



2013 CONGRESS IN NANTES

“Assisting sustainable and responsible cities”

June 4 to 7, 2013

CALL FOR PAPERS

ASTEE

Created in 1905, ASTEE (scientific and technical association for water and the environment, formerly known as AGHTM) is a non-profit organization that is recognized as a public service establishment. It brings together experts, researchers, scientists and practitioners from both public and private organizations involved in local public environmental services with the purpose of formulating common approaches and recommendations. In its role as a public service establishment, it is authorized to issue opinions on scientific and technical issues in its area of expertise: the distribution of drinking water, the collection and treatment of wastewater and industrial waste, the protection of water resources as well as natural aquatic environments, and sustainable environmental management.

ASTEE conferences

Every year, ASTEE organizes a national conference that aims to bring together all those involved in national water and environmental issues to discuss technological innovations and advances in the profession.

This conference provides the forty-some working groups coordinated by the various scientific and technical committees an opportunity to present the results of their work.

The conference in Nantes

The conference in 2013 will be held in Nantes. Nantes, which was awarded the title of European Green Capital of 2013, will host the Ecocity World Summit, an international event devoted to issues pertaining to sustainable urban design, planning, and development that will be held for the first time in France.

For this reason, the general theme of ASTEE’s 2013 conference will focus on sustainable urban development.

The nature of the submissions

Submissions should be written for a professional audience and preferably employ a cross-disciplinary approach to urban services. The selection criteria will be based preponderantly on the results and the operational aspects of the project.

Submissions that address issues related to the impact of climate change as well as those relating to nature and the city may also be accepted. However, issues related to public transport and travel will not be accepted in this call for papers.

Submissions should be based on one or more of the following five themes:

1. Water, Waste and Health

While most major health and sanitation issues that provided the impetus of the social hygiene movement have been resolved in French cities, new questions have arisen regarding the health of city dwellers and the technical management of cities: the safety of the water supply, the toxicity of emerging pollutants, the management and recycling of solid waste and wastewater sludge, etc. Submissions should address these risks on a systemic and inter-service basis and not focus merely on current or emerging risks. Papers that employ an overall analysis of the means deployed to manage solid and liquid waste (i.e. LCA – Life Cycle Assessment), from their collection to their eventual recycling, will also be considered within this theme.

2. City and ecological engineering

Here, submissions should present experiments in ecological engineering (in other words, based on the use of life forms) in conjunction with urban planning with the purpose of better integrating nature within the urban environment over the long term. Of particular interest are papers describing the management or the restoration of “natural” urban aquatic environments or the creation of new wetlands or aquatic environments and the problems they pose in urban water management (water treatment or purification, rainwater management, etc.), and in a broader sense, the relations between water and the urban environment. Submissions should pay particular attention to the social or economic impacts of ecological engineering and the way they contributed to the success of the project rather than relying on a physical description of the project. It is also recommended that papers address the question of urban services that may be rendered by natural processes (i.e. the use of water and/or vegetation in combating or reducing urban hot spots; improving biodiversity, living conditions, etc.). In this context, reliance on a multidisciplinary approach will be an important criterion in the selection process.

3. Urban services and sustainable urban planning

The needs related to the water supply, wastewater treatment, storm and rainwater management, waste collection and processing, depend to a great degree on a city’s structure. A careful selection of the zones to be developed and the natural spaces to be protected can considerably limit these needs. How can this planning be implemented to ensure harmonious changes within today’s cities? How has this been integrated in the design of eco-districts? What are the foreseeable impacts of urbanization (urban sprawl, densification) and climate changes on the city’s water cycle (size of the infrastructures, alternative techniques, flow modeling, etc.) and how can these impacts be best managed or mitigated? It is possible to implement synthetic approaches that would provide overall assessments in diverse areas like the management of water resources, a city’s environmental quality, energy performance, or the socio-economic impacts of its development? How can one best reconcile the long period required for a return on investment with the short period of a political mandate? What are the consequences in terms of efficacy over the medium and long term?

4. The meshing of services

On what scale should major urban services (water supply and sanitation, waste management, etc.) be managed? Should they be managed on a larger regional scale to better group resources or, on the other hand, should they be managed on a smaller scale to better take into account specific local circumstances? How can one best match technical zones with their corresponding jurisdictions? How can one benefit from economies of scale (costs) or scale efficiencies (performance) while averting or limiting organizational cost overruns? Should the current technical divisions be redrawn despite regional administrative divisions? These are questions that we hope will elicit submissions outlining either redeployment experiments or reflections on these principles.

5. Technical innovations for the cities of tomorrow

The aim of this theme is to allow for the introduction of new technologies or state-of-the-art techniques that would be particularly interesting in a context of sustainable urban development. The following is a short list of possible subjects:

- Oxidation
- Methane production
- Waste management: dealing with dangerous substances
- STEP sludge disposal
- Phosphorus reductions
- Etc...

It is hoped that the submissions be organized in such a way as to elicit debate or discussion on issues related to the role and the constraints of technological innovations in the sustainable development of cities: What is the sustainability of the proposed solutions? How can one best take into account future developments in the decision-making process today, or even the adaptation or reversibility that will become necessary in the face of ongoing global changes? One particularly important point that we consider pertinent is whether innovations in the fields of water management and the environment are capable of creating new jobs and added value. Specifically, how can these innovations promote the growth of small- and medium-sized businesses? Examples of successful undertakings would be particularly appreciated.

Practical information

Responding to the call for papers

A one- or two-page abstract must be sent to the ASTEE secretariat before the 31st of August 2012 either by email to: nantes2013@astee.org

Or to:

ASTEE

Congrès Nantes 2013

51 rue Salvador Allende

92027 Nanterre Cedex

It is imperative that the full name, email, telephone, and address of the author be provided with the submission.

IMPORTANT

The authors of all selected proposals must agree to provide a complete text that will be published by TSM. All submissions that were not selected for oral presentations may be posted at the conference, or if the authors desire, their papers may be submitted for publication by TSM.

The steering committee

Président:

- Bernard CHOCAT, INSA de Lyon, Vice President of ASTEE, in charge of research.

Membres :

- Marcel BELLIOU, President of AdP « Villes en Développement »
- Célia DE LAVERGNE, General Director of ASTEE
- Denys BREYSSE, University of Bordeaux
- Jean Claude DEUTSCH, LEESU, ENPC
- Philippe DUPONT, ONEMA, President of CST CREMA *
- Dominique GATEL, Veolia Eau, President of CST Drinking Water *
- Gérard HEGRON, IFSTTAR
- Jean BARON, Eau de Paris, President of CST Metal Corrosion and Protection *
- Solène LE FUR, Policy Officer at ASTEE
- Philippe MAREST, Nantes Métropole, Vice President of ASTEE in charge of Regional Authorities
- Gérard PAYEN, Aquafed, President of the Committee of European and International Affairs *
- Marie-Noëlle PONS, INPL Nancy, President of the Research Committee *
- Jean Philippe TORTEROTOT, Irstea, Secretary of ASTEE
- Jean-Louis RIVOAL, Loire-Bretagne Water Agency, President of ASTEE's Western regional section
- Daniel VILLESSOT, Lyonnaise des Eaux, President of CST Assainissement *

* of ASTEE

Calendar

31 August 2012: Deadline for reception of submissions (1- to 2-page abstract)

October 2012: Selection of papers by the steering committee

November 2012: Notification to authors

January 2013: Deadline for full and complete text