

Location bid for NMPC 2021: Bratislava, Slovakia

This is a bid for **Bratislava, Slovakia** as the location for the IFAC Nonlinear Model Predictive Control Conference in **early summer of 2021 (June/July)**.

Why Bratislava?

- First NMPC location in Central/Eastern Europe
- Local organizers have rich experience in running IFAC and IEEE conferences (e.g., IFAC ROCOND'15 and IEEE Process Control conferences 2011-2019)
- Bratislava is the capital of Slovakia, a member country of the European Union and the Eurozone
- Bratislava is conveniently located in the heart of Europe and is easily accessible via the Vienna Airport, which is 45 minutes away by bus/taxi and serves all major airlines with direct flights from/to Asia and US/Canada
- Bratislava offers high-class, yet affordable, accommodation (the 4-stars conference hotel is just 80 EUR/night with a plethora of other hotels of different categories in a walking distance from the conference venue)
- Affordable registration fees: 500 EUR for a 4-day conference including lunches

Organizing Committees

Experienced local organizers:

- NOC chairs: Michal Kvasnica and Miroslav Fikar (both with the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava)
- Michal Kvasnica: www.uiam.sk/~kvasnica/
 - representative of Slovakia to the European Control Association (EUCA) since 2013
 - regular NMPC participant since 2008
- Miroslav Fikar: www.uiam.sk/~fikar/
 - Slovak representative to IFAC since 2009
 - member of IFAC TC Chemical Process Control
- They are the two leading researchers in MPC in Slovakia with regular participation at IFAC and IEEE control-oriented events
- They are main organizers of IEEE Process Control conferences in Slovakia. Past plenary/workshop speakers as references: S. Engell, S. Skogestad, D. Bonvin, V. Kučera, M. Alamir, D. Henrion, V. Havlena, C. Jones, S. Rakovic, M. Mönnigmann, G. Papafotiou, A. Paice
- They have co-organized IFAC ROCOND'15 in Bratislava (M. Fikar has also served as the publication chair)
- The NOC will be supported by 4 automation departments at the Slovak University of Technology

Top-quality IPC team (all confirmed):

- Eric Kerrigan (chair)
- Tor Arne Johansen (co-chair)
- Stefano Di Cairano (industry chair)

Conference Venue: Radisson Blu Carlton Hotel (4 stars)

- Situated directly in the historic center of Bratislava

- Offers a large conference room for 300 participants and several smaller rooms for technical meetings
- Representative rounded foyer for coffee breaks and poster sessions
- Hotel restaurant for 300 people
- High-class accommodation for all participants at affordable rates (80 EUR/night)
- IFAC ROCOND'15 took place here
- <https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-bratislava>



Social Program

The conference banquet will be held in the Carlton hotel restaurant. Moreover, conference participants will be invited to witness a traditional folk-art performance in a beautiful historic building of the Slovak national theatre located just 100 meters from the conference venue.

Leisure, Landmarks, and Free Time

During free time or prolonged stay, visitors can take advantage of the Guided City Tour, the Bratislava Beer Tour, the Carpathian Wine Route. The guided tour takes you through the history of the city and many landmarks in Bratislava, mainly the Old Town, St. Martin's Cathedral, Bratislava Castle, etc. For food lovers, there are the Beer Tour and Wine Route, which introduce you to local cuisine and beer/wine tasting of local produce.

Bratislava has two castles in the imminent vicinity. First, we recommend visiting the Bratislava castle, which overlooks the city, has its own museum and rich history. The castle is located in walking distance from the conference hotel. Second, the Ruins of Devin Castle is located in 20-minute bus ride up-north. The bus station is in the walking distance of the Carlton hotel.

See you in Bratislava in 2021

Martin Klaučo and Michal Kvasnica on behalf of the NOC

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