

ANNOUNCING  
THE  
**BIG  
STUFF**  
CONFERENCE  
IN BELGIUM  
OCTOBER 2025!





**THEME:**  
**“SKILLS  
AND  
MACHINES –  
A LIVING  
PARTNER-  
SHIP”**

We are thrilled to announce that the international Big Stuff Conference will take place in Belgium from October 14th to 17th, 2025. Hosted by the vibrant Big Stuff Heritage community, this event is a gathering of museum professionals, academics, consultants, volunteers, and private owners dedicated to preserving and showcasing technological and industrial heritage.

In 2025 we focus on the symbiotic relationship between skills and machinery. Industrial heritage encompasses not just large-scale installations and historic machinery, but also the people, skills, and knowledge required to operate, maintain and showcase this mechanical legacy. As the generations of workers and volunteers who have learned to control, calibrate and repair these machines retire, their invaluable expertise is at risk of being lost.

The conference wants to explore effective methods for passing critical and endangered knowledge to new staff and volunteers, ensuring the continuity of this heritage. We would also like to broaden the scope, looking at ways to make old technologies resonate with new generations. How do we teach handskills to a generation brought up on automation? How do we connect older Big Stuff to important new themes such as lower carbon emissions, lower pollution, circular re-use and right to repair?



# PARTICIPATE AND CONNECT

During the conference we will delve into how we can keep heritage machinery running in our changing society. Participants are invited to present their work on preserving and transmitting this critical knowledge to a new generation of heritage workers. The conference will feature discussions on practical experiences, successful or failed strategies, and shared challenges, with a particular focus on adapting to the evolving expectations of heritage visitors, workers and customers.

Join us at the Big Stuff Conference 2025 to help shape the future of industrial and technical heritage preservation! Take the opportunity to present your own practices, experiences, and challenges. Enjoy excursions to inspiring industrial heritage sites across Belgium, with ample time for networking and discussions. Our basecamp will be the Museum of Industry in the historic city of Ghent. A place with a deep industrial past (and present), and a great gateway for exploring Belgium's heritage.





# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The conference will take place from **October 14th to 17th, 2025**. Mark your calendars and prepare to connect, learn, and be inspired! **Registration will be sent out late 2024.**

You can present your paper in a 20-minute talk, followed by a discussion. Alternatively, you can participate in a poster session, a fantastic opportunity to share your work in a more informal setting with the Big Stuff community.

Send your abstract to: [bigstuff2025@industriemuseum.be](mailto:bigstuff2025@industriemuseum.be)

- Language: English
- Length: not exceeding 2000 characters
- Deadline: 1st of November 2024

Please indicate the format you prefer: oral or poster presentation.

A notification will be sent out on the 15th of November 2024 to the acceptees of the contributed talks and posters.



More information on [bigstuff2025.info](https://bigstuff2025.info)