

EUROPEAN CONVENTION CENTRES



convention centre



6 of the best convention centres

Forward-thinking convention centres are refurbishing and reconfiguring their spaces to meet combined conference and exhibition needs. By *Abigail Wills*

Strasbourg Convention & Exhibition Centre

Strasbourg, in eastern France, is within reach of a number of international airports. The city's convention and exhibition centre is undergoing a £200 million modernisation programme, due to be completed in summer 2016.

The refit will see the venue better placed to host events combining conferences and exhibitions. The convention centre is being extended to offer 3,000m² of exhibition space by the end of 2015. A new 500-seat auditorium, the Munch Auditorium, will be built alongside the existing 1,800-seat Erasme and 1,200-seat Schweitzer auditoria. Some 25 meeting rooms, four exhibition halls offering 30,000m² of space, and a further 10,000m² of multi-purpose event space will be available.

Bella Center, Copenhagen

Denmark's Bella Center in Copenhagen has recently added B-Zero to its range of meeting facilities. The new space, with concrete floors and white walls, opened in November 2013 and has its own entrance next to the 812-room, four-star Bella Sky Comwell Hotel and the neighbouring Bella Center Metro Station.

B-Zero has 28 meeting rooms and more than 4,500m² of exhibition space – all on one level – and is suitable for small- to medium-size meetings and events. The total capacity of the B-Zero Exhibition Hall is 1,812m² and the meeting room capacity varies from 65 to 320 people. The daily room rental is £8,480.

Convention centre, Mons

The city of Mons in Walloon, Belgium, is positioning itself as a centre of business tourism as its tenure as European Capital of Culture in 2015 approaches, along with the opening date (October 2014) for its new convention centre. The building will be between the city centre and the Lotto Mons Expo in the new commercial district Grands Prés, near the station.

The centre is designed by Daniel Libeskind and includes auditoria with 500, 200 and 100 seats, committee rooms, a dining area including a reception room and a VIP lounge, as well as a 400m² hall.

