



A proposal to host 2009 Akademy and GUADEC in Tampere, Finland

Proposal by:

Centre for Open Source Solutions
at Technology Centre Hermia Ltd.
Hermiankatu 1
33720 Tampere
Finland

COSS – Centre for Open SourceSolutions

Tampere, June 14, 2008

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
1 Location.....	3
1.1 Tampere, Finland.....	3
1.2 The campus area of the University of Tampere and it's surroundings.....	3
2 Date.....	4
3 Format.....	4
3.1 Social Events.....	5
4 Meeting and Conference rooms.....	5
4.1 Rooms.....	5
4.2 Computers.....	5
4.3 Network.....	5
5 Local Organization.....	6
5.1 Local community, industry and government support for hosting the conference.....	6
5.2 A strong local team.....	7
6 Travel & Transportation.....	7
6.1 By air.....	7
6.2 By bus.....	8
6.3 By train.....	8
6.4 Immigration procedures.....	8
7 Accommodation and food.....	8
9 Budget and Sponsors.....	9
10 Contact Information.....	9

COSS - Centre for Open Source Solutions @ Technology Centre Hermia Ltd.

Hermiankatu 1
33720 Tampere
Finland

www.coss.fi
info@coss.fi

1 Location

1.1 Tampere, Finland

Tampere is a lively and energetic congress city of an international standard. Its strengths include its active academic and corporate communities, Tampere Hall, a versatile accommodation offering, good air connections, as well as numerous venues for conferences and social programmes. All services in Tampere are within walking distance and there is also an abundance of cultural events available to congress guests, especially during the summer time.

Tampere is the largest inland city of the Nordic countries and the capital of Finland's Western Lake District. Tampere is located in the midst of a lake labyrinth - 200 lakes situated within the city boundaries. A big city by Finnish standards, with almost 210,000 inhabitants, Tampere still manages to feel like a small town. Tampere is one of the safest cities in Finland.

Situated some 170 km north of Helsinki, Tampere has direct flight connections with Stockholm, Copenhagen, Riga, London, Dublin, Frankfurt, Bremen and Milan. Tampere-Pirkkala Airport is approximately 17 km from the city centre and can be reached by bus and taxi in 20 minutes.

The costs of accommodation, food and transportation in Tampere are lower than they are in Helsinki and most European cities.

Tampere is among the leading cities and regions in open source deployment and adoption. The City of Tampere is the forerunner in the public sector migration towards more open IT systems. Tampere is also the hometown of COSS, the Finnish Centre of Open Source Solutions, which is going to be the main organiser of the events. COSS was established with financial support from the Tampere regional council and the City of Tampere.

1.2 The campus area of the University of Tampere and its surroundings

The main events will be held at the main campus area of the University of Tampere, which is located in the city centre. The University of Tampere is multidisciplinary and committed to scientific research and to advanced teaching, including research on open source technologies and communities.

Tampere Hall, which has won the title of the best congress centre in Finland three times, can be found near the university. The main auditorium has a capacity of 1800 people, and it can be used to hold some of the major sessions if necessary.

The University of Tampere is located in the Tulli -area, the "Soho of Tampere". In this area there are, for example, the Tullintori shopping mall, lots of restaurants and pubs, as well as the Pakkahuone hall and Klubi music club. Just next to the university there is a large park, Sorsapuisto (the Duck Park); a great place in which to have picnics and enjoy the Finnish nature.

More than 700 hotel rooms are available within a distance of 1 km from the university.

COSS – Centre for Open Source Solutions

Tampere, June 14, 2008

For further details, please see the map of the area.

2 Date

We propose that the events will be held from June 27th to July 3rd.

Summer in Finland is the time of the "nightless night". Midsummer is bright white: there are some 20 hours of daylight between sunrise and sunset, while the rest is twilight. For most of the guests this will be a unique experience.

3 Format

Akademy and GUADEC will be held independently at the same time but they will have some joint keynotes and plenary sessions. There will be a three-day conference (both Akademy and GUADEC will have their own programme), annual meetings for both GNOME Foundation and KDE e.V., multi-day hacking sessions, joint plenary sessions and many joint social events during the week.

The integration level of these two conferences will be discussed and agreed with respective communities later. As it stands at present we have made sure that the proposed venue has the available required facilities for two independent events for 7 days plus space for possible joint activities during the same period.

Here is an example of the programme structure.

Date	Akademy	GUADEC	Hacking sessions	Social events	
Saturday June 27 th	Conference	Conference		Rock'n'Roll Evening at Pakkahuone	
	Joint keynote sessions				
Sunday June 28 th	Conference	Conference		Sight-seeing tour on Lake Näsijärvi	
	Joint keynote sessions				
Monday June 29 th	Conference	Conference	Hacking sessions	Barbecue party in Sorsapuisto	
	Joint keynote sessions				
Tuesday June 30 th	GNOME Foundation meeting	KDE e.V. meeting			Outdoor party on Viikinsaari
	Afternoon Plenary Session				
Wednesday July 1 st					
Thursday July 2 nd	Afternoon Plenary Session				
Friday July 3 rd					

COSS - Centre for Open Source Solutions @ Technology Centre Hermia Ltd.

Hermiankatu 1
33720 Tampere
Finland

www.coss.fi
info@coss.fi

3.1 Social Events

Here are some ideas for the joint social events that are going to be held during the week.

Barbecue party in Sorsapuisto Park

In the Sorsapuisto park we will arrange a barbecue/picnic party. The park is just next to the university and the accommodation places.

Rock'n' Roll evening in Pakkahuone

There will be a Rock'n' Roll evening in Pakkahuone which is a large space suitable for parties. It has a capacity of 1200 people. This hall has adequate sound and lighting equipment.

Outdoor party on Viikinsaari island

Viikinsaari is a summer recreation island only 20 minutes boat trip away from the city centre. On and around the island one can find playgrounds, swimming shores, games fields, a summer theatre, a dance pavilion, a small-boats harbor and public campfire sites amongst many other, fascinating objects of interest. Moreover, there is, of course, a sauna.

A sight-seeing tour of Tampere

A guided tour is the best way to get acquainted with the city. In just one and a half hours, you will see the best parts, the most beautiful places and the most important sights of Tampere. Learn about Tampere's history, architecture, sights, museums...

4 Meeting and Conference rooms

4.1 Rooms

The main events will be held in the campus area of the University of Tampere. In the main building there are more than 30 rooms, the biggest one is for almost 700 people. In the buildings close to it there are more than 40 rooms. So there will be plenty of space in which to hold all the meetings and events in the university campus area. If needed, Tampere Hall can also be used for the joint events.

4.2 Computers

There is a computer room in the main building in which there are more than 50 computers. These can be used during the event.

4.3 Network

There is a free wireless network in the venue. In the university there is a Funet (Finnish University and Research Network) high-speed data communications network. It connects about 80 research organizations and 350 000 users. Funet services are maintained by CSC, the Finnish information technology center for science.

Funet backbone provides reliable and high-capacity connections. Funet is connected to international academic networks via NORDUnet. Funet backbone supports advanced services like IPv6 and IP multicast. Link speeds range up to 10 Gbps.

COSS – Centre for Open Source Solutions

Tampere, June 14, 2008

5 Local Organization

5.1 Local community, industry and government support for hosting the conference

The GNOME/KDE/FLOSS community from Finland is already strongly behind this proposal. Linux.fi, FLUG, vapaasuomi.fi (libre Finland), Debian, openSUSE, Ubuntu Finland, Linux-Aktivaattori are just a few of the communities from where there is a definite interest. Debconf 5 was very successfully organized by a sub-group of these people.

There are many local entities that are willing and able to support the event. Here are a few of them.

COSS, the Finnish Centre of Open Source Solutions

COSS is a national development agency for open source business ecosystem. COSS promotes the development and adoption of managed and sustainable open source solutions in various industries. The customers and members of COSS include more than 150 open source vendors, solution providers, developers and public and private organizations deploying and using open source solutions and innovation models. For more information please visit <http://www.coss.fi/web/coss/home>.

One of the community services of COSS is the annual Summercode Finland program. In the program COSS and a number of companies hire students to code in open source projects. The program has been done since 2006 and total of 15 developers have been hired to work in different projects.

COSS is an experienced conference organizer. Over 30 events are organised annually by COSS. The main annual international event is the Openmind conference, with 200 participants.

Technology Centre Hermia Ltd

Technology Centre Hermia is the legal entity which operates COSS. The mission of Technology Centre Hermia Ltd is to develop new business activity and expertise in pivotal high-technology industries in the central Tampere Region. The company promotes the improvement of competitiveness in the region's key clusters. For more information visit http://www.hermia.fi/in_english/

Hermia has a professional and experienced team for events. For example the annual Mindtrek Conference www.mindtrek.org is currently organised by Hermia.

Ubiquitous Computing Cluster Programme

The cluster's main task is to generate new, globally competitive ICT business activity. The production of applications and services is made possible by a strong research foundation, companies that represent the global frontline and close networking between companies, research institutions and the public sector.

COSS - Centre for Open Source Solutions @ Technology Centre Hermia Ltd.

Hermiankatu 1
33720 Tampere
Finland

www.coss.fi
info@coss.fi

City of Tampere

The City of Tampere will be more than happy if these events are organised here and they have promised to help the organisers in all the matters they can.

University of Tampere

The main events will be held at the main campus area of the University of Tampere, which is located in the city centre. The University of Tampere is multidisciplinary and committed to scientific research and to advanced teaching.

Tampere University of Technology

Tampere University of Technology (TUT) conducts scientific research in technology and architecture and provides the highest education within these fields. The University operates in close collaboration with business life and other facets of society and produces high-standard services within its range of tasks.

Tampere Centre of Expertise

The Tampere Region Centre of Expertise Programme consists of the regional centres of expertise in the seven expertise clusters selected for the national programme. The Centre of Expertise Programme is a key regional strategic development programme which aims to strengthen and renew a region's competitiveness and expertise.

Creative Tampere

Creative Tampere is the City of Tampere's new business development policy programme that creates profitable business and jobs by tapping into the know-how present in Tampere, as well as from the experts, companies, and organisations which are active in the city.

5.2 A strong local team

The main organizer will be COSS. COSS will nominate one person, who is responsible for the event. Besides that the whole team will participate in the preparations. In addition people from both the universities and from the Technology Centre Hermia will be on the organising team.

6 Travel & Transportation

6.1 By air

Tampere Airport is located in Pirkkala, 17 kilometres southwest from the city centre.

Tampere is the Nordic hub of Ryanair with inexpensive flights to Frankfurt, London, Bremen, Dublin, Milan and Riga. Finnair /Finncomm operates flights to Helsinki, Blue1 to Stockholm and SAS to Copenhagen.

A public transport bus operates between the airport and Tampere. There is a taxi rank at

COSS – Centre for Open SourceSolutions

Tampere, June 14, 2008

both terminals. To and from the centre, the trip takes around 20 minutes by taxi.

The frequent daily flights from Helsinki-Vantaa Airport (HEL) to Tampere-Pirkkala Airport (TMP) take only 30 minutes. Helsinki-Vantaa International Airport is the leading long-haul airport in northern Europe in terms of the number of destinations. They have quick non-stop flights to 11 destinations in Asia, and daily flights to New York. In total, there are flights to more than 120 destinations around the world, ranking Helsinki-Vantaa Airport second in northern Europe. All routes are operated frequently.

6.2 By bus

From Helsinki-Vantaa Airport the easiest and fastest way to Tampere is to hop on the express bus. It will leave for Tampere straight from Helsinki-Vantaa Airport. Buses depart every 1-2 hours and the travel time is approximately 2 hours 30 minutes.

6.3 By train

From Helsinki-Vantaa Airport it is necessary to take a bus to Helsinki city centre or to Tikkurila railway station and board a train there. Trains depart hourly (except for at night time). The travel time by train is about 2 hours.

6.4 Immigration procedures

Finland applies the Schengen Convention to visas. Together with other countries that have signed the Schengen Convention, Finland has decided which countries' citizens can enter Finland and other Schengen countries without a visa and which countries' citizens require a visa.

Those who do not need a visa when coming to Finland include citizens of EU member states, citizens of the Nordic countries and citizens of countries on the list of visa-free states, providing they possess other valid travel documents.

Depending on the purpose of use, the visa can be either a single-entry, multiple-entry, re-entry, transit or airport transit visa. If the main travel destination is Finland, the visa is applied for at a Finnish diplomatic mission abroad.

7 Accommodation and food

There are numerous accommodation options near the meeting area. Accommodation in a nearby school will be arranged and this will be the lowest cost option. The Tampere Student Housing Foundation (TOAS) provides rentable student housing. In the summertime some of these houses work as a summer hostels. TOAS is able to provide us around 200 beds in the student houses. These houses will also be in the walking distance. The costs for these rooms will be low.

Hotel Omenahotelli is one of the most cost-effective choices, there is accommodation for 400 people and it is within walking distance. The Sokos Hotel Villa can be found nearest to University of Tampere. Many other hotels are within a short walking distance. Please see the list of the hotels and the map of the area.

COSS - Centre for Open Source Solutions @ Technology Centre Hermia Ltd.

Hermiankatu 1
33720 Tampere
Finland

www.coss.fi
info@coss.fi

There is a wide variety of restaurants in the Tulli-area. The prices range from 5 Euros to 25 Euros per meal. See the list of the restaurants and the map of the area.

9 Budget and Sponsors

There will be no conference fee for the participants. The participants will pay for the accommodation and food themselves.

Estimated total budget for both Akademy and GUADEC conferences (EUR):

	EUROS	expected to get a sponsor
Meeting rooms and other premises	14 000	yes
Plenary halls	7 000	yes
Technical infrastructure	0	yes
Social events	60 000	yes
Web page	1 000	
Travel grants	25 000	
Labour costs	70 000	yes (partly)
Total	177 000	

Sponsoring is expected to cover the conference site, the equipment, social events, parts of the travel grants and parts of the labour costs. There is a free wireless network that can be used in the venue. The labour costs have been calculated so that there will be one full-time organiser working for 10 months and 2 other people working half-time for 4 months.

We believe that in addition to the Akademy and GUADEC's global sponsors, there are several companies in our networks that are willing to sponsor these events. Nokia Oyj is already committed to become a sponsor in the case that the event is organised in Tampere.

10 Contact Information

If you have any questions about the proposal please contact

Petri Räsänen

Founder and Director of COSS

Tel. +358 40 772 3008

E-mail: petri.rasanen@cooss.fi