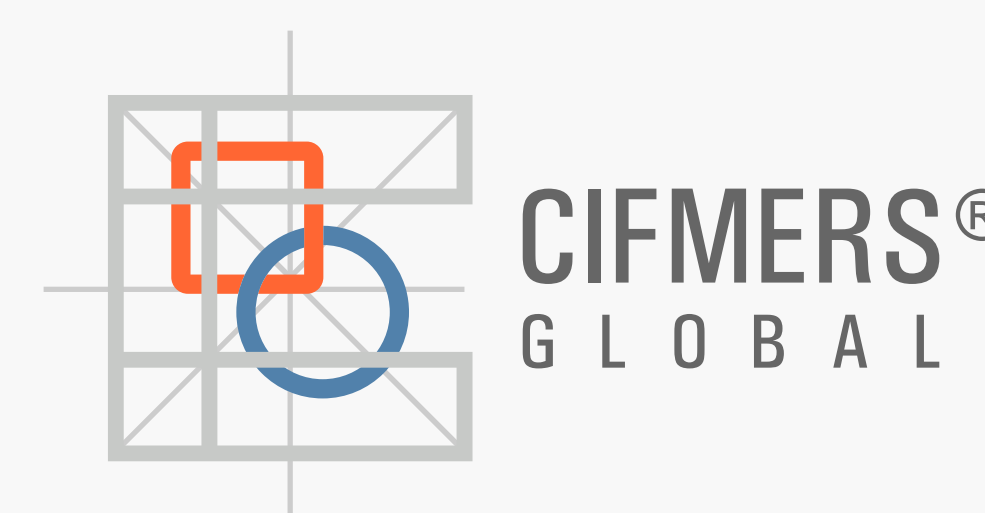




Interview with: **Matthew Tucker**

*Chairman of EuroFM Research
Network Group (RNG)*



Today we are interviewing Matthew Tucker, Chairman of EuroFM Research Network Group (RNG). Matthew will take part at the next edition of EFMC in Sofia and today he shares with us his view on Facility Management.

1.- In the EFMC, you will be a moderator of the round table about the importance of Research in Facility Management. What expectations do you have about this?

I am extremely excited about this. Research is so important to the FM field and the quality of many of the submissions this year has been excellent, so I am hoping this roundtable will enable an interesting and though-provoking dialogue to take place that people find useful. A roundtable discussion is an alternative method of presenting research. Traditionally we do this through PowerPoint presentations, but this does not always allow research to be debated and explored through alternative viewpoints. I am hoping this roundtable element of EFMC will add something extra to the conference and I hope the audience enjoys it.

2.- As a researcher, what would you ask to the business and education world?

Research cannot exist without business and academic application. I am a firm believe that the best research is applied in nature. Whether this be through research-led teaching, or industry-led projects. Otherwise, research becomes sat on a dusty shelf without anyone who wants to read or hear about it. Within EuroFM we are lucky that we have core Network Groups education, research and industry. This allows the chairs of each respective network group to collaborate and share ideas so they can complement one another. I hope that both the business and education world see the benefits of these cross-overs at EFMC and I am sure, based on the amazing programme, that they will be very happy with the results.

3.- What message would you send to the companies that could be part of EuroFM, on what value can the RNG provide them?

EuroFM provides a unique platform to engage with some of the most innovative and creative mind-sets in the FM industry. The research network group exists to engage researchers in exciting and collaborative initiatives, and it could be the next best thing for your company! I would ask that any industry specialists that are attending EFMC to take the time to interact with the research and education talks that are taking place, and hopefully find some inspiration to see opportunities to collaborate with one another.

4.- Sofia will host the next edition of EFMC in June. What can you tell about this event to attend?

I am thrilled that the next EFMC will be hosted in such a vibrant city. Coincidentally I am working on a research paper at the moment on the current trends in FM in South East Europe, and I think that the event will have much to discuss and debate and the city will provide a great platform for this. The venue for EFMC looks amazing and I think it offers us the opportunity to design a conference that is slightly different and unique from past EFMC's. For example, the venue offers the opportunity for alternative presentation methods (roundtables, poster presentations, circular stages etc.). Sometimes people can be afraid of change, and this conference will certainly be different, but I believe change, if management correctly, is generally a positive thing that allows us to grow and improve and explore things we didn't know could be possible. I am confident that EFMC in Sofia will do just this, and I hope as many FM stakeholders as possible will join us there.