Call for Candidates
To host the 12ᵗʰ TRANSPORT RESEARCH ARENA (TRA) Conference in 2028

1. Background

The Transport Research Arena, in short TRA, is THE European research and technology biennial conference on transport and mobility. Following editions around Europe (2006 Goteborg/Sweden, 2008 Ljubljana/Slovenia, 2010 Brussels/Belgium, 2012 Athens/Greece, 2014 Paris/France, 2016 Warsaw/Poland, 2018 Vienna/Austria, 2020 virtually in Helsinki/Finland and 2022 Lisbon/Portugal), the next planned editions will take place in Dublin/Ireland in 2024 and Budapest/Hungary in 2026.

As a key event in Europe for the latest research and innovation results and the development of future mobility visions, TRA covers all modes and forms of transport and the issues influencing it for both passenger and freight transport, in urban, inter-urban and long distance settings.

The TRA Conference is the culmination of a rolling two-year cycle of cooperation between stakeholders, and provides the continuous arena for:

- Researchers, industry, public administrations, users and other stakeholders
- Policy makers framing research and transport policy
- New ideas, technological solutions and new business models
- Exchanges of information, research results and best practices
- Motivation for young researchers to work in transport
- Experiencing the future of mobility

2. Governance of TRA

TRA is hosted on a rotation principle between European countries and is jointly organised by the host country together with: the European Commission, the European Technology Platforms for Aviation (ACARE), Construction (ECTP), Road (ERTRAC), Rail (ERRAC), Water (Waterborne) and Logistics (ALICE) and the Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR), and the European Transport Research Alliance (ETRA).

The Management Committee (MC) is the permanent governing body consisting of senior representatives of all the above-mentioned bodies. The host country is the President of the MC and is also supported by the previous and next hosts. The MC is the ultimate decision-making body of TRA. As such, it is responsible for all necessary strategic and political decisions, and for coordinating all preparatory activities. The TRA MC then establishes the relevant subcommittees (Programme Committee, Organising Committee) in order to support its preparation work.

The host country is the main organiser with the following responsibilities:
o Chairing the TRA Management, Programme and Organising Committees (MC, PC, OC), based on TRA's Terms of Reference
o Control and implementation of the MC, PC and OC decisions
o Legal and financial responsibilities of the organisation of the TRA
o Organisation of the conference

3. Call for Candidate to host TRA 2028

Timing: this call for **expression of interest to host the TRA 2028 edition** is launched on 15 September 2023 and closes on **1 February 2024.**

Responsible organisations: the following organisations (in alphabetical order) issue this call and will assess and select together one candidate: **ACARE, ALICE, CEDR, ECTP, ERRAC, ERTRAC, ETRA, WATERBORNE**. The European Commission and the host countries are not directly involved in this selection process following an obligation of neutrality.

Selection: the organisations will identify the best application based on the requirements listed below as "selection criteria". Candidates are therefore requested to provide information and formal commitments on each of these criteria.

4. Selection criteria

1. The application must be proposed and formally supported at the appropriate level by the national Ministry of a European country[1] in charge of transport, and also if relevant by other Ministries e.g. in charge of research and innovation.
2. The application shall be supported by a consortium consisting of at least the following partners: the national Ministries as the main responsible actors, at least one internationally renowned national research entity, the local host city and/or region in which the conference is proposed to take place. Any support of the national transport related industries is highly welcomed.
3. The application shall indicate the partners' availability to support the organisation of the event through staff experienced with events, communication, marketing and budget management. Proven experience in organising similar events of scientific, innovation and international dimension will be considered as an asset. And established links between the partners and relevant international transport organisations.
5. The application shall detail the commitment in funding the event and covering all the necessary financial duties to organise the conference, and present a conference budget plan. Such budget plan shall rely on the financial commitment of the applicant, based on expectations on income from registration and sponsorships but not on any potential form of EU funding.
 6. The application shall present an attractive and suitable conference venue: internationally well-connected city, venue accessibility through public transport, overall capacity with rooms

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[1] Member or not of the European Union but located in Europe.

for Plenary, Strategic and other sessions, space for exhibition area, outside/inside demonstration, potential technical visits, social programme, etc.

7. The application shall demonstrate an attractive conference concept: main theme proposed, potential topics emphasis, etc, following on the concept of former TRAs. The application shall include the expected legacy of the event and its implications for future cooperation in European transport and innovation.

8. The application shall indicate how the conference will be linked to the European, regional and national research and innovation ecosystems and how the host plans to engage with the organizing platforms to ensure continuity and proper engagement of stakeholders. Early engagement with local partners/members of the organizing platforms is a plus and may be indicated in the proposal.

Key figures to consider for reference, based on the past TRA experiences:
• About 3000 physical participants
• About 800 papers in more than 100 sessions
• 7000 m2 exhibition area
• Gala dinner
• Participants coming from about 60 countries

5. Application timeline

Opening of the call: 15 September 2023

Deadline for application: 1 February 2024

Review of proposals by the organisations: February 2024

Decision on selected host supported by the organisations: March 2024, for public announcement at TRA2024 Dublin.

For further information on TRA, please visit the TRA website www.traconference.eu

Application shall be sent via email to all the addresses below:

info@etp-alice.eu
research@cedr.eu
info@ertrac.org
secretariat@ectp.org
info@eurnex.eu
info@waterborne.eu