1997 Fall Symposium Series
Call for Proposals

AAAI invites proposals for the 1997 Fall Symposium Series, to be held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 7–9, 1997.

The AAAI Symposium Series, which runs twice yearly (spring and fall), is a set of two and one-half day long symposia run in parallel at a common site. The symposia are designed to bring colleagues together in an intimate forum and provide 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 the 1997 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
- Evidence that the symposium is of interest at this time, such as a completed, successful one-day workshop on a related topic
- The names and (physical and electronic) addresses of the organizing committee, preferably three or four people at different sites, all of whom have agreed to serve on the committee
- A list of several potential participants (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:* Bonnie Dorr, University of Maryland, College Park; *Associate Chairs:* Tim Finin, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Ian Horswill, Northwestern University). The criteria for acceptance of proposals include

- An appropriate level of perceived interest in the topic of the symposium among AAAI members
- No long-term on-going series of activities in the particular topic (the Fall Symposium Series serves more to nurture interest in particular topics than to maintain it over a number of years; the existence of activities in related and more general topics will help to indicate the level of interest in the particular topic)
- An appropriate organizing committee

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 October 15, 1996. 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 October 25, 1996. 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 for the symposium, which will be distributed to the AAAI membership
- Providing 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, take care of all local arrangements, and arrange for reproducing and distributing the working notes. Please submit (preferably by e-mail) your symposium proposals and inquiries concerning symposia to the cochairs:

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