

Recommendation for ISDC 2026 site and organizing chair

April 25, 2023

Motion: To approve Delft as the site for ISDC 2026, with Willem Auping as organizing chair.

We are pleased to have two site proposals for the 2026 International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC 2026): Delft and Vienna. These proposals were presented and discussed at our April 19, 2023 Policy Council meeting. Full proposals and slides from the meeting are available [here](#).

We investigated the travel costs for both site options. In comparing flights to Amsterdam and Vienna from various origins, the Amsterdam flights are generally 10-20% less expensive. Hotel and hostel prices are similarly affordable in both Delft and Vienna with many options available.

After careful consideration, we recommend Delft as the site for ISDC 2026, with Willem Auping as organizing chair and support from Alexander Verbraeck. This proposal entails hosting the conference on the TU Delft campus.

Strengths of the Delft proposal include the following:

- Delft is an attractive site that is easy to get to, with a variety of lodging options.
- TU Delft has a burgeoning SD program with different individuals involved from those who were active in the past. Hosting the 2026 conference at Delft will provide access for students in the program, many of whom would be potential conference volunteers.
- TU Delft has experience hosting previous ISDC conferences (2014 and 2016). Hosting the 2026 conference will enable knowledge transfer from past to present organizers and staff at TU Delft.
- The Delft proposal includes catering not just for the banquet and breaks, but also for a poster buffet and lunch each day, including the first day that is dedicated to the Policy Council and Student-Organized Colloquium (SOC), and the last day that is dedicated to workshops. This exceeds baseline expectations for catering only a banquet and breaks, as in the Vienna proposal.
- Financially, the Delft proposal is the most certain option for meeting and exceeding our budgetary target of a \$25,000 surplus after accounting for \$125,000 in overhead for the SDS Office and other expenses. The Delft proposal is projected to return a surplus of \$52,376, more than double the \$24,000 surplus projected in the Vienna bid. Meeting the \$25,000 surplus goal is not contingent upon local sponsorship in Delft, and while we believe the cost projections from the TU Delft team are accurate, there is plenty of room for costs to increase without placing undue stress on the SDS budget.

Table 1 provides a comparison of the budget estimates for the Delft and Vienna proposals, using the same assumptions for SDS office expenses (\$12,000 in travel and Zoom costs in addition to \$125,000 in overhead) and expected revenue from conference registration and non-local sponsors. Although the Vienna bid includes greater estimates for local sponsorship (\$15,000 from sponsors plus a \$5,000 subsidy from the Vienna convention bureau) than in the Delft bid

(\$11,100 from local sponsors), the Delft bid produces a greater surplus due to the lack of charges for room rental and audiovisual services at TU Delft. Moreover, catering is more affordable in the Delft bid while being more comprehensive (including a poster buffet and daily lunches) than in the Vienna bid. Therefore, even allowing for uncertainty about the prospects of local sponsorship, the Delft proposal would provide additional financial security at a time when the SDS will face greater revenue uncertainty going into 2027 with a new journal contract (following our recently negotiated contract with Wiley, which lasts from 2024-2026).

Table 1. Comparison of Budget Estimates for Delft and Vienna ISDC 2026 Proposals

	Delft Bid	Vienna Bid
Income	\$251,100	\$260,000
Local sponsors and subsidies	\$11,100	\$20,000
SDS sponsors	\$25,000	\$25,000
Conference registrations	\$215,000	\$215,000
Expenses	\$198,724	\$236,000
Venue Room Rental	\$0	\$34,700
Venue Staff Costs	\$12,915	\$8,200
Catering Costs	\$48,809	\$56,100
SDS Office Costs (Overhead, Travel, and Zoom)	\$137,000	\$137,000
Surplus (Income minus Expenses)	\$52,376	\$24,000

Because of the strengths of the Delft proposal in terms of its attractiveness, amenities, and financial prospects, we hope that you will vote in favor of the motion to approve Delft as the ISDC 2026 site, with Willem Auping as organizing chair.

Respectfully submitted,

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