

Call for Papers

43rd Annual Conference and General Meeting

University of Twente

25th - 27th August 2027

Conference Theme

**New Ground, Shared Foundations:
*Novel Approaches for a Changing World***

Important Dates

Submission of abstracts:	23:59hrs GMT, Friday 15th January 2027
Notification of decision about abstracts:	Friday 12th February 2027
Submission of full papers for initial review:	23:59hrs GMT, Friday 2nd April 2027
Notification of decision on full papers: (following initial review)	Friday 21st May 2027
Submission of final papers:	23:59hrs GMT, Friday 18th June 2027
Notification of final decision on paper: (after final review)	Monday 16th July 2027



**Association of Researchers in
Construction Management**

We are delighted to announce that ARCOM 2027 will be held at the University of Twente in Enschede, the Netherlands. For the first time in ARCOM's 43-year history, our flagship annual conference will take place outside the United Kingdom. This momentous move reflects ARCOM's outward-looking spirit, our commitment to engaging with the global research community and our ambition to address the challenges facing the built environment of tomorrow.

The theme of ARCOM 2027, "*New Grounds, Shared Foundations: Novel approaches for a dynamic and changing world*", captures this vision. Holding our annual conference outside the United Kingdom for the first time is an act of transposition, as in music: translating a score into a different key. As ARCOM ventures outside our traditional geographical boundaries we are tasked with examining our stance, prompting us to assess what works, critically questioning the status quo and processes that have been taken for granted. Transposing the ARCOM conference beyond the UK's borders is the next step of a planned trajectory of the Committee to embrace new voices. We are proud to now have elected Committee members representing the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Australia and the Netherlands, a body that now so ably represents the international character of our vibrant research community.

For our 43rd conference, we will travel to the Netherlands and the University of Twente. Founded in 1961 on the former Drienerlo Estate in the city of Enschede, this outstanding institution is one of the four Dutch technical universities. First established through the works of Professor André Dorée and Professor Leentje Volker, a strong and productive relationship has developed between the Construction Management & Engineering Department at Twente and ARCOM. Their collective contributions both to our annual conference and our community have grown exponentially over the last decade. Amongst these have been studies and workshops covering project delivery and organisation, transition management, circularity, digitalisation and research methodology.

Holding our annual conference outside the UK means that the ARCOM conference dates will fall at the end of August 2027, so **please mark your calendars for Wednesday 25 –Friday 27 August 2027** and keep a close eye out for next year's paper submission deadlines which be published as part of the call for papers and on our website. Preparations are already in progress for what will be a landmark ARCOM conference. There will be regular updates on submission deadlines, the conference theme and other information for authors on our website.

We are particularly interested in receiving submissions within the following areas:

Contract management	Infrastructure development
Design and technology	Offsite construction
Digitalisation	Performance
Disaster management and resilience	Procurement
Equality, diversity and inclusion	Sustainability
Health, safety and wellbeing	Pedagogic research
Human resource management	Other related topics

Submission and Peer Review Process

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Please submit an abstract of around 170 words and include up to 5 keywords via the MyARCOM online portal. Abstracts will be sent to two referees for peer-review. From this peer-review process, each abstract will be either accepted or rejected. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **23:59hrs GMT on Friday 15 January 2027**.

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS FOR INITIAL REVIEW

Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit full papers. Full papers must be less than 10 sides of A4 (including all references, tables, graphics and illustrations). **All papers must be submitted on the ARCOM paper template**, which is available for download from the Conferences section of our website [www.arcom.ac.uk]. Each paper will be sent to two members of our Scientific Committee for peer-review. Following this process of double-blind peer-review, papers may be accepted, accepted with minor alterations, accepted with major alterations or rejected. The deadline for the submission of full papers for initial review is **23:59hrs GMT on Friday 2 April 2027**.

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS FOR FINAL REVIEW

After initial review stage, the authors of papers that were accepted with minor alterations or accepted with major alterations will be asked to revise their papers with the reviewer feedback in mind and resubmit their work for a final review. The final review will result in papers being either accepted or rejected. Papers submitted for final review should be in 'ready for publication' condition as there is no further opportunity for further adjustments. The deadline for the submission of full papers for final review is **23:59hrs GMT on Friday 18 June 2027**.

PRESENTATION AND PUBLICATION OF ACCEPTED PAPERS

If a paper is accepted for presentation at conference, its authors will be formally invited to present their paper in person at conference. **At least one of the authors/co-authors** of the paper must **register and pay for their place at conference and be able to attend conference in-person** to present the paper and answer questions on their work. Authors of accepted papers will have a choice of formally publishing their paper as an indexed paper within our Annual Conference Proceedings or making their paper available to other researchers as an ARCOM working paper via MyARCOM.

IMPORTANT: Late submissions will not be accepted at any stage | See the MyARCOM section of our website for more details.

Conference Theme

New Grounds, Shared Foundations: Novel approaches for a dynamic and changing world

We are living through a period of extraordinary change. The unprecedented pace of digital transformation and the ubiquitous presence it has over our lives have forced us to question how we approach and complete everyday tasks. Whether we are early adopters or laggards, there is little doubt that we are now working, communicating, and processing information in drastically different ways compared to merely a few years ago. Meanwhile, shifting political landscapes and the growing urgency of climate change, alongside longstanding challenges in the construction sector, provide continued opportunities for research and innovation.

Persistent productivity and performance gaps invite us to explore collaborative practices and reimagine how organisational goals could be delivered. Sustainability objectives present complex systems that challenge project implementation, and supply chain uncertainties prompt us to examine our energy security and infrastructure resilience. Demographic changes and shifting labour markets leads us to adapt to an ageing workforce, and to drive innovations in recruitment and skills training. Alongside these challenges, health, safety and wellbeing in the construction sector remains a central concern, as well as questions associated with inclusive work practices and the social impacts of construction activity on wider communities.

These challenges are set against the current prevailing academic discourse to examine what AI means for academic practice, to what levels and by what means should we engage, and how might we prepare the next generation of researchers for work in this new environment. We therefore find ourselves in an interesting position, where the context within which we conduct research has shifted rapidly, while the foundational issues remain familiar. How do we best apply the knowledge base we have developed over the years to explore these new grounds?

Inspired by our landmark decision to hold ARCOM 2027 in the Netherlands, the theme for next year's conference is "New Ground, Shared Foundations: Novel approaches for a dynamic and changing world". This builds on ARCOM 2026's theme of "Network and Connectivity in Construction". Both themes aim to position a discourse that challenges the status quo to test our readiness for addressing complex societal issues and pave ways for innovative solutions. Whereas ARCOM 2026's theme focuses on discovering connections between existing strands of research, however, "New Ground, Shared Foundations" encourages us to look beyond the scope of our current projects, to examine potential future impact and possible translations into new contexts.

We therefore invite authors to critically examine the underlying assumptions of their research questions, to consider how the knowledge generated in their study might be applied to different contexts or scaled to address emergent challenges. We particularly encourage authors to make use of the discussion section to explore the potential reach and impact of their work, and to critique and make explicit the shifts in thinking, approaches, or methods that would be required to translate their research for new settings.

Organising Committee

Dr. Vivien Chow, Loughborough University

Professor Craig Thomson, Glasgow Caledonian University

Dr. Léon olde Scholtenhuis, Twente University

Professor Danial Gilmour, Abertay University

Dr. John Spillane, University of Limerick

Dr. Emmanuel Aboagye-Nimo, Birmingham City University

Dr. Phillippa Boyd, University of the Built Environment

...together with the other members of the ARCOM Committee who will be confirmed at the ARCOM Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 8 September 2026.

Venue Information

University of Twente (UT) is one of the four technical universities in the Netherlands. The university is named after the geographic region of Twente, located in the East of the Netherlands, near the German border. The region has been a junction for traffic between the metropolitan region Randstad (where cities like Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague are located), Germany (and Eastern) other European countries. With infrastructures supplying routes for freight and water cargo, Twente hosts various canals, and an international high speed train railway and large areas of agriculture surrounding various medieval castles and national parks).

The construction management division at UT was established as part of Civil Engineering and a spinout of Public and Business Administration in 1990s. The emergence of this department coincided with the University's connection to ARCOM. As the smallest and youngest technical university in a small nation, UT collaborates with Delft and Eindhoven Universities of Technology, and Wageningen University within the 4TU Foundation. The universities share a Construction Management & Engineering M.Sc. programme and jointly work on research in Built Environment Domain Acceleration Teams for Digitalisation, Circularity and Sustainability, Energy Transition, Climate Adaptation and Infrastructure. As a regional university, Twente shapes its construction management research approach through collaborations with local contractors and authorities, leading to an arena for rich qualitative research.

The rich machine manufacturing, textile industry and salt mining in Twente made the region blooming in early 1900s. When these industries moved overseas after WWII, University of Twente was founded to burst the economy of the region. Besides various tech spinoffs, mechatronics, and the Grolsch brewery, among others, Twente is known for its construction and road engineering industry. Many of the Dutch mid-size contractors (and various large) originate or still are headquartered in the region. In more contemporary and sporty terms, Enschede is home to the Football Club of FC Twente - known to many of our delegates who fancy football. The club made it to the European league and was coached by the British Steve McLaren.

Conference Fee

The conference fee for ARCOM 2027 will be decided by the ARCOM committee in the spring of 2027 once the costings for the conference are known. **An early-bird discount will apply for all registrations received by 23:59hrs GMT on Wednesday 30 June 2027.** The usual discounts for paid-up ARCOM members and PGR students from an institution with a current ARCOM institutional membership will also apply. Please note that accommodation is not included in the conference fee.



University of Twente Campus

Best Paper Prizes

....paper prizes will include:

ARCOM Award for International Issue(s)
David Langford Commemorative Award
ARCOM Award for Sustainability
Paul Townsend Commemorative Award
Rod Howes Commemorative Award

...and others

Contact and Further Information

For further information please visit the Conferences section of the ARCOM website - www.arcom.ac.uk

Conference Chair: Dr Vivien Chow, Loughborough University

Conference Secretary: Dr Christopher Neilson, The University of Manchester

Email queries should be directed to conference@arcom.ac.uk in the first instance