

Call for Special Session Proposals

IWAENC has an excellent track record over the years for organizing **Special Sessions** in new or emerging areas. This year, we are once again seeking innovative, high-quality and potentially interdisciplinary proposals for Special Sessions that complement the regular program of the conference. Special Sessions should be focused and provide both an overview of the **state-of-the-art**, as well as highlight the most promising research directions, trends and challenges in the proposed field of acoustic and speech signal processing. The organizing committee solicits proposals for special sessions within the following technical scopes of the conference:

- Acoustic echo and feedback suppression
- Noise reduction
- Microphone array processing
- Source localization and tracking
- Speaker separation, extraction and diarization
- Dereverberation
- Active noise control
- Robot audition
- Speech and audio coding
- Acoustic sensor networks
- Acoustic event detection and scene classification
- Spatial audio recording and reproduction
- Modelling, analysis and synthesis of acoustic environments
- Auditory modelling and hearing instruments
- Datasets for speech and audio
- Quality and intelligibility assessment
- New and emerging topics in speech and audio processing
- Multimodal speech and audio processing, including audio-video, audio-EEG, etc.
- Speech analysis: activity detection, overlapping speech detection, emotion recognition, etc.
- Speech intelligibility enhancement

For all topics listed above, both model-based and data-driven methods and algorithms are welcome.

Proposal information

Special session proposals should include:

- **session title**,
- **rationale** of the need for the special session,
- **titles and abstracts** of at least **6 invited papers**,
- **short biography** of the special session organizer(s), including the affiliation, address, and email.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the **timeliness** and **attractiveness** of the topic, organizing committee qualifications, as well as the proposed list of contributed papers.

Papers submitted for special sessions are **reviewed** via the **same exact process** as submissions to the **regular program**. In case a paper in special sessions does not meet the expected quality, it will be rejected. For special sessions that are somewhat undersubscribed (due to paper rejections or limited number of submissions), an effort will be made to identify regular submission papers to complete the session, as deemed appropriate by the conference organizers. If a special session is seriously undersubscribed the special session may be canceled, in which case the accepted papers from the canceled special session will be placed into the regular program.

Special session will be organized within the regular poster sessions.

Important dates

Special session proposals: **Feb. 27, 2026**

Notification of acceptance: **Mar. 20, 2026**

Submission of papers (the same as regular papers): **Apr. 24, 2026**

Submission

Proposals (in pdf and not to exceed 4 pages) should be sent via e-mail to the special session chair:

Mirco Pezzoli (mirco.pezzoli@polimi.it)

19th International Workshop on Acoustic Signal Enhancement

IWAENC 2026

Cremona, Italy

Sept. 7-10, 2026

www.iwaenc2026.org