

July 12, 2013

CORE Conference Ranking Change Request

We, Prof. Brian Henderson-Sellers, and members of the Steering Committee (SC) of the ACM/IEEE International Conference on Model Driven Engineering Languages and Systems (MODELS), hereby **request a change in the ranking of the MODELS conference (formerly known as the UML conference) from B to A** based on the information presented in this letter. We also **request that MODELS be classified as a Computer Software conference**; it is currently classified as an Information Systems conference. We request this latter change because MODELS is a specialized software engineering conference.

The supporters of this request are Prof. Brian Henderson-Sellers, Prof. Dr. Gregor Engels (MODELS Steering Committee Chair), Prof. Lionel Briand (SC Vice-Chair), Prof. Robert France (past SC member, co-Editor-In-Chief SoSyM Journal), Prof. Jon Whittle (SC past-Chair), and Dr. Geri Georg (SC past-Chair).

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Henderson-Sellers, Professor of Information Systems, Director of the Centre for Object Technology Applications and Research at the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

Gregor Engels, Professor of Computer Science, Faculty for Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Mathematics, University of Paderborn, Germany

Lionel Briand, Professor, Faculty of Sciences, Technology and Communication, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Robert France, Professor of Computer Science, Colorado State University, USA

Jon Whittle, Professor and Chair of Software Engineering in the Department of Computing at Lancaster University, UK

Geri Georg, Research Associate, Department of Computer Science, Colorado State University, USA

We have arranged the data in this letter per the June 2013 *Process for Updates of CORE Conference Rankings* document, *Content of Change Requests* section.

1. Venue full name and acronym.

Venue: ACM/IEEE International Conference on Model Driven Engineering Languages and Systems

Acronym: MODELS

Prior to 2005, MODELS was named **ACM/IEEE International Conference on the Unified Modeling Language (UML)**.

6. In the following we provide data to support our request to change the rank of MODELS from B to A.

Please note that not all ranking sites have the requested information under the MODELS name – some only contain information under the UML name, and some contain information under both names, UML and MODELS. For completeness we have indicated data under both names where it was available.

(a) Position in Microsoft Academic Search (overall and within sub-area) with date obtained.

academic.research.microsoft.com/?SearchDomain=2&entitytype=3

July 8, 2013 access:

Overall Rank: UML #197, MODELS #574

Sub-category Software Engineering Rank: UML #18, MODELS #55

(b) Position in Arnetminer (overall and within sub-area) with date obtained.

<http://arnetminer.org/page/conference-rank/html/All-in-one.html>

July 8, 2013 access:

Overall Rank: UML #286, MODELS not available

Sub-category PLSE Rank: UML #284, MODELS not ranked

(c) Position in Google citations ranking (overall and within sub-area) with date obtained.

http://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=top_venues&hl=en&vq=eng. Please note that only the top 20 journals/conferences are listed on this site.

July 8, 2013 access:

Overall Engineering & Computer Science: not available

Software Systems sub-category: MODELS #20, h5 index: 24

(d) The name and rank (in current CORE list) of the subdiscipline conferences immediately above this venue in each of the above lists. This information is presented in the following table. The notation N/A is used when the conference was not listed in the rankings.

Conferences just **above** MODELS:

Ranking Site	Conference Name	CORE List Rank
Microsoft Research (UML)	ESEC (European Software Engineering Conference)	B
	SAC (ACM Symposium on Applied Computing)	B
Microsoft Research (MODELS)	ICSP (International Conference on the Software Process)	A
	CMG (Computer Measurement Group Conference)	N/A
Arnetminer (only UML)	ICSM (International Conference on Software Maintenance)	A
	FSE (Fast Software Encryption)	A
Google Scholar	SPL (International Software Product Line Conference)	N/A
	SOC (International Conference on Service Oriented Computing)	A

(e) The name and rank (in current CORE list) of the subdiscipline conferences immediately below this venue in each of the above lists. This information is presented in the following table.

Conferences just **below** MODELS:

Ranking Site	Conference Name	CORE List Rank
Microsoft Research (UML)	FM (World Congress on Formal Methods)	N/A
	ISSRE (International Symposium on Software Reliability Engineering)	A
Microsoft Research (MODELS)	SCM (System Configuration Management)	N/A
	FIW (Feature Interaction in Telecommunications and Software Systems)	N/A
Arnetminer (only UML)	FASE (Fundamental Approaches to Software Engineering)	B

PASTE (Workshop on Program Analysis for Software Tools and Engineering) B

Google Scholar N/A N/A
(only lists top 20,
#20 is MODELS)

(f) Names and h index of program chairs for current and previous year. This information was obtained from user profiles on Google Scholar.

July 8, 2013 access:

2013 PC Chair: Ana Moriera, h-index: 25, h5-index: 20

2012 PC Chair: Robert France, h-index: 40, h5-index: 27

(g) A similar (in content) venue at the rank this venue is requested to be moved from, with names and h-index of that conference's program chair(s). This information was obtained from user profiles on Google Scholar.

July 10, 2013 access:

PLOP 2013 PC Chair: Christian Köppe, h-index: 3, h5-index: 3

PLOP 2012 PC Chair: Eduardo Guerra, h-index: 6, h5-index: 6

(h) A similar (in content) venue at the rank this venue is requested to be moved to, with names and h-index of that conference's program chair(s). This information was obtained from user profiles on Google Scholar.

July 8, 2013 access:

Coordination 2013 PC Chair co-chairs: Rocco de Nicola, h-index: 35, h5-index: 21

Christine Julien, h-index: 15, h5-index: 12

Coordination 2012 PC Chair: Marjan Sirjani, h-index: 14, h5-index: 11

(i) If the venue started within the last 5 years, date of start should be provided.

Not applicable. The UML/MODELS series has been in existence since 1998.

7. Additional information/justification/evidence may be provided as desired.

We offer the following four additional arguments to justify moving the rank of MODELS/UML from B to A.

Comparative Conference Rankings

There are a number of comparative conferences, which have an A ranking in the CORE list, but are much lower ranked in the other comparative conference rankings.

UML is ranked as 18 in the Microsoft Research Software Engineering sub-category. Coordination, which is A-ranked in CORE, is ranked at 44 in the Microsoft Research Software Engineering sub-category. Additional well-known comparable conferences are ranked as follows: ISSRE is 20, RE is 66 (and 10), CBSE is 62, and Sigsoft FSE is 286.

Similar situations exist with these comparative conferences and the Arnetminer rankings. UML is ranked at 284 in the PLSE sub-category. Coordination is 831, ISSRE is 915, RE is listed but not ranked, CBSE is 831, and Sigsoft FSE is not listed.

In the Google rankings, none of these comparative conferences are listed, however MODELS is number 20 in this ranking.

Program Committee Chair Strength

We also would like to point out that the quality of our program committee chairs has been consistently strong over the years, indicating the conference's commitment to ensuring the quality of conference

papers. Here is the past PC Chair data as obtained from Google Scholar user profiles accessed on July 8, 2013:

MODELS 2011 PC Chair: Jon Whittle, h-index: 25, h5-index: 22
MODELS 2010 PC Chair: Dorina Petriu, h-index: 24, h5-index: 18
MODELS 2009 PC Chair: Bran Selic, h-index: 25, h5-index: 18
MODELS 2008 PC Chair: Krzysztof Czarnecki, h-index: 37, h5-index: 34
MODELS 2007 PC Chair: Gregor Engels, h-index: 33, h5-index: 21
MODELS 2006 PC Chair: Oscar Nierstrasz, h-index: 39, h5-index: 27
MODELS 2005 PC Chair: Lionel Briand, h-index: 55, h5-index: 45

Conference Participation, Submission and Acceptance Rates

We would like to point out that the participation of an international community over the years indicates a strong conference body. Here is past data on the number of participants, submissions and acceptance rates. MODELS (and previously UML) has been held in a variety of regions, including Europe, Canada, United States, and Oceania (New Zealand).

MODELS 2012: Austria, 270 attendees, 179 paper submissions, 28% acceptance rate
MODELS 2011: New Zealand, 157 attendees, 199 paper submissions, 25% acceptance rate
MODELS 2010: Norway, 341 attendees, 252 paper submissions, 21.3% acceptance rate
MODELS 2009: USA, 293 attendees, 248 paper submissions, 24% acceptance rate
MODELS 2008: France, 314 attendees, 270 paper submissions, 18% acceptance rate
MODELS 2007: USA, 203 attendees, 158 paper submissions, 28% acceptance rate
MODELS 2006: Italy, 346 attendees, 178 paper submissions, 29% acceptance rate
MODELS 2005: Jamaica, 195 attendees, 166 paper submissions, 30% acceptance rate

Additional Accomplishments

- The MODELS community has produced impressive results that have contributed to wider adoption of model-based software development techniques in commercial software development environments.
- The conference is yearly, and is accompanied by several satellite workshops where emerging and important topics are discussed. Workshops are attended by most of the main conference attendees.
- The conference has a strong steering committee and a dedicated website for conference organizers with up-to-date conference guidelines.
- The conference is one of the few conferences co-sponsored by both ACM and IEEE.
- The conference maintains a tradition of strong keynote speakers. Speakers for the 2013 edition are Charles Simonyi (Chairman and CTO of Intentional Software), Constance Heitmeyer (head of the Software Engineering Section of the Naval Research Laboratory's Center for High Assurance Computer Systems), and Bernd Bruegg (chair for Applied Software Engineering at the Technische Universität München). Keynote speakers at the 2012 conference were Janos Sztipanovits (the E. Bronson Ingram Distinguished Professor of Engineering at Vanderbilt University), Thomas Henzinger (President of the Institute of Science and Technology Austria), and Dr.-Ing. Stephan Thesing (Team Leader in Software Products, Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH, a business unit of EADS).
- The MODELS community is also associated with a very successful journal, Software and Systems Modeling Journal (SoSyM), which publishes special issues for each MODELS conference where invited extensions to the best conference papers are published. SoSyM is ranked #17 in the Google Scholar citations ranking Software Systems sub-category, with an h-5 index of 26.