

## PRESS RELEASE

### Launch of the “International Architectural Design Competition for the Thessaloniki ConfEx Park”

On September 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 TIF-HELEXPO SA launched an international open call for the pre-qualification to participate in the “**International Architectural Design Competition for the Thessaloniki ConfEx Park**”. The invitation aims to attract architects with the highest degree of competence, creativity, innovation and commitment.

TIF-HELEXPO S.A. is the leading company in the exhibitions and conference industry in South Eastern Europe. TIF-HELEXPO is based in Thessaloniki, where it owns and manages the largest Exhibition & Congress Centre in the country.

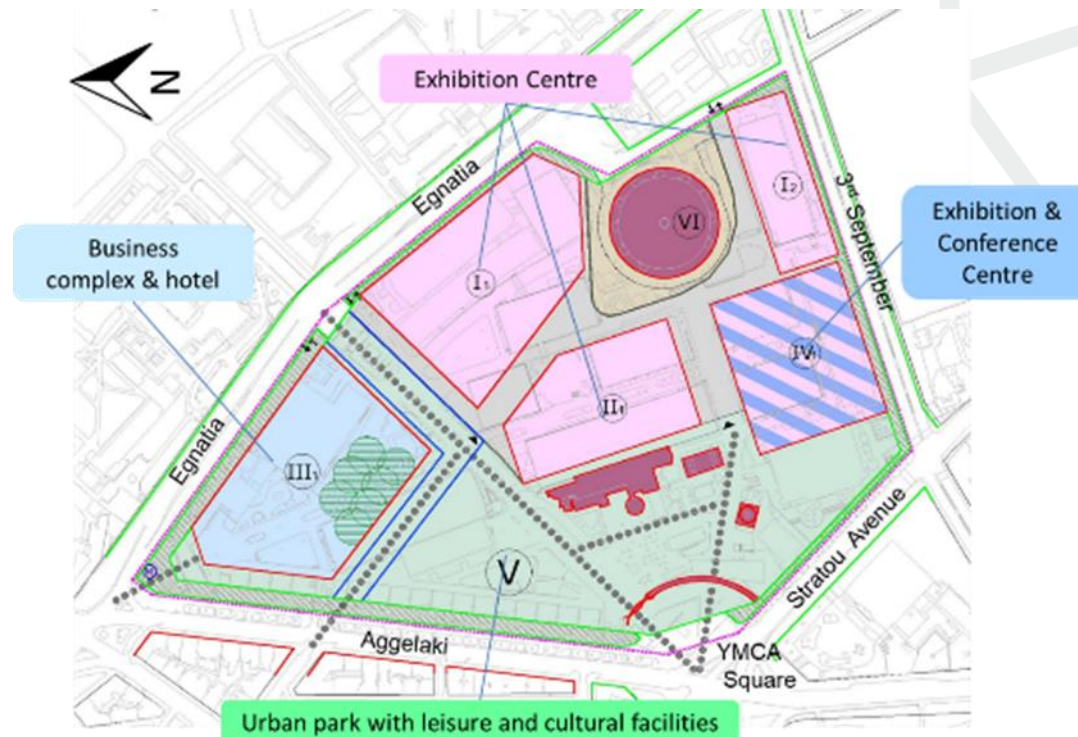
TIF-HELEXPO S.A. shall proceed to a major redevelopment of its Fairgrounds, located in the center of Thessaloniki, with the construction of the Thessaloniki ConfEx Park, which will include a state-of-the-art convention centre and a new urban park. The Master Plan of the TIF-HELEXPO area has recently been approved by the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

#### **THE PROJECT**

The architectural competition aims at the construction of an Exhibition & Conference Center with strong identity, which will fulfill the highest standards that shall optimize the arrangement of its facilities and activities, respect environmental parameters and contribute to sustainable development. One of the main project goals is to stimulate the redevelopment of a prominent part of the city center, a redevelopment that shall have a major impact on the economy of the city and the broader area of Northern Greece, contributing, thus, to the transformation of Thessaloniki into one of the top, forward-looking cities of Europe and a leading, international business hub and tourist destination.

The project shall be a landmark for the whole city and a milestone for the business history of the broader region. TIF-HELEXPO S.A is expecting innovative, high-quality, sustainable, unique architectural proposals for a visionary project that aspires to become an exceptional example of future cityscape developments establishing close spatial connections between business areas and buildings as well as green open spaces.

The competition area occupies approximately 17,5 hectares (175.000 m<sup>2</sup>) and according to the Master Plan is divided into four (4) functional districts and six (6) sectors.



## THE COMPETITION

The “INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE THESSALONIKI CONFEX PARK” is launched as an **international, one-stage architectural design project Competition conducted in restricted procedure** and it will be conducted according to UNESCO-UIA international competitions and town planning regulations and the UIA Best practice Recommendations. UIA endorsement is pending.

More specifically, the procedure will be organized in the following phases:

- the Prequalification
- the Design Competition.

The Prequalification phase will be a selection process and a preliminary step of the one-stage competition that aims at shortlisting the applicants, who appear to be most capable of providing successful solutions for this complex project. Among the applications received, the International Jury will select fifteen (15) applicants to participate in the Design Competition.

In the Design Competition the fifteen (15) competitors will be invited to submit design proposals anonymously. The design proposals will be presented to the international jury responsible for evaluating and ranking them and determining the prizes and eventual honorary mentions.

TIF-HELEXPO S.A. will proceed to a private, negotiation procedure with the first prize winner for the further development of the project, namely the realization of the new THESSALONIKI CONFEX PARK, based on the first prize winner’s Design.

### **PRIZES- HONORARIA**

All competitors, who submit entries at the Design Competition, will receive an honorarium of 15.000,00 euro each.

The three competitors that will be awarded by the jury with the first, the second and the third prizes will be awarded respectively the following prize money:

- 1st prize            50.000,00 Euro
- 2nd prize           30.000,00 Euro
- 3rd prize            20.000,00 Euro

The jury may also award honorary mentions to designs with a particular merit.

### **INTERNATIONAL JURY**

An international jury comprised of internationally renowned professionals in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning will evaluate all applications at the pre-qualification step, select the competitors, evaluate all design entries at the competition, rank them and allocate the prizes.

The jury consists of nine (9) regular and three (3) alternate members.

#### Jury members:

- 1) **JOAN BUSQUETS**, Chairperson of the Jury (Spain), Architect, Urban Planner, Head Professor of Urban Design at Harvard Graduate School of Design
- 2) **FARSHID MOUSSAVI** (Great Britain), Architect and Professor in Practice of Architecture at Harvard Graduate School of Design
- 3) **RENA SAKELLARIDOU** (Greece), Architect, Professor at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki School of Architecture
- 4) **SIMON EWINGS** (Norway), Architect and Head of Haptic Architects in Oslo
- 5) **SAMULI MIETTINEN**, Representative of UIA (Finland), Architect, Partner at JKMM Architects in Helsinki
- 6) **ARETI MARKOPOULOU** (Greece), Architect, Director of the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC) in Barcelona
- 7) **IRENE DJAO-RAKITINE** (France), Landscape architect, Member of the Landscape Institute, United Kingdom
- 8) **DIMITRIOS KERKENTZES** (Great Britain), Secretary General of the Bureau International des Expositions, Paris, France
- 9) **KYRIAKOS POZRIKIDIS** (Greece), CEO of TIF-HELEXPO S.A.

#### Alternate Jury members:

- 10) **FANI VAVILI** (Greece), Professor of Architecture at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki School of Architecture
- 11) **SIMON HARTMANN**, Representative of UIA (Switzerland), Architect, Visiting Professor at Harvard Graduate School of Design
- 12) **DANIEL FÜGENSCHUH** (Austria), Architect, President of the Austrian Chamber of Architects

**TIME SCHEDULE**

The key dates of the competition are:

<b>PREQUALIFICATION</b>	Prequalification Launch - registration opening	Sep 29, 2020
	Application Submission Deadline	Nov 13, 2020
	Announcement of Selection of 15 Competitors	Dec 10, 2020
	Evidence Submission Deadline	Jan 22, 2021
<b>DESIGN COMPETITION</b>	Competition Starts	Feb 1, 2021
	Submission Deadline	May 31, 2021
	Winners announced	Jul 1, 2021

**ACCESS TO THE COMPETITION DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION**

All Competition documents, such as the Competition Regulations, its Appendixes, any Q&A, the provisional programme etc. will be made available on the website of the competition, namely at the following address: <https://thessaloniki-confexpark.gr>.