The ACM Conference Series on Recommender Systems

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The ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys) is the premier international forum for presenting new research results, systems, and techniques in the broad field of recommender systems. RecSys brings together the major international research groups working on recommender systems and many of the world's leading companies active in e-commerce and other adjacent domains. It has become the most important annual conference for the presentation and discussion of recommender systems research.

Every year, the **RecSys Challenge** has been a great success. Participants from various backgrounds, disciplines, and backgrounds come together to present their innovative research and findings. The challenge provides scholars, researchers, students, and companies a platform to showcase their work, exchange ideas, and engage in meaningful discussions. The event fosters collaboration and networking opportunities, allowing participants to connect with peers who share similar research interests. The challenge has consistently received positive feedback from presenters and attendees, highlighting its significance in the academic community. It continues to be a valuable component of the conference, encouraging the advancement of knowledge and the exploration of new ideas.

The **RecSys Challenge 2026** will provide an unparalleled opportunity for participants to demonstrate their expertise in the Recommender Systems field. It will attract a diverse group of professionals, researchers, and students worldwide. By sponsoring this event, a company will have the unique opportunity to showcase its support for advancing the knowledge in RecSys, actively supporting the whole community while also gaining exposure to a global audience of industry leaders and decision-makers. In addition to the visibility and brand exposure, your sponsorship will demonstrate your company's commitment to fostering talent and innovation within the industry. Furthermore, it will provide an excellent platform to network with key stakeholders, potential partners, and top talent in the field.

We are now open to receiving your **Challenge Proposal**!

As a sponsor, you will have **benefits**:

1. Great corporate **visibility worldwide**
2. Gaining **contacts with a vibrant scientific community** on recommendation topics
3. **Corporate logo on the RecSys Conference webpage** and all communication materials.
4. Receive a special **Sponsorship Tier,** and you will also have access to all the solutions
5. Ask researchers from around the world to **solve a recommendation problem relevant to your business**

6. Two published **scientific articles** about the challenge task
   (one in the Main ACM RecSys Proceedings, one in the Workshop Proceedings)

but also **duties**. Indeed, the sponsor is responsible for:

1. **Define the topic of the challenge.**
2. **Release and Manage** a robust, anonymized, timely, detailed, documented, and relevant dataset containing **A Large Amount of Real-Domain Data**. It should be released with a Creative Common License and left available after the challenge's end for future research on the topic.
3. **Define the evaluation metrics and protocol** and **manage a submission leaderboard**.
4. **Manage a dedicated Website** that should be maintained and left active after the challenge's end to manage the data distribution, submissions, leaderboard and communication with participants.
5. Upon completion of the event, the company, supported by challenge chairs, shall **decide the winner(s)** based on defined objective metrics.
6. Support the Challenge with **monetary prizes** for participants (lucrative enough to attract many participants) and by paying challenge workshop proceeding fees.

The success of the research challenge is a testament to the dedication and hard work of all those involved, and it serves as a source of inspiration for future generations of researchers. Just to give a few examples:

- The **RecSys 2025 Challenge**, organized by Maria Janicka, Jacek Dabrowski, Łukasz Sienkiewicz (Synerise, Poland), Dietmar Jannach (Faculty Advisor, Klagenfurt University, Austria), Francesco Barile (Maastricht University, the Netherlands), Marco Polignano (University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy), Claudio Pomo (Politecnico di Bari, Italy), and Abhishek Srivastava (IIM Visakhapatnam, India), focused on promoting a unified approach to behavior modeling. The task was to create "Universal Behavioral Profiles" from a large-scale dataset of user interactions provide by **Synerise**. This large dataset includes purchases, cart activity, and page visits. These profiles were evaluated on their ability to generalize across various predictive tasks like churn prediction and product propensity, some of which were hidden from participants to ensure robust solutions.

- The **RecSys 2024 Challenge**, organized by Johannes Kruse and Kasper Lindskow (Ekstra Bladet), Anshuk Uppal, Michael Riis Andersen, and Jes Frellsen (Technical University of Denmark), Marco Polignano (University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy), Claudio Pomo (Politecnico di Bari, Italy), and Abhishek Srivastava (IIM Visakhapatnam, India) based on the data provided by **Ekstra Bladet**. This year's challenge focuses on online news recommendation, addressing both the technical and normative challenges inherent in the design of effective and responsible recommender systems for news publishing.

- The **RecSys 2023 Challenge**, organized by Rahul Agarwal and Sarang Brahme (ShareChat), Abhishek Srivastava (IIM Visakhapatnam, India), Liu Yong (Huawei, Singapore), and Athirai Irissappane (Amazon, USA) focus on online advertising, deep funnel optimization, and user

privacy. Online advertising has evolved from banner-based to deep funnel optimization, requiring extensive personalization and raising user privacy issues. The challenge provides a real-world ad dataset from **ShareChat** and **Moj apps** to benchmark research into deep funnel optimization with a focus on user privacy.

- The **RecSys Challenge 2022** focuses on fashion recommendations and was organized by Nick Landia (Dressipi), Bruce Ferwerda (Jönköping University, Sweden), Saikishore Kalloori (ETH Zürich, Switzerland), and Abhishek Srivastava (IIM Visakhapatnam, India). The challenge involves predicting the purchased item in a session based on a sequence of item views and label data for those items. **Dressipi** released a public dataset of 1 million online retail sessions with labeled content data. Accurate in-session predictions were the crucial aspects considered due to the fast-changing nature of user preferences in the fashion domain.

- The **RecSys Challenge 2021**, organized by Politecnico di Bari, ETH Zürich, and Jönköping University, uses a data set provided by **Twitter**. The challenge focuses on predicting tweet engagement (Likes, Retweets, Quotes, and Replies) in a dynamic environment with latency constraints. The data size and density encourage novel methods. The goal was to predict engagement types for a target user based on heterogeneous input data while providing fair recommendations, considering accuracy and fairness as challenges for the recommendation community.

If you are interested, **reach us by email: challenge2025@recsys.acm.org** by sending a document deeply describing the following aspects:

- **Title of the proposed challenge**
- **Details and references of proposers**
- **Persons to be commissioned and their background (brief CV)**
- **Motivations**
- **Objectives**
- **Novelty of the task**
- **Description of dataset**
- **Evaluation protocol**
- **Awards and their allocation to the top-ranked participants (academic and corporate side)**
- **Practical support provided and platforms for managing the challenge**
- **Contacts (including contact person details, phone number, return email address)**

The call will be open until **Novembre 20th, 2025**. We will contact you with our decision by the end of **Novembre 2025**.

Best Regards,
RecSys Challenge 2025 Chairs