Antoine Amarilli,
Bertrand Meyer,
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Télécom ParisTech
46, rue Barrault
F-75013 Paris

July 22nd 2016

Dear Fernando, Dear members of the SWERC organization committee,

The goal of this letter is to answer your call for bids to organize SWERC 2017, sent on July 14th.

We are teachers who have been training SWERC participants for the Télécom ParisTech engineering school, and we would like to propose hosting SWERC 2017 in Paris, co-organized by Télécom ParisTech[1] and École normale supérieure[2]. The contest would take place at Télécom ParisTech, in the 13th district of Paris.

Because it is currently a vacation period, it will not be possible to get a formal commitment from the direction of our respective schools before July 25. This being said, they have been supportive of such efforts in the past and we do not expect any difficulties. Indeed, we have already obtained informal confirmation of support for this project from the head of our department at Télécom ParisTech and from the head of studies in computer science at ENS.

We are quite aware of the work required by such an organization, but we are ready to tackle this task. We hope the location will help attract applicants, both local (there are plenty of computer science and computer engineering students in the Paris region) and in the rest of South-Western Europe who want to discover the City of Light.

Location of the event: The event would take part in Paris, at Télécom Paris-Tech, in the Computer science and networking department. We are located 46 rue Barrault, 75013 Paris, in a nice district of Paris[3] with numerous hotels and restaurants, and easy access by subway. Of course, Paris itself is easy to reach by train and by plane.
The competition will be co-organized by École normale supérieure, the event being hosted at Télécom ParisTech because ENS lacks the necessary infrastructure.

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[1] see `https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%C3%A9l%C3%A9com_ParisTech`

[2] aka ENS Ulm, see `https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89cole_Normale_Sup%C3%A9rieure`

[3] `https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butte-aux-Cailles`

Organising team: The leaders of the organising committee would be:

- Dr. Antoine Amarilli, Associate Professor, Télécom ParisTech (from Aug 1, 2016), main point of contact;
- Dr. Bertrand Meyer, Associate Professor, Télécom ParisTech;
- Pr. Pierre Senellart, Professor, ENS Ulm (from Sep 1, 2016).

We can count on help from many people in the Parisian area, including former ENS Ulm and Télécom SWERC participants, database researchers, and students at Télécom ParisTech for local organization, including graduate students specifically assigned to the task, and members of the local competitive programming student association *Télécode*.

Involvement in SWERC: The three of us have been involved for the past four years in training Télécom ParisTech students for the SWERC. Télécom ParisTech has sent teams to SWERC for the last three years and will continue to do so in 2016. The École normale supérieure has continuously sent teams to the SWERC since at least 2009, and perhaps even longer. Antoine Amarilli participated to SWERC twice as a coach (for ENS Ulm in 2012, for Télécom ParisTech in 2014) and three times a contestant (for ENS Ulm, in 2009, 2010, 2011).

Experience with contest organization: We have organised for four years an internal programming contest at Télécom ParisTech to select our students for the SWERC. The event involved a few dozen students: in 2016 there were 39 participants. The contest is run using problems on the UVa and ICPC Live Archive websites.

Pierre Senellart has been the organizer of the second ACM SIGMOD international programming contest[4].

Support: Both Télécom ParisTech and ENS are supportive of SWERC. We expect assistance from our schools to manage the budget and logistics of the event. Finally, Télécom ParisTech can provide its campus and computing infrastructure; we have a number of contiguous computer lab rooms which can easily host 50 teams of 3 students. We have organized similar events in the past and do not envision any issue.

In terms of sponsors, Paris hosts many leading IT companies which we can approach for collaboration and funding (e.g., Google Paris, who organizes the Google Hash Code programming contest).

Judges and problem sets: At least 4 institutions in the greater Paris area are familiar with SWERC and have sent participants: Télécom ParisTech, ENS, but also ENS de Cachan and École Polytechnique. Beyond that, Paris hosts many computer science researchers who could help design problem sets and serve as judges, e.g., at Université Pierre-et-Marie-Curie. Of course, we are also welcoming judges and problem setters from previous SWERC editions.

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[4]http://dbweb.enst.fr/events/sigmod10contest/

Accomodation : The central location of our school makes it easy to find all sorts of hotels, apartments and other accommodation options. As of now, a 3-night stay over a week-end in November 2016 for 3 people in a cheap hotel but with reasonable ratings (Ibis budget) is 153 EUR total, i.e., 17 EUR per night and per team member. For a 3-star hotel, the cost goes to 282 EUR total, i.e., 32 EUR/night/member.

We look forward to hearing more from you about our proposal. If you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to let us know. At least one of us should be atend SWERC 2016 as coach, which could be an opportunity to discuss logistics in more details.

In any case, we wish to thank you for your committment in organizing SWERC over the last years, and we look forward to SWERC 2017!

Yours sincerely,

Pr. Pierre Senellart,
Dr. Antoine Amarili,
Dr. Bertrand Meyer.