DATE 2026 Focus Session Proposal

# Information and General Guidelines

DATE invites proposals for Focus Sessions, which can take one of two forms:

* **Panels**, discussing visionary and controversial issues or
* **Hot-Topic Sessions**, focusing on the introduction and discussion of new R&D problems, addressing trends in the technical domains that are of interest to the conference participants. As a rule of thumb, no more than four speakers per session should be planned for Hot-Topic Sessions.

Proposals should be submitted electronically, using this template by **10 October 2025, via the DATE submission website** [**https://softconf.com/date26/focus-sessions/**](https://softconf.com/date26/focus-sessions/). Notification of acceptance is expected by 14 November 2025.

Focus Session proposals must consist of an extended summary describing the topic, the authors/speakers and the format. In case of acceptance, proposers of accepted Focus Sessions will be asked to submit the final description of the session.

Each proposal should **name a chair and a co-chair** (can be the session proposers/organizers); the chair and co-chair are responsible for the preparation of the session and for the monitoring of the session; they cannot be selected among the panellists or other speakers. It is the responsibility of the Focus Session organizers to ensure that the CAMERA-READY deadline is met and all the camera-ready manuscripts from their respective Focus Sessions meet the editorial standards of the DATE proceedings. The DATE Focus Session Co-Chairs may decline the publication of the final manuscripts in the DATE proceedings if the above responsibility is not fulfilled. Accepted or invited speakers to the Focus Sessions are required to register for the conference.

In case of acceptance, **Hot-Topic Session’s** presenters may optionally select to submit manuscripts for publication in the conference proceedings. Presenters may choose to submit one manuscript for each speaker, or a single collective paper representing the whole session. A paper can be of maximum 6 pages, plus 1 page for references. Such papers will undergo a review by at least 2 experts in the session’s topic, and feedback will be provided to the authors for possible necessary revisions. Such feedback should be addressed in preparing a final camera-ready manuscript for publication.

**Panel Sessions** are allowed at most one (1) page for a summary position statement for each panellist, as appropriate. Such statements will be included in the conference proceedings.

All focus session manuscripts’ titles must begin with “Focus Session: …”.

Important: You MUST fill out every field below and provide an abstract & tentative schedule format, as requested in the following pages.

# General Information

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| No. | Required information | Your response |
| 1 | Title | *Provide the title of the proposed Focus Session.* |
| 2 | Proposers/Organizers | *Provide the names and affiliations of the organizers/proposers.  If different from Session chair and co-Chair, also provide the names and affiliation of the proposed Chair and Co-Chair.* |
| 3 | Session Format | *Check the one that applies: Panel [ ] Hot-Topic [ ]* |
| 4 | Speakers/Panelists | *Provide the names and affiliation of potential speakers and/or panelists, indicating if their participation is already confirmed or not.* |
| 5 | Intended audience | *Explain the intended audience.* |
| 6 | Estimated number of attendees | *Give a rough estimation of the overall number of attendees (excluding speakers/panelists).* |
| 7 | Paper contributions (for Hot-topics) | *How many papers do you expect to be submitted for the formal proceedings?* |

# Abstract

Provide an abstract of the proposed focus session (no more than 500 words).

# Tentative Focus Session Format

Provide a tentative outline of the proposed focus session.