

FAR-FIELD MULTI-CHANNEL SPEECH ENHANCEMENT CHALLENGE FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING (CONFERENCINGSPEECH 2021) - CONTEST RULES

Sponsored by Tencent Technology (Shenzhen) Co Ltd. (“**Sponsor**”).

NO ENTRY FEE. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

The Far-field Multi-channel Speech Enhancement Challenge for Video Conferencing (ConferencingSpeech 2021) (the “**Contest**”) as further described <https://tea-lab.qq.com/conferencingspeech-2021> (the “**Contest Website**”) will take place during the promotion period described on the Contest Website or as otherwise communicated to you by the Sponsor (the “**Promotion Period**”).

Please make sure to carefully read and fully understand each term hereof, especially the terms restricting or releasing liabilities and provisions on the governing and applicable laws. You may not participate in this Contest unless you have read and accepted all the terms hereof. By participating in this Contest, you are deemed to have read and agreed to be bound by these Contest Rules.

- 1. Agreement to Contest Rules.** By entering or participating in the Contest, you accept and agree to be bound by these rules (the “**Contest Rules**”).
- 2. Eligibility.** The Contest is a skill-based contest open to all persons age eighteen (18) or older, as of the date of entry, who have an active e-mail account. Employees of Sponsor are not eligible to participate in the Contest.
- 3. How to Enter.** Entry deadline is described on the Contest Website. You may enter the Contest as follows:
 - (a)** Visit the Contest Website and follow the instructions there, including registration for the Contest via <https://wj.qq.com/s2/7823388/3b03>, before the applicable deadline described on the Contest Website or in the Contest Evaluation Plan (as defined below). Review and follow the contest evaluation plan located here - https://tea-lab.qq.com/test/ConferencingSpeech2021_Evaluation_plan_v1.pdf (the “**Contest Evaluation Plan**”). Such Contest Evaluation Plan may be updated during the Promotion Period and will form part of the Contest Rules.
 - (b)** Entrants will be required to create an algorithm and use software to implement that algorithm, and to then process audio files included in the Contest Materials provided to the Entrant by Sponsor.
 - (c)** Entrants must submit information and materials (collectively, the “**Submission**”) to Sponsor for evaluation, which may include: (i) the processed audio files that are provided to the entrant by Sponsor; (ii) a “system description” describing in generally how the entrant’s system works; and (iii) a paper to Interspeech 2021 special session.
 - (d)** In connection with your participation in the Contest, you will receive access to the software in connection with the Contest (the “**Software**”), which Software is licensed to you for use under a separate license.
 - (e)** In connection with your participation in the Contest, Sponsor hereby grants to you, as an entrant, a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, license, with no right to sublicense, to access, reproduce and use the datasets and documentations that Sponsor provides to you in connection with your participation in the Contest (collectively, the “**Contest Materials**”) for the purposes of: (i)

participation in the Contest; and (ii) academic (non-commercial) research, including publication of academic papers. The Contest Materials are proprietary to Sponsor and are provided on an “as is” and “as available” basis with no representations or warranties and Sponsor disclaims all potential damages and liabilities that might arise in connection your use of the Contest Materials.

(f) Only one entry per person, and/or e-mail address is permitted, regardless of method of entry. Entrants submitting multiple entries or violating any of these Contest Rules may be disqualified.

4. Submission Requirements.

(a) By entering a Submission, you represent and warrant that each Submission: (i) is your original creation and does not infringe, misappropriate or violate a third party’s patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, moral rights or other proprietary or intellectual property rights, or rights of publicity or privacy (“**Intellectual Property Rights**”), or violate any applicable law or regulation; and (ii) has not been previously awarded a prize, or award during any other contest or promotion sponsored by Sponsor or any third party.

(b) If a Submission does not meet the criteria described in these Contest Rules, Sponsor may disqualify and discard the Submission either immediately or at any time. By entering a Submission, you acknowledge that Sponsor may obtain other Submissions that are similar or identical in theme, format or other respects to that submitted by you. You acknowledge that Sponsor does not waive any rights to use ideas, themes, or concepts previously known to Sponsor, or developed by its employees, or obtained from sources other than the entrant, which may be similar to your Submission. By entering a Submission, you agree that Sponsor is not responsible for any unauthorized use of Submissions by third parties.

5. Rights in Submissions Granted by You. You hereby grant and agree to grant to Sponsor worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty free, fully paid up, license, with a right to sublicense, to use, reproduce, publicly perform, publicly display, and modify and create derivative works based upon your Submission, for purposes of operating the Contest, judging and evaluating your Submission in connection with the Contest.

6. Judgement of Submissions and Selection of the Winner. All qualified Submissions will be judged in accordance with the Contest Evaluation Plan. Submissions requirements are described further in the Contest Evaluation Plan.

The decisions of the judges will be final.

- **Prizes and Odds.** The Prizes to be awarded from the Contest are as follows:

For each of the two tasks:

1. First Place Prize: USD\$1,500
2. Second Place Prize: USD\$800

Total ARV of all prizes to be awarded: USD\$4,600.

The internship opportunities at Tencent Ethereal Audio Lab will be provided to the students with excellent performance.

The odds of winning a prize depends on the total number of eligible entries received and the skill of the entrants. No cash substitution of prizes is permitted, except at the sole option of Sponsor for a prize of equal or greater value. Sponsor will not replace any lost or stolen prizes. Winners are solely responsible for any and all federal, state, provincial and local taxes, if any, that apply to prizes. Allow up to four (4) to six (6) months for delivery of prizes.

7. Notification of Winners. Winners will be notified by email in June of 2021, and may be required to sign and return an affidavit of eligibility and publicity/liability release within seven (7) days of notification. If a selected winner cannot be contacted, is ineligible, fails to claim a prize and/or where applicable an affidavit of eligibility and publicity/liability release is not timely received, is incomplete or modified, the prize may be forfeited and an alternate winner will be selected from remaining valid, eligible Submissions timely submitted. In the event of a dispute regarding who submitted a Submission, the Submission will be deemed submitted by the authorized account holder of the email account specified in the Submission. "**Authorized account holder**" is defined as the natural person who is assigned to an email address by an Internet access provider, online service provider, or other organization (e.g., business, educational institution, etc.) that is responsible for assigning email addresses for the domain associated with the submitted email address.

8. Disclaimers.

(a) Sponsor is not responsible for (i) late, lost, delayed, damaged, postage-due, incomplete, illegible, misdirected or undeliverable entries or Submissions, responses, or other correspondence, whether by email or postal mail or otherwise; (ii) theft, destruction, unauthorized access to or alterations of entry materials; or (iii) phone, electrical, network, computer, hardware, software program or transmission malfunctions, failures or difficulties.

(b) IN NO EVENT WILL SPONSOR BE LIABLE TO YOU FOR ANY SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, EXEMPLARY, PUNITIVE OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING LOSS OF USE, DATA, BUSINESS OR PROFITS) ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST, THE SOFTWARE OR THE CONTEST MATERIALS, WHETHER SUCH LIABILITY ARISES FROM ANY CLAIM BASED UPON CONTRACT, WARRANTY, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE), STRICT LIABILITY OR OTHERWISE, AND WHETHER OR NOT SPONSOR HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH LOSS OR DAMAGE. WITHOUT LIMITING THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING, SPONSOR'S AGGREGATE LIABILITY TO YOU ARISING WITH RESPECT TO THESE CONTEST RULES WILL NOT EXCEED \$50.00. Some jurisdictions do not allow the limitation or exclusion of liability for incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

9. Indemnification. You agree to indemnify, defend and hold Sponsor and its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, directors, officers, employees, sponsors and agents, including advertising and promotion agencies, and assigns, and any other organizations related to the Contest, harmless, from any and all claims, injuries, damages, expenses or losses to person or property and/or liabilities of any nature that in any way arise from participation in this Contest or acceptance or use of a prize or parts thereof, including without limitation (a) any third party claims made in connection with your Submissions, or any representations and warranties made by you in connection with your Submissions; (b) any third party claims made in connection with your breach of these Contest Rules; and (c) any losses, or damages (compensatory, direct, incidental, consequential or otherwise) of any kind arising in connection with or as a result of the prize, or acceptance, possession, or use of the prize, or from participation in the Contest.

10. Publicity. Except where prohibited, by participating in the Contest, you consent to the use of your name, photo and/or likeness, biographical information, and statements attributed to you as an entrant (if true) for advertising and promotional purposes, including without limitation, inclusion in Sponsor's newsletters, the Contest website and Sponsor's websites, without additional compensation.

11. Additional Conditions. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate, modify or suspend the Contest in whole or in part, if in Sponsor's opinion (a) the Contest is not capable of running as planned by reason of the occurrence of any event beyond its control including, but not limited to, fire, flood, epidemic, pandemic, earthquake, explosion, labor dispute or strike, act of God or public enemy, communications, equipment failure, utility or service interruptions, riot or civil disturbance, terrorist threat or activity, war (declared or undeclared), interference with the Promotion by any party, or any federal, state, local or provincial government law, order, or regulation, order of any court or jurisdiction, or other cause not reasonably within Sponsors' control, or (b) any other factors beyond Sponsor's reasonable control corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Contest, in all instances without liability to the entrants. Sponsor also reserves the right to disqualify any entrant or winner, as determined by Sponsor, in its sole discretion.

12. Governing Law and Choice of Forum. These Contest Rules are governed by the law of the State of California, without reference to rules governing choice of laws. Any action, suit or case arising out of, or in connection with, this Contest or these Contest Rules must be brought in either the federal courts located in the Northern District of California or the state courts located in Santa Clara County, California.

13. Personal Information. Sponsor may collect personal data about entrants online in connection with the participation in the Contest (such as personal data collected during the online Contest registration), in accordance with its privacy policy and as may be more specifically set forth in these Contest Rules. Sponsor will only use such information solely in connection with the operating and judging the Contest, evaluation your Submission and distributing the prizes.

14. Winner's List, Contest Rules. For a list of prize winners, send an email message to ConferencingSpeech@tencent.com with "Winner's list" as the email subject and the Contest name specified in the body of the email. Requests must be received within four (4) weeks of the end of the Contest Period.