s most credible authorities and undisputed leaders in science and technology who are building the pieces of the future today. The innovations shown are not projections or speculations. They are discoveries that are happening today. And during 3 days in Barcelona, we bring these innovations to you and open the doors to give you a sneak peek of the Exponential that are coming to transform our industries and societies.”

For more information and to register for PUZZLE X 2023, please visit www.puzzlex.io.