

The Minister for the Environment of the Madrid Regional Government, Paloma Martín, today attended the opening of the Young Water Professionals Conference

Canal de Isabel II: Integral Water Cycle Management Model for Future Sector Leaders

- The IWA-YWP Spain Conference enables young professionals in the water sector to share experience and knowledge
- Attendees will be able to visit four installations operated by *Canal* for integrated water cycle management

12NOV19 - The Minister for the Environment, Regional Planning and Sustainability of the Madrid Regional Government today attended the opening session of the Young Water Professionals Spain conference, an event which brings together young professionals working in the water sector, in Madrid.

The Conference is sponsored by Canal de Isabel II, a public company owned by the Madrid Regional Government, together with other Spanish sector leaders, and organised by the Spanish chapter of Young Water Professionals, part of the International Water Association (IWA). The conference aims to be a place for water sector professionals to share experiences, research and knowledge, and for personal and professional networking.

This edition has four main tracks: The Water Cycle, covering Canal de Isabel II's management model; New Emerging Technologies; Water 4.0; and Water Economy and Governance.

Canal de Isabel II is sponsoring and actively participating in this track, which started today at the headquarters of the *Canal* Foundation. In her speech, Paloma Martín covered the different challenges facing *Canal* and its future objectives and highlighted the leading role of young professionals in the sector in achieving them. "Madrid is Spain's most innovative and enterprising region, with more than 26 % of national R&D&I spending, and the highest ratio of technology jobs and companies in this sector," the Minister said.

The regional government is taking steps towards an intelligent transition to a green community. In this regard, Canal de Isabel II and its integrated water cycle management are an example of these environmental policies and the Region's commitment to promoting development of a circular economy model in the region.

VISIT TO THE PUBLICLY OWNED COMPANY'S STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

As well as hosting the opening session, in which representatives of YWP and the Spanish Water Supply and Sanitation Association (AEAS) also took part, Canal de Isabel II is collaborating with the event by organising technical visits to four integrated water cycle management facilities (Majadahonda DWTP, Control Centre, Arroyo Culebro Medium-High Basin WWTP and Arroyofresno storm tank), and a talk by its Director of Operations, Belén Benito on the integrated water cycle.

The conference technical sessions, which are fully booked, will be held on 13th and 14th November at the School of Industrial Engineers of the Madrid Polytechnic University.

The Young Water Professionals (YWP) network is a global initiative by the International Water Association (IWA). Its aim is to train the new generation of water leaders, offering support to the sector through actions to attract young professionals (under 35) and help them achieve their full professional potential. Its Spanish chapter was formed four years ago and aims to contribute to the present and future of the water sector in Spain through professional development, recognition and exposure of young professionals in this sector.

Canal de Isabel II was founded almost 170 years ago to supply water to the city of Madrid and today it employs over 2800 people who work every day to serve more than 6 million people in the region. It is an innovative publicly owned company, a leader in its sector and recognised worldwide for its management of the integrated water cycle.

It operates 13 reservoirs; 78 groundwater catchments; 17,601 km of water supply and distribution network; 131 drinking water and 133 wastewater pumping stations; 15,083 km of sewage networks; 65 storm tanks; 157 wastewater treatment plants; and 615 km of reclaimed water network.