

September 12, 2006

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Regarding: LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE FOR 2009 International Conference of the System Dynamics Society

Dear Len and Aldo:

The System Dynamics Policy Council has chosen Albuquerque as the location and Sandia National Laboratories as the Host of the 2009 International Conference of the System Dynamics Society, subject to a final proposal addressing a few minor concerns noted below, and a budget. Congratulations! The conference dates are tentatively July 26 to July 30, 2009.

The primary objective for the System Dynamics Society's annual conference is to provide a high quality experience for attendees. Specifically, the conference should foster presentation of the best work in the field; offer opportunities for academics and practitioners to learn about the field and network with others; and provide encouragement to students and others new to the field. It is expected that the 2009 conference in Albuquerque will achieve a high attendance; achieve significant participation by experienced practitioners (thereby providing examples of high quality work, and the opportunity for constructive feedback to members new to the field); and make a profit for the Society at reasonable effort from the Society's central office.

You have demonstrated in your proposal the:

1. Unique/attractive features of proposed conference venue.
2. Travel cost and accessibility (travel time and mode).
3. Meal and accommodation costs for attendees.

You have also:

1. Identified the local host who will interface between the Society and the local venue.
2. Identified the venue choices - what locations seem most likely (hotel or university campus) and their attributes.
3. Identified the contracting process and the entities the Society would most likely contract with for facilities.
4. Identified the Program Chair.

The next step is to work with the central office and the VP Meetings to specifically define the location, negotiate with the conference venue, and prepare a final budget and a final proposal, which is essentially an update of your pre-proposal with the contingencies addressed. We will be happy to assist you in this, and will be giving you some updated central office cost numbers to use. Once the final proposal has been accepted by the Policy Council, any changes or decisions, especially those that might affect revenues or increase costs, must be approved by the Executive Director acting on behalf of the Policy Council.

In your final proposal the Council would like you particularly to address these concerns with your preliminary proposal:

1. Expanding from a national to a more international theme.
2. Developing possible partnership with other labs from overseas.
3. Obtaining sponsorship or other means to reduce costs.

During the conference the Host will be expected to provide administrative support; this may entail professional tasks as well as carrying boxes. In the midst of a busy conference, all must be prepared to do whatever it takes to make the conference seem flawlessly organized to participants. Some amount of administrative support is necessary before the conference and it is most helpful if there are volunteers (usually students, but not always) who can help out during the conference. In addition, the conference needs one responsible full-time person who can manage the registration desk and help coordinate the volunteers. Available local volunteer labor is a must for a successful conference.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Roberta L. Spencer  
Executive Director

Copy: Jim Lyneis  
Andreas Größler