

Recommendation for ISDC 2027 site and organizing chairs

December 12, 2023

Motion: To approve Cleveland as the site for ISDC 2027, with Peter Hovmand and Warren Farr as organizing chairs.

We are pleased to have a compelling site proposal for the 2027 International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC 2027) to be held July 18-22, 2027 (Sunday-Thursday) at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. The full proposal is available as supplemental material and will be discussed at our December 13, 2023 Policy Council meeting.

We investigated other options in North America for the 2027 conference. We worked with Travis Franck to explore the possibility of hosting it at Tufts University in the Boston area. We also worked with Nasim Sabounchi and David Lounsbury to explore possibilities for hosting the conference in New York City. We mention these two sites in particular, as both of these got to the budgeting phase, while the others did not. Unfortunately, neither of these options were feasible under the financial constraints of the conference, which is expected to return \$150,000 of net revenue to the Society, covering \$125,000 in overhead and providing \$25,000 in surplus revenue for other Society activities.

After careful consideration, therefore, we recommend Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA as the site for ISDC 2027, with Peter Hovmand and Warren Farr as organizing chairs. This proposal entails hosting the conference on the Case Western campus.

Strengths of the Cleveland proposal include the following:

- Cleveland is an attractive site that is easy to get to, and centrally located in North America with a variety of lodging options. The organizing team has the ability to secure discount lodging options for attendees on a budget through the university, or typical US hotel accommodations near the conference venue.
- Case Western has experience with SD, and through their unique relationships with the local community will be able to attract a significant set of new attendees to the ISDC.
- Both Peter Hovmand and Warren Farr have a great deal of experience with SDS governance/processes, and the ISDC itself. Because of that experience we expect that the burden of conference planning should be noticeably reduced.
- The Cleveland proposal has a favorable cost structure, one that does not have any specific costs for AV which have become a major expense category for modern conferences. The AV costs at Case Western are incorporated into the very affordable room rental rates for Non-Profits. This proposal contains what are current day best estimates for catering costs, but even allowing for significant inflation increases (e.g. a doubling of catering costs), the pricing for Catering available at Case Western is affordable and does not break the conference budget.
- The Cleveland proposal is projected to return a surplus of \$59,000, more than double the standard goal of \$25,000. Meeting the \$25,000 surplus goal is not contingent upon local sponsorship, and while we believe the cost projections from the Cleveland team are

accurate, there is plenty of room for costs to increase without placing undue stress on the SDS budget.

Table 1 provides a summary of the budget estimates for the Cleveland proposal.

Table 1. Summary of Budget Estimate for the Cleveland ISDC 2027 Proposal

	Cleveland Bid
Income	\$250,000
Local sponsors and subsidies	\$10,000
SDS sponsors	\$25,000
Conference registrations	\$215,000
Expenses	\$191,000
Venue Costs (Room Use and Poster Boards)	\$32,000
Catering Costs	\$21,000
SDS Office Costs (Overhead, Travel, and Zoom)	\$138,000
Surplus (Income minus Expenses)	\$59,000

Because of the strengths of the Cleveland proposal in terms of its attractiveness, amenities, and financial prospects, we hope that you will vote in favor of the motion to approve Cleveland as the ISDC 2027 site, with Peter Hovmand and Warren Farr as organizing chairs.

Respectfully submitted,

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