TARK'17 & SR'17 (co-located)

Application to "Funding Opportunities for Promoting AI Research"

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Event (*recurrent*)

This case for support requests funding to organise the 16th edition of the international conference on Theoretical Aspects of Rationality and Knowledge[1] (TARK'17) and the 5th edition of the international workshop on Strategic Reasoning[2] (SR'17), which will be *co-located* at the University of Liverpool (24th-28th July 2017).

The international conference on Theoretical Aspects of Rationality and Knowledge (TARK) is a longstanding conference series started in 1986. Over the years it developed as a focal point for an interdisciplinary community of computer scientists and AI researchers, logicians, theoretical economists and decision theorists. It is by now recognised as a prominent event on the theoretical foundations of AI. The conference has formal proceedings and it attracted contributions by eminent scholars such as Joe Halpern (who initiated the conference series), Moshe Vardi, Jaakko Hintikka, Rohit Parikh, Jon Barwise, Hector Levesque, only to mention a few. This will be the *first time* TARK is hosted in the UK.

The international workshop on Strategic Reasoning was established in 2013 as a natural forum for the large and growing community within multi-agent systems and theoretical computer science working on modeling strategic ability. Theoretical results in this domain found natural applications in software tools for information system security, robot teams with sophisticated adaptive strategies, and automatic players capable of beating expert human adversary, just to cite a few. The workshop brings together researchers working on different aspects of strategic reasoning in computer science, both from a theoretical and a practical point of view.

What?: Activities for which funding is requested

We request support for the following activities:

(a) Travel and subsistence for five invited speakers (three for TARK and two for SR): three from EU/UK and two from other countries.

(b) Support for students in the form of a registration fee waive, plus a contribution towards accommodation costs in Liverpool.

How Much?: Breakdown of costs

We request the following budget for each activity mentioned in the previous section:

(a) Invited speakers from EU/UK €500 each; invited speakers from other countries €1500 each. **Total**: .... €4500.

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[1]www.tark.org
[2]www.strategicreasoning.net

(b) Fourteen bursaries, each worth €250. **Total**: . . . . €3500.

The total amount of funding requested is therefore €8000.

Why?: Justification for funding request

TARK and SR will be co-located for the first time. TARK'17 will run from Monday to Wednesday, and SR from Wednesday to Friday. There will therefore be one day overlap for the two events, for which we plan two shared invited speakers.

We plan to attract about 100 participants for TARK'17 and about 40 for SR'17. Support from AIJ will be key to guarantee this high level of participation by keeping conference fees low, which has always been a core policy of TARK.

Who?: Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries of the requested support will be PhD students. The support will allow us to fund at least 14 boursaries for PhD students (10% of the planned number of participants throughout the week) consisting of a conference fee waive and support towards the accommodation in Liverpool.

Each participant will also directly benefit of the requested support by having access to a high-profile conference programme at reduced fees.

When?: Date of activities

TARK'17 will take place from Monday 24th July to Wednesday 26th July 2017. SR'17 will take place from Wednesday 16th July to Friday 28th July 2017. Wednesday 26th will consist of a common program with two shared invited speakers.

Where?: Location of proposed activities

Both TARK'17 and SR'17 will take place at the School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science[3] of the University of Liverpool.

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[3]www.liverpool.ac.uk/electrical-engineering-electronics-and-computer-science

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