

Call for proposals for hosting future R&D Management Conference meetings

The R&D Management Conference is an international gathering of academics and practitioners concerned with the study of research, development, technology management and innovation. The prestigious event is of long standing. The Conference was initiated in Manchester in 1980 is usually held in Europe, although events have taken place in Canada, New Zealand, Taiwan and in India on two occasions. The conference typically attracts between 250 – 500 attendees and recent conferences have been held in Pisa, Cambridge and Leuven. A PhD Colloquium, taking place over the weekend prior to the conference has recently been introduced as part of the overall conference programme.

The Conference is actively supported and managed by RADMA, a UK based charity, which provides PhD scholarships and research support for young scholars attending the conference. RADMA is also joint publisher of the *R&D Management* journal in collaboration with Wiley.

RADMA invites expressions of interest in hosting the Conference in future years. Considerable support is available to successful hosts as a conscious attempt has been made to accumulate experience over a range of recent successful conferences. A handbook on Conference organisation is available and the recently established RADMA Conference Secretariat acts as a knowledge base for the conference process. The aim is to promote an open and transparent bidding process and encourage innovation in Conference venues, organisation and academic direction.

There are three essential qualifications for running an R&D Management Conference:

- 1) You need a great venue, both for the conference itself and the associated social events. But, we are always happy to consider novel ideas for the Conference;
- 2) The Conference Chair has to offer leadership in delivering the conference, both intellectually and practically. The Chair need not necessarily be a senior academic, but the role does require considerable energy, drive and commitment over two years and a considerable effort as the conference approaches and takes place. It follows that the Chair needs a mix of academic and social skills as well as managerial talent;
- 3) You need a background organisation. In particular the lead organiser is often a crucial figure in ensuring the smooth running of the Conference.

We appreciate not everyone is familiar with the R&D Management community. Host organisations may be offered support for a trial workshop. For example, a precursor workshop on “Innovation in Process Industries” was hosted by “Ecole de Management” in Grenoble in 2011. This pilot workshop took place a year before Grenoble hosted the Conference in May 2012. The workshop also led to a special issue of *R&D Management*. Again, RADMA can offer considerable support on topics and possible participants.

Events need not conform to the template used by recent Conferences, but can be adapted to local circumstances. Laboratory, or factory visits are often popular. The Manchester Conference dinner was based at Manchester United Football Club in 2013. The Conference dinner in Pisa was held in a former monastery.

Applicants are asked to submit a “letter of intent” to the RADMA Conference Committee. The letter should include the following information:

Host

- Information about the host institution and the departments involved
- Interests in the field of R&D Management
- Reasons or motives for hosting the conference
- Who might the Chairman be, and others who would be involved
- The administrative support available and how the event will be managed

Programme

- Sessions and other activities – comment on what might be included in the conference programme

Proposed Location

- The conference venue and facilities
- Location – attractions, hotels and travel

Dates

- Proposed dates, taking into account other events in the field

Please direct informal inquiries and letters of intent to Letizia Mortara (lm367@cam.ac.uk) or to Jo Griffiths (jg393@cam.ac.uk) from the R&D Management Conference Office, currently at the University of Cambridge.

Proponents will be invited to discuss their plans on an informal basis with members of the RADMA Conference Committee.