

## **PRESS RELEASE 15. March 2018,**

FABEKO- Norwegian Ready Mixed Concrete Association

### **Concrete's contribution to a changing world at ERMCO 2018 Congress**

The [ERMCO 2018 Congress](#) in Oslo in June presents a wide span of interesting projects, from record-breaking strait crossings and superstructures in concrete to increased energy efficiency of buildings through utilization of the thermal mass of concrete.

Kjersti Kvalheim Dunham and Sebastian Spaun are two of the keynote speakers at the ERMCO 2018-Congress in Oslo 7-8 June.

#### **Record-breaking superstructures**

M Sc. Kjersti Kvalheim Dunham is the Programme manager of the Coastal Highway Route E39- project in Norway and will present the world record-breaking, extreme concrete structures that need to be developed in years to come. The Coastal Highway Route E39 runs 1100 km from Kristiansand to Trondheim on the West Coast of Norway. To make the E39 continuous, seven ferries crossing Norwegian fjords needed to be replaced by bridges and fixed crossings. The fjords span from 1.6 to 4.5 km in width, and 400-1250 m in depth, which means that the bridges need to be 2-5 km long and anchored to the seabed 400-1250 m below. Floating bridges, submerged floating tube bridges, suspension bridges on floating or fixed platforms, and combinations of the above solutions are being considered. The project has a total cost of NOK 340 billion (€37 billion), and is estimated to be finished by 2050. A video with animations is available at [Coastal Highway Route E39 website](#)

#### **Thermal activation of concrete**

Dipl.Ing. Sebastian Spaun is Managing Director of the Association of the Austrian Cement Industry and he will present some ways in which concrete can contribute to the heating and cooling of buildings, and to energy storage. After seven years of research and the implementation of several practical examples, the Austrian Cement Industry has just published a planning guide for the use of concrete for heating and cooling of buildings through the thermal activation of concrete. Although the techniques have only been applied in small demonstration buildings so far, the results suggest important progress in the re-organization of future energy supplies for whole neighborhoods in an environmentally-friendly way. The presentation will focus on the following promising concepts: The recovery of excess electrical energy from wind farms, transformed via heat pumps to warm concrete, and the use of geothermal energy for environmentally-friendly passive cooling.

*These are two of the 45 very interesting presentations at the ERMCO 2018 Congress in Oslo.*

*«We are pleased that close to 200 participants have already registered to the Congress as at 1 March» says Jan Eldegard Hjelle, the manager of FABEKO, the Norwegian Association of ready-mixed concrete producers, which is hosting the ERMCO 2018 Congress. «The framework of both the technical and the social programs of the Congress is finalized,» Hjelle continues. «...we intend to decide the detailed content during March and expect about 400 people show up in Oslo in June».*

All abstracts are available on the program at the website [ermco2018.no](http://ermco2018.no)

See animation of [record-breaking superstructures](#)

### **Venue**

The venue for the ERMCO 2018 Congress is Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel in Oslo. As June is high season for travelling in Norway, rooms at hotels are filled up early by international travellers. Our advice is to book rooms as soon as possible. Links to hotels are available at the Congress web site [ermco2018.no](http://ermco2018.no)

### **Social program**

A guided tourist tour of Oslo is organized for accompanying persons on 7th June, and a gala dinner will be held the same evening. In the morning of Saturday 9th June, a tour will be organized to some interesting concrete construction sites. These sites are close to the hotel and accessible by walking.

### **See you in Oslo!**

FABEKO- Norwegian Ready Mixed Concrete Association

Member of ERMCO – the European Ready Mixed Concrete Organization

- Contact person FABEKO, Mr Jan Eldegard Hjelle, [jeh@fabeko.no](mailto:jeh@fabeko.no)
- Contact person ERMCO, Mr Francesco Biasioli, [fb@ermco.eu](mailto:fb@ermco.eu)