

NEWS RELEASE – August 19, 2025

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Premiere Episode of Groundbreaking New Tunneling Podcast Series Now Available

Tunneling Today With UCA taps top experts for an accessible dig into latest industry advances powering remarkable human progress



Luke Ducey (left), co-host of Tunneling Today With UCA, interviews Youssef Hashash (right), professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the premiere episode

At the recent Rapid Excavation and Tunneling Conference® (RETC 2025), select members of the Underground Construction Association (UCA) gathered to begin production of a groundbreaking new podcast series titled *Tunneling Today With UCA*. The series features a world-class collective of co-hosts and guests providing key insights into an industry currently planning and executing some of the most significant infrastructure projects across the globe.

In [Part 1](#) of “A Discussion of AI Integration,” now available, Luke Ducey talks with Professor Youssef Hashash about his unique career path that took him throughout the U.S., how he began

experimenting with AI applications, and what he envisions for the future. Part 2 of their discussion will premiere later this month on August 26.

“The podcast is part of a key effort to inform the public about our industry, which continues to make profound improvements to our lives by way of its many exciting projects across the world,” said Luke Ducey, co-host of *Tunneling Today With UCA* and lead geologist at WSP USA.

“With the power of new media, we’re bringing you a roster of tunneling’s foremost experts, showcasing the many virtues and rewards of joining the global mission of underground infrastructure evolution.”

Episode 2, which will be available September 23, is hosted by Botlhe Masedi, business development manager at Kiewit. It explores the fascinating reality of tunnel boring machines (TBMs) with Steffen Dubé and John DiPonio. Dubé is the president and general manager of Herrenknecht USA & Canada. DiPonio is the president of Jay Dee Contractors.

Upcoming episodes of the series will premiere on SME Studios and will be available wherever podcasts can be found (Apple, Spotify, etc.).

Visit the *Tunneling Today With UCA* site on SME Studios: media.smenet.org/tunneling-today-with-uca/

About UCA

The Underground Construction Association, a Division of SME (UCA) brings together tunneling’s brightest and most dedicated professionals. Global association members advance their careers with world-class technical resources, educational programs, networking opportunities and professional development tools from UCA. Our members are focused on sharing best practices in safety, environmental stewardship and technological advancements. UCA. *Inspiring tunneling professionals worldwide.*