

► Clockwise, from right : Ms Maria-Cristina Marolda - Policy Officer, DG MOVE, European Commission; Prof José Manuel Menéndez, Director of the Research Group on Visual Telecommunications Applications G@TV, Technical University of Madrid; Professor Emeritus, Polytechnic University of Milan & Mr César Bartolomé, Chair, TC3 (Smart Sustainability); Mr Rimkus is a Member of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany (Deutsche Bundestag) & Dr Elena de la Peña, Chair, TC1 (Smart Mobility); Prof Thierry Vanellander, Department of Transport and Regional Economics, University of Antwerp & Prof Athena Rouboutsos, Department of Shipping, Trade and Transport, University of the Aegean; and Prof José Manuel Vassallo, Head of Department, Technical University of Madrid



# Smart thinking, smart practice

The 2017 STA Annual Conference & Innovation Awards: An interactive exchange of ideas and best practices in the field of Smart Transportation Infrastructures. **Claudio Caferri** reports



The Smart Transportation Alliance gathered 50+ experts at its annual landmark event, the 2017 STA Annual Conference & Innovation Awards, held in Brussels on 28 November 2017.

Moderated by STA's Chairman, José F. Papí, the event attracted specialists from the areas of finance, private industry, academia and government for an exchange of ideas and best practices about current and future Smart Transportation Infrastructures.

The Keynote Opening Speech was

followed by Thematic Session 1, which reviewed recently-released STA Technical Reports and Discussion Papers.

During this session, Prof José Manuel Menéndez of the Technical University of Madrid presented the STA Technical Report 'OPTICITIES: Technical views on urban ITS mobility'. Prof Menéndez highlighted how the OPTICITIES project had addressed the importance of developing a vision of optimised urban mobility at the focal point of user needs, urban mobility public policy, and business

models of service providers.

Immediately after Thematic Session 1, the 2017 STA Innovation Award Ceremony took place to honour global innovators in the following categories:

- **Person of the Year:** highlighting the achievements of exceptional individual accomplishment.
- **Best Innovation Project/Solution:** underscoring teamwork that is breaking the existing paradigms for transportation infrastructures.



**smart emergency vehicle**



◀ Clockwise, from far left: Mr Wolf P. Zeplin, CEO at SMEV International & Mr Manuel Vassallo, Chair, TC4 (Smart Financing); Mr Patrick Le Pense, Manager, ArcelorMittal Europe – Flat Products & Ms Claudia Cofano, CRM Group; Ms Maira Cortese, Crash & Dynamic Division, GDTech; Dr Davide Lo Presti, Principal Research Fellow, University of Nottingham - SMARTI-ETN; Prof Nikolay Dmitrichenko, National Transportation University, Ukraine; and Mr César Bartolomé, Director for Innovation, Spanish Institute for Cement and its Applications



The 2017 Person of the Year award was conferred *ex-aequo* to Mr Andreas Rimkus and Prof Vittorio Giavotto.

Mr Rimkus is a Member of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany (Deutsche Bundestag), where he has served as Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Traffic Affairs; Prof Giavotto has been teaching Safety Engineering, Aerospace Engineering and Aeronautical Engineering for more than 40 years.

Finally, the project that stood out for the 2017 Best Innovation Project Award

was: SMEV - Digital Optimisation of Traffic Conditions for Emergency Vehicles. SMEV ([www.smev.international](http://www.smev.international)) is a ground-breaking ITS cooperative system that changes the way of addressing emergency responses in the Smart City and the Award was collected by Mr Wolf P. Zeplin, CEO at SMEV International.

During Thematic Session 2, several R&D initiatives led by the STA community were presented to the auditorium and the full conference's proceedings can be downloaded

from <http://smart-transportation.org/events/2017-sta-annual-conference-innovation-awards-proceedings>. ●

**i Get Connected**

The STA will be hosting a Smart Infrastructures roundtable discussion as part of Thinking Cities' side-event on Thursday 22 March in rooms F002/003 of the RAI, between 14:30 and 16:30

[www.smart-transportation.org](http://www.smart-transportation.org)