



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Interim Meeting – Vienna Austria

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Subject: Financing Contest robot - Project plan

Committee(s): C5

Summary:

In 2010 the Interim meeting in Vienna decided to test the IARU-R1 contest robot (see Vienna_C5_meeting minutes p 11). During the General Conference in Sun City (2011) this robot was declared operational (SC11_C5_Ec_27).

Until 2017 the changes made to this robot were done when the General Conferences or interim meetings made some decisions to change the contest rules. There were no long term considerations, no financial planning. In other words no project plan, either in the long term or in the short term.

Although a lot of effort, energy and finance is put in the evolution of the contest robot, the users (contesters, contest managers, VHF managers,..) are not satisfied.

During the General Conference in Landshut 2017 we decided to have a contest working group. In the ToR of this group the further development of the contest robot is one of the tasks. But there was no budget provided to achieve this goal.

The contest working group did a survey in the contest community and with those results further improvements of the contest robot were documented in a requirement document.

This was sent to the developers (Indiware) who made a quote of some €7.500 € (including VAT). The budget of the C5 commission was not able to cover the costs and the C5 chairman, with support of the chairman of the working group asked the EC some (alternative) ways to finance this.

The EC took decided that a long term plan was needed for the provision of appropriate IT support to the Region's VHF contesting., so they can decide about extra budgetary expenses, in a short term.

In preparation of WRC19 (agenda item 1.1) one of the regulators asked figures about the 50 MHz contest. To do this we needed a dump of all QSO's. This functionality was ordered by the EC

This resulted in different quotes and orders in 2017 and 2018. Some short term changes were done in 2018, but they were paid by a third party (private or DARC) You find an overview in annex 1. All improvements done in 2017 and 2018 were paid by third parties.

Problem:

Until this moment it is not clear who can give orders to the developer; this could be a problem for a good relationship between the organizer and the developer.

There is need for a real project plan, which takes into consideration the need of MS to promote VHF&up contesting and the use of the contest robot. Such an investment paid by IARU-R1, for only 3 contests, organised by IARU-R1, is not justified.

Investments in such a robot must also have a benefit for our Member Societies. In a first period as a central collection tool of logs (see also document VIE19 C5-008) In the future we can go further and open the contest robot for the evaluation of national contest so that Member Societies can profit from the now how and they don't need to invest in own soft- and hardware. This is already done for the ARI-Marconi contest.

Proposal:

First some question are to be answered before we can discuss this further:

1. Do the MS societies still want IARU-R1 to organise VHF&up contests?
2. Is there a need for a dedicated IARU-R1 server which can give services to MS for contest adjudication?

If we agree about these 2 questions in a positive way, then we need to decide:

How should this be financed?

1. Should IARU take this in its global budget, without restriction?
2. Should this be included in the C5 budget, proposed to the C2 commission during the General conferences?
3. Should MS contribute to the cost so that they can use it for their own contest evaluation also
4. Should it be crowdfunded by testers?
5. ...

Organisation:

- We need an experienced IT project manager project manager (who wants to this work as unpaid volunteer)?
- All financial commitments need to be approved in advance by a member of the EC, this is the normal procedure for all expenses.
This person, member of the EC, is the only one who can order improvements and confirm payments done by IARU-R1
- There is need for a Single point of contact between the IARU-R1 Contest working group and the developer. This will be the task of the project manager, if not another member of the EC will be appointed to this task.

Financial Implications:

In a mail dated 17/12/2018 we received following quotes:

Requirements 4, 5 and 6 for €1360 netto per requirement: this means around €5000, including VAT. The redesign of the webpage will be given later but will be in addition to this.

The contest working group is also expecting a 1000€/year for updating improvements until 2023.

For information: there are also costs for the ceremony in Friedrichshafen for the prize giving ceremony (about 400€).

Annex 1 overview of work done and payments

Requirement	Number	done	paid	By who
Log upload	1 (a quote)	yes	yes	DARC
Claimes score table	2 (b quote)	Yes	yes	DARC
Final Score table	3 (c quote)	yes	yes	DARC
Bulk download all QSO's	Asked by IARU-R1	yes	yes	OE1MCU
Adjudicator features	4 (d quote)	No	No	
Cross check algorithm	5 (e quote)	No	No	
Contest management features	6 (f quote)	No	No	
Web interface redesign	7 (g quote)	No	No	