

£5000 Prize! A call for a paper on *The World and Business Computing in 2051*

The closing date for papers is now passed and no more are being accepted

The 50 Years of Business Computing conference will be looking 50 years forward as well as back. It will feature a prize paper on *The World and Business Computing in 2051*. The prize, sponsored by the National Computing Centre, is £5000. Entries are now invited. Anybody (except those associated with the conference organisers) is welcome to enter.

In 1951, nobody could remotely have forecast how business computing and telecommunications would have changed the world by today. *Can we now forecast better? What will the world look like in 2051 and how will information technology have changed it?* The prize will go to the best paper on this subject and the winner will be invited to deliver it at the conference.

The judges will not only, or even primarily, be interested in technological change. Changes in the applications of business computing, in its management, in the benefits it will deliver and in people's attitudes to it are all within the scope of the prize. So are issues of public policy, regulation and government. The presumption is that in all these fields there will be not only major developments of today's status quo, but also transformations breaking sharply with it. The challenge on offer, therefore, is to produce the most stimulating, imaginative and illuminating discussion, while at the same time remaining within at least the outer bounds of credibility.

Papers must be written in a style suitable for conference presentation and be of a length that will take 30-45 minutes to deliver. Credit will be given for accompanying visuals, but these are not essential. Entries must be submitted, electronically or on paper, to the conference administrators by 21 September, 2001.

A distinguished panel of judges is being assembled to preside over the prize competition and select a winner. The judges will announce their decision by 12 October 2001.

If the quantity and quality of entries is sufficient, a publisher for a selection of the papers will be sought. It is a condition of entry that authors must be willing to allow such publication.

The full rules for the competition, including the judges' criteria, can be found on the conference website, www.is.lse.ac.uk/BusinessComputing50/, or may be requested from the conference administrators. Any requests for further information should be addressed to Marianne-Lee Payne, IEE Event Services, Institution of Electrical Engineers, 2 Savoy Place, London WC2 0BL. tel: +44(0)20 7344 5466, fax: +44(0)20 7240 8830 or email: mpayne@iee.org.uk



National Computing Centre Prize Rules

1. The prize will be awarded to the best paper on **The World and Business Computing in 2051**.
2. Business computing, for the purpose of this competition, is any activity involving the use of a programmable electronic processor that contributes to the management, or administration of a private, or public sector organisation. This obviously includes telecommunications, but will exclude most scientific and process control applications. As the judges will be looking for an imaginative approach, they will not be too dogmatic about this definition!
3. The criteria for judgement will be how interesting and stimulating the paper is, the breadth of its coverage, the balance it shows between imaginativeness and realism, and its suitability for conference presentation.
4. The winner will be invited to present his/her paper at the **50 years of Business Computing Conference** on 5-6 November at the Guildhall, London. Entrants should keep those dates free. The winner will also feature in publicity material for the conference.
5. Entries must reach the IEE, the conference administrators, by 4pm on 21 September 2001, in paper, email or CD form. They must be of a length that will take 30-45 minutes to present. Credit will be given for accompanying visuals, but these are not essential.
6. Entries may be submitted under a pseudonym, and will be judged on that basis, provided the author's name and contact details are submitted separately at the same time to the IEE.
7. Entries become the property of the LEO Foundation, who will negotiate a royalty with the authors of any they wish to publish.
8. A shortlist will be drawn up by a panel chaired by John Aris (LEO Foundation). The final judgement will be made by a panel chaired by Michael Gough (Chief Executive National Computing Centre). The winner will be identified and announced publicly by 12 October.
9. The judges' decision is final and the organisers will not enter into correspondence regarding the decision.
10. Employees of the organisations mentioned in '8' above are ineligible to enter.
11. The right is reserved not to award the prize if the judges consider no entry worthy of it.

