



Call for Proposals: 1999 Spring Symposium Series & 1999 Fall Symposium Series

AAAI invites proposals for the 1999 Spring Symposium Series, to be held at Stanford University, California, March, 1999, and for the 1999 Fall Symposium Series, October, 1999 (location to be announced).

The Spring and Fall Symposium Series are a yearly set of two and one-half day long symposia run in parallel at a common site. They are designed to bring colleagues together in an intimate forum while at the same time providing a significant gathering point for the AI community. Approximately eight symposia on a broad range of topics within and around AI will be selected for each of the 1999 Spring and Fall Symposium Series.

The symposia are intended to encourage presentation of speculative work and work in progress, as well as completed work. Ample time should be scheduled for discussion. Novel programming, including the use of target problems, open-format panels, working groups, or breakout sessions, is encouraged. Working notes will be prepared, and distributed to the participants. At the discretion of the individual symposium chairs, these working notes may also be made available as AAAI Technical Reports following the meeting. Most participants of the symposia will be selected on the basis of statements of interest or abstracts submitted to the symposia chairs; some open registration will be allowed. All symposia are limited in size, and participants will be expected to attend a single symposium.

Proposals for symposia should be between two and five pages in length, and should contain:

- A title for the symposium.
- A description of the symposium, identifying specific areas of interest, and, optionally, general symposium format.
- The names and (physical and electronic) addresses of the organizing committee, preferably three or more people at different sites, all of whom have agreed to serve on the committee.
- A list of potential participants that have been contacted and that have expressed interest in participating. A common way of gathering potential participants is to send email messages to email lists related to the topic(s) of the symposium. Note that potential participants need not commit to participating, only state that they are interested.

Ideally, the entire organizing committee should collaborate in producing the proposal. If possible, a draft proposal should be sent out to a few of the potential participants and their comments solicited.

All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium Committee (Chair: Ian Horswill, Northwestern University; Cochair: Dan Clancy, NASA Ames Research Center; and Associate Chair: Leslie Pack Kaelbling, Brown University). The criteria for acceptance of proposals include:

Perceived interest to the AAAI community. Although AAAI encourages symposia that cross disciplinary boundaries, a symposium must be of interest to some subcommunity of the AAAI membership. Symposia that are of interest to a broad

range of AAAI members are also preferred.

Appropriate number of potential participants. Although the series supports a range of symposium sizes, the target size is around 40 participants.

Lack of a long-term ongoing series of activities on the topic. The Spring Symposium Series is intended to nurture emerging communities and topics, so topics that already have yearly conferences or workshops are inappropriate.

An appropriate organizing committee. The organizing committee should have (1) good technical knowledge of the topic, (2) good organizational skills, and (3) connections to the various communities from which they intend to draw participants. Committees for cross-disciplinary symposia must adequately represent all the disciplines to be covered by the symposium.

Accepted proposals will be distributed as widely as possible over the subfields of AI, and balanced between theoretical and applied topics. Symposia bridging theory and practice and those combining AI and related fields are particularly solicited.

Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than June 5, 1998. Proposals that are submitted significantly before this deadline can be in draft form. Comments on how to improve and complete the proposal will be returned to the submitter in time for revisions to be made before the deadline. Notifications of acceptance or rejection will be sent to submitters around June 12, 1998. The submitters of accepted proposals will become the chair of the symposium, unless alternative arrangements are made. The symposium organizing committees will be responsible for:

- Producing, in conjunction with the general chair, a Call for Participation and Registration Brochure for the symposium, which will be distributed to the AAAI membership
- Additional publicity of the symposium, especially to potential audiences from outside the AAAI community
- Reviewing requests to participate in the symposium and determining symposium participants
- Preparing working notes for the symposium
- Scheduling the activities of the symposium
- Preparing a short review of the symposium, to be printed in the *AI Magazine*.

AAAI will provide logistical support, will take care of all local arrangements, and will arrange for reproducing and distributing the working notes.

Please submit (preferably by electronic mail) your symposium proposals, and inquiries concerning symposia, to:

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