



The International Conference on Geosynthetics

2026



**HOW TO BID TO
HOST ICG 2026**



Foreword



Chungsik Yoo / IGS President

Dear Members,

I am delighted to announce that the International Geosynthetics Society (IGS) is now inviting bids to host the 13th International Conference on Geosynthetics (ICG) in Autumn 2026.

The successful bid will be selected at a meeting of the IGS Council at GeoAsia7 in Taipei on April 11-15 2022.

The IGS has a long tradition of supporting ICGs, dating back to the 1986 Conference held in Vienna, Austria. These conferences are a wonderful opportunity to put geosynthetics on a global stage, to be inspired by the latest thinking, and to widen and promote the understanding of our very special sector.

ICGs are held with IGS endorsement every four years, complementing the cycle of regional and national conferences that collectively form the heartbeat of this vibrant industry. We look forward to the 12th ICG taking place in Rome, Italy, in September 2023.

The 13th ICG will come at a time when the possibilities for the responsible deployment of geosynthetics including natural fibers, geotextiles, geomembranes and related products have never been greater, as society's needs for sustainable approaches become ever more acute.

The IGS is committed to transparency and professional ethics. Growing interest in the contribution that

geosynthetics can make to sustainable progress will bring our industry increasingly under the spotlight. For these reasons, we are for the first time publishing bid guidelines, complementing existing IGS guidance, and setting out full details of the selection process, including voting procedures.

This guide includes all you need to know about the ICG, how to prepare a bid, and - if successful - guidance on the initial stages of putting your winning bid into action. Applicants must submit bids in accordance with the stated timetable, with the successful bid chosen by a vote of the IGC Council members.

Chungsik Yoo
IGS President

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This guide includes all you need to know about the ICG, how to prepare a bid.”

We look forward to receiving your bids.

Good luck!



The ICG: A Proud Legacy

The IGS began supporting ICGs just a few years after the Society's formation in 1983. However, the first ICG took place in Paris, France, in 1977. It not only launched what would become an enduring conference series, but was also where geosynthetics pioneer J.P. Giroud first coined the terms 'geotextile' and 'geomembrane'.

Since then, ICGs have set the bar on geosynthetic development, inspiring fresh thinking, debate and progress in the industry. Indeed, the ICG would become the stage at which the famous Giroud Lecture would be delivered by a preeminent awardee.

The most recent 11th ICG in Seoul, Korea, saw IGS Vice President Nathalie Touze share her thought-provoking Giroud Lecture 'Healing the World: A Geosynthetics Solution'.

The talk informed the creation of the IGS Sustainability eBook, already available in eight languages.

The IGS's rich worldwide membership has ensured an eclectic mix of host countries over the years, with chapters embracing the opportunity to grow membership, encourage collaboration and widen global knowledge of the geosynthetics industry.

Now the Italian Chapter of the IGS, known as AGI-IGS Italy is preparing to host the 12th ICG in Rome in September 2023. It promises to be packed with lectures, short courses and technical sessions, as well as plenty of opportunities to network and socialise.

Could you be next?



The IGS's rich worldwide membership has ensured an eclectic mix of host countries over the years.

1977
Paris, France

1986
Vienna, Austria

1982
Las Vegas, USA

1990
The Hague,
Netherlands

1994
Singapore

1998
Atlanta, USA

2002
Nice, France



2006
Yokohama,
Japan

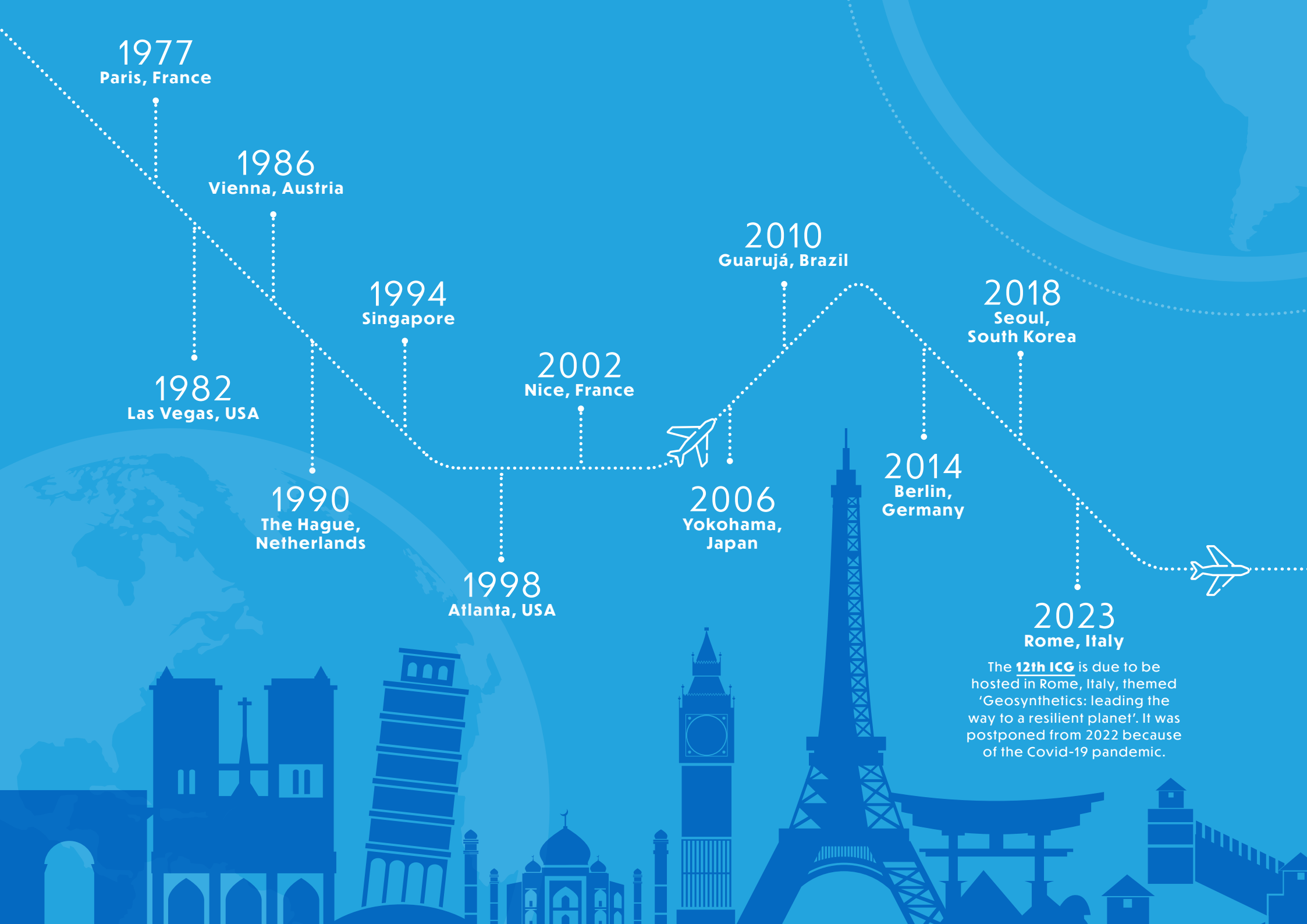
2010
Guarujá, Brazil

2014
Berlin,
Germany

2018
Seoul,
South Korea

2023
Rome, Italy

The **12th ICG** is due to be hosted in Rome, Italy, themed 'Geosynthetics: leading the way to a resilient planet'. It was postponed from 2022 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Key Principles

The IGS recognizes the scale and importance of the ICG and has enhanced the bidding process for the 13th ICG in 2026.

As bidding to host ICGs has become increasingly competitive, the IGS has built on lessons from previous bidding rounds to adopt three key principles:

1 OBJECTIVITY

Bid evaluation must be precise and unbiased. All bids must objectively meet the minimum criteria before being considered for voting. Failure to reach the minimum criteria will lead to exclusion from the vote.

2 VISION

The ICG is a core way to fulfil the IGS' mission and vision. Applicants must demonstrate how their bid will:

- Promote the understanding and appropriate use of geosynthetic technology throughout the world
- Highlight geosynthetics' contribution to sustainable development
- Increase the profile of the IGS amongst regional industry actors.

3 TRANSPARENCY

The IGS is committed to a transparent process of bid selection. The bid documents produced by the bidding IGS chapters will be shared with all members of the IGS Council, the officers and staff of the IGS.

The IGS Council will decide which bid is successful. The result of each ballot will be open and available on the members' area of the IGS website.



Why Bid?

Hosting an ICG is a unique honor and responsibility. It not only recognizes a chapter's dedication and abilities but is an incredible opportunity for chapters to set the agenda on geosynthetics discussion and development on a global stage.

It is also a chance for chapters to share their nation and culture, and put their stamp on this worldwide showcase of geosynthetic learning and sociability.

Here, hosts of the most recent ICGs, the next ICG in 2023, and eminent attendee J.P. Giroud, share their thoughts...



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The International Conferences on Geosynthetics are an essential part of the life of the geosynthetics discipline. They contribute to the dissemination of information not only through the presentation of papers but also by promoting collaboration between members of the geosynthetics community.

Over the years, I have seen a constant improvement in the quality of papers and short courses presented at the ICG, and I have been impressed by the outstanding keynote lectures.

Going forward, I recommend that geosynthetics innovators and researchers remain close to the needs of practitioners such as design engineers and geosynthetics installers. Therefore, I recommend that bidders prepare conference proposals for the next ICG with a certain emphasis on events that promote the dissemination of practical information.

In the photo from a reception at the 1st ICG in 1977, I am between two geosynthetics manufacturers, which illustrates the key role played in the success of geosynthetics by the excellent cooperation between industry and the engineering community.”

Professor J.P. Giroud



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From the preparation phase to the actual event we had great fun joining forces with our colleagues to stage the 10th ICG in Berlin in 2014.

We were also able to combine it with our German geotechnical conference which allowed cost synergies as well as the opportunity to introduce geosynthetics to a whole new audience. It was also a chance for regional exhibitors to meet international experts and businesses to make new connections.

Going forward I think the worldwide coronavirus restrictions have shown how a mixed format of face-to-face and online can be very effective, and perhaps that is something organizers of the next ICG should consider.

For us, the ICG was a great opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and helped build international friendship and cooperation as well as developing our chapter.”

Gerhard Bräu

Vice Chairman of the German Chapter of the IGS

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Hosting the 11th ICG in Korea in 2018 increased the visibility of IGS Korea on a global stage and revitalized the Korean geosynthetics industry.

The high quality technical programs gave the chapter an opportunity to lead the conversation on geosynthetics technology. And, more importantly, the conference sent a strong message to Korean regulators and clients that geosynthetics are fundamental to sustainable development.

Teamwork was key and seeing IGS Korea members working as one helped make the 11th ICG most memorable for everyone involved.”

Chungsik Yoo

President of the Korean Chapter of the IGS

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We applied to host the 12th ICG in Rome in 2023 because it was a natural next step after our experience of hosting 30 national conferences on geosynthetics as well as EuroGeo 2 in Bologna in 2000. Moreover, it was a great opportunity to involve a younger generation of professionals, both in academia and in industry.

Chapters all around the world should apply because it gives them a chance to share specific local issues not only for geosynthetics engineering, but also in related crucial subjects such as safety, resilience and sustainability. And the fact it happens every four years gives organizers a wonderful opportunity to share new technologies and approaches to problem-solving.

I had the opportunity to attend all the ICGs, except the first one in 1977 in Paris, and I'm very proud to say that in each of them I was able to boost my knowledge in the various scientific and technological fields and also have a better understanding of the specific attitudes in the various hosting countries. The range of countries and cultures involved over the years really brings an eclectic experience and this variety should continue.

I am really confident this series will continue a long time after the 12th ICG, and encourage everyone to apply.”

Daniele Cazzuffi

President of the Italian Chapter of the IGS



How to Bid

The principal organizer of an ICG can be a chapter, or group of chapters of the IGS, or an independent organizing body.

There is no set approach to preparing and presenting a bid but including the following key information is essential. The submission must:

- Provide information on the event's aims, scope, program, venue, participation, sources of funding, and sustainability credentials
- State proposed dates, sub-title and theme
- Outline how the bid supports the IGS's mission and values
- Show how the event is relevant to the regional market
- Explain how it highlights geosynthetics' contribution to sustainability
- Show how it would inspire and engage Young Members
- Demonstrate how it enhances IGS relationships with key stakeholders
- Indicate the sponsoring body expected to bear full financial responsibility for delivering the ICG if the bid is successful
- Detail the conference Delivery Team with a short bio on each person

Key Questions

- Why do you want to host?
- Who will be involved in the bid and organizing committees if you are successful?
- What is your budget?
- What is your timeline?
- Do you have the resources/staff/time/credentials/experience to host and promote?
- What support do you need?
- Does your bid fulfil the minimum criteria?
- Does your bid fulfil the IGS mission and vision?
- Do you have all the information you need to apply?

For full details on submitting a bid, including necessary documents, venue criteria, access needs, technical content requirements, and next steps if your bid is successful, please refer to the IGS bid submission rules [here](#).



Key Dates



STAGE 1

August 2021

- Bid rules and procedures published
- Competition announced, expressions of interest invited

October 2021

- Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) appointed and announced
- Briefing teleconference for potential bidders

STAGE 2

Spring 2022

January 31 2022

- Bids received

February 2022

- BEC 'qualifies' entries by marking bids against a scorecard of minimum criteria
- All bidders are informed whether they have qualified
- Any bids failing to qualify have two weeks to re-submit or withdraw

March 2022

- BEC confirms whether re-submitted bids have met the minimum criteria; if not they are excluded from further participation. There is no right of appeal
- BEC evaluates all qualified bids to identify their risks and strengths/weaknesses
- BEC provides feedback to bidders

STAGE 3

April 2022

- The IGS Council approves the appointment of the Scrutineer(s)
- Bids are circulated to all electors together with a summary of BEC feedback
- Council members declare any interest
- Bidders confirm who from their team will represent them at the IGS Council meeting for the vote
- The IGS Council convenes during GeoAsia7 in Taipei (April 11-15). Bidders present and the Council decides by secret ballot

STAGE 4

Mid-2022

- The IGS and winning bid team sign a contract, including timelines and milestones
- IGS Officers review the bidding process



The postponement to 2023 of the 12th ICG in Rome means that exceptionally, there will be only three years between the 12th and 13th ICGs. As a result of this, and in order to allow maximum delivery time for the successful bidder, we are compressing the timescale for the preparation and selection of bids.

Rules of Conduct

In line with the IGS's Code of Ethics, all members of the IGS are obliged to be guided by the highest standards of ethics, personal honor and professional conduct. These principles extend to any non-IGS partners involved in the bidding process.

The activities of the IGS, the decision-making bodies and, especially the bidding chapters are governed by the following rules of conduct:

- 1 Following the **IGS Code of Ethics**
- 2 Prohibit gifts or any form of hospitality for those involved in the decision-making process
- 3 Prohibit any form of unethical collaboration or collusion between parties

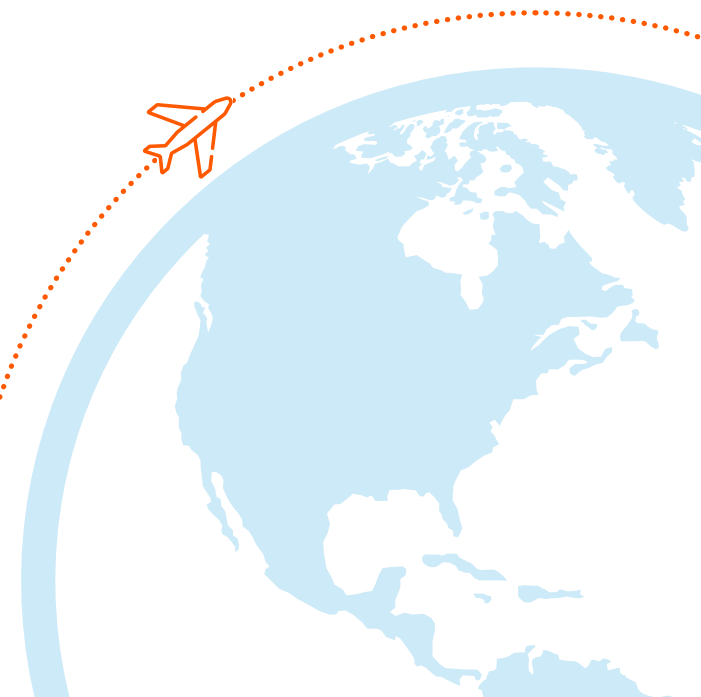
These rules of conduct continue to apply during the hosting phase, and the IGS reserves the right to terminate the hosting agreement if any unethical behaviour is detected.

Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC)

The BEC will be established by the IGS Officers and consist of between four and six individuals. It will:

- Assess whether bids have met the minimum criteria
- Assess the risks associated with any bid
- Provide feedback to bidders to assist them in meeting the minimum criteria

Membership may include a lay member with experience of organizing large international conferences. BEC members will have no role in preparing any bids.



Evaluation Bid evaluation is made up of three key components:

Risk Assessment

Assessment of the risks associated with certain criteria as judged by the ICG Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC), appointed by the IGS Council. Risks may include security (e.g. physical, pandemic risk), legal and compliance and any other risks at the BEC's discretion. The BEC will assign a risk rating of low, medium or high. These ratings will be shared with the bidders and IGS Council ahead of voting. Bidders will have sufficient time ahead of voting to respond to the BEC's risk assessment.

Technical Evaluation

Technical evaluation will be based on the documentation submitted. The BEC will confirm that each bid meets the minimum criteria before being allowed to proceed. Any bids failing to qualify will have the opportunity to re-submit. The BEC will offer each qualified bidder a videoconference to receive risk and technical evaluation feedback on their bids before submission to the IGS Council.

At this stage, bids may no longer be amended but bidders may adapt their final presentation to address any risk and technical concerns raised by the BEC.

Decision-Making

Qualified bids will be submitted for final evaluation by the IGS Council. The Council will then decide the winning bid by secret ballot.

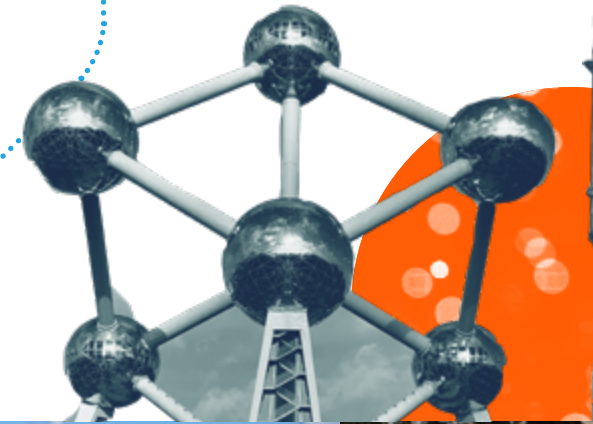
Full evaluation details are [here](#)

The following links may also be helpful:

[IGS Code of Ethics](#)

[Technical Evaluation Guidelines and IGS Council Voting Procedures](#)

“Qualified bids will be submitted for final evaluation by the IGS Council.”



Contact Us!

For more information or guidance to submitting, please contact the IGS Secretariat Manager at igssec@geosyntheticssociety.org.

