

Source: <http://glasgowcitymarketing.com/media-centre/news/2017/march/glasgow-and-scotland-to-host-5m-ecss-conference-for-first-time/>



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate publication – Wednesday, March 15 2017

Winning team brings Annual Congress of the European College of Sport Science (ECSS) to Glasgow and Scotland for the first time

The Annual Congress of the European College of Sport Science (ECSS) has chosen Glasgow as the location of its first conference to be held in Scotland.

The event, which will be held at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) from July 7-10 2021, is expected to attract 3,000 delegates and contribute nearly £5 million to the city's economy.

The conference will follow on from a number of major sporting events programmed to take place in the city in the coming years, including the inaugural European Championships which will be co-hosted with Berlin in 2018, the European Indoor Athletics Championships in 2019 and the UEFA EURO 2020 football championships.

Aileen Crawford, Head of Conventions at Glasgow Convention Bureau, commented: "Glasgow is recognised as one of the world's top five sporting cities and we're preparing to host a number of major sporting events over the next few years. It is fitting that ECSS, the leading association of sports scientists in Europe, has chosen Glasgow for its first ever visit to Scotland. We're delighted to welcome the conference to Glasgow, which will reinforce our credentials as a world class sporting city and continue to build on our legacy of major sporting events."

Professor Craig Mahoney, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West of Scotland and member of the city's award-winning Conference Ambassador Programme, led Glasgow's ECSS bid alongside the university's School of Science and Sport.

The bid was supported by VisitScotland's National Conference Bid Fund and secured through close collaboration between the university, Glasgow Convention Bureau, the SEC, VisitScotland and VisitBritain.

Commenting on the win, **Neil Brownlee, Head of Business Events at VisitScotland**, said: "The decision by the ECSS to hold its annual congress in Glasgow is a reflection of both Scotland and the city's academic credentials and our world-class conferencing facilities. Scotland has a strong reputation in the key sectors of sport science and medicine, and the SEC will provide an ideal environment for academics and industry professionals to share knowledge with international delegates.

"We are delighted to support the ECSS annual congress through VisitScotland's National Conference Bid Fund. The benefits of conferences such as ECSS extend well beyond delegate spend, reinforcing Scotland's expertise in key industries as well as leaving a lasting legacy on the city."

VisitBritain supported the ECSS bid team's visit to Glasgow, which included a site visit to the SEC.

Chris Foy, Head of Business Visits and Events at VisitBritain, said: "Glasgow is a vibrant city which enjoys a global reputation as a premier conventions centre, benefitting from world-class facilities at the SEC. Collaboration with conference venues, local and national partners is essential for driving business tourism and attracting high calibre conferences like ECSS to Britain."

Kathleen Warden, Director of Conferences at the SEC, added: "Our collaborative team approach was key to securing the ECSS Annual Congress in 2021 and follows a very positive period of conference wins for team Glasgow. The partnership between all organisations involved offered a range of strategic support to the society and we look forward to welcoming this prestigious event to Glasgow and the SEC."

Commenting on its decision to take its annual congress to Glasgow in 2021, the **President of ECSS, Professor Dr. Tim Cable**, said: "Glasgow offers state-of-the-art conventions facilities, excellent options for networking and great recreational possibilities for the congress participants."

"We are always aiming to improve upon the successes of our previous congresses and we are very much looking forward to working with the city's conventions team to develop bespoke public engagement activities which will create unique experiences for delegates and involve the people of Glasgow."

Highlighting the positive impacts that ECSS will bring to Glasgow which will extend beyond its economic value, **Professor Mahoney, Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of the West of Scotland**, said: "ECSS is renowned for the work it does to promote science and research in the fields of sport science and medicine."

"Hosting the annual congress in Glasgow will provide a unique opportunity to showcase the ground breaking work being undertaken at the University of the West of Scotland and other Scottish universities in these fields. The congress will also serve as a platform for professionals, researchers and academics to network and share their expertise with international delegates."

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