The Conference & Expo organization is progressing at full speed; 150 abstracts had been accepted, divided in 5 parallel sessions for 2 days. The preliminary program is available on the conference website:

www.naceitalia.it/genoa2018

Hereafter a brief introduction prepared by the chairpersons to the following sessions:

- Behaviour of CRAs & welds in corrosive environments,
- Use of Stainless Steels in the refinery industry,
- Microbiologically Influenced Corrosion.

**Behaviour of CRAs &welds in corrosive environments**

Chair **Thomas Ladwein** (Aalen University) and **Marco De Marco** (Italian Institute of Welding).

The selection of the right material for engineering and production of industrial components subjected to severe corrosive environments, represents a not easy challenge. Furthermore the manufacturing process can drastically impair the original metallurgical and corrosion resistance properties.

In this context, it is well known that welding operations can introduce critical issues that must be well known by professionals both during design and qualification testing in order to avoid costly and time-consuming failures and/or lack of reliability for future intended service. This is particularly true for CRAs. The aforesaid topics will be actively discussed in the session in terms both of base materials and welding by speakers coming from end users, material manufacturers, service companies and research institutes.

**Workshop on the use of Stainless Steels in the refinery industry** - Chair: **Alessandra Spaghetti** (Sandvik) and **Giovanna Gabetta** (ENI)

In the recent years, the refinery sector had several challenges to face, due to oil price and market situation. The even more diffuse use of sour crudes and sour gas caused harsher conditions and increased corrosion risks. The use of high-alloyed stainless steels, especially in heat exchangers, together with better inspection and maintenance structure and methodologies, helped to fight against corrosion. During the workshop several speakers working in different refinery fields will share their experience and case studies. The workshop is planned to raise interesting discussion with the audience.

**Microbial Influenced Corrosion - Chair: Herman de Vries** (Microbial Analysis) and **Nicole Dopffel** (BASF).

Although they are only 5 microns in size, Microorganisms can play a significant role in corrosion processes. In basically every industrial processes where there is a suitable environment and presence of water, micro-organisms can grow and contribute to corrosion processes. Oil and Gas environments are well known for activity of Sulfate reducing organisms, but many other organisms can contribute to corrosion processes. This session is providing practical cases from end users from upstream oil and gas production, as well as the food industry. Several papers will show innovative approaches and techniques to control and mitigate this type of corrosion.