

## Conference Proposal for ISIT 2013

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Our previous proposal (presented at ISIT 2008 and Allerton 2008 BoG meetings) was to hold ISIT 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. However because of budgeting issues, we propose to instead hold ISIT 2013 in Antalya, Turkey.

The previous proposed venue for Istanbul was *Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Centre* (ICEC). The working budget, presented in Allerton, included about €125,000 for the meeting rooms and audiovisual equipment rental. With such steep fees, we were unable to balance the budget and had a deficit of about €35,000. Unfortunately, even after many negotiations and despite the economic crisis, ICEC refused to lower its fees, taking advantage of the fact that it is the only big convention center in Istanbul. Furthermore, ICEC wants a considerable part of the payment to be made in advance, which is not feasible with our cash flow plan.

We also explored other alternatives in Istanbul from hotels to universities; we talked to different agencies and got in touch with the hotels directly. We are now convinced that ISIT is too big for most of the venues in Istanbul. The few places we can fit can accommodate bigger conferences (such as ICC), and therefore are much more expensive than we can afford to.

With this, we shifted our attention to Antalya, a coastal town in the Mediterranean. Antalya is a very popular tourist destination; it is also popular with conferences. Antalya and its environs have been settled since prehistoric times, and there are many natural and historic attractions both within and outside the city. There are multiple daily direct flights from Istanbul (lasting about an hour), also flights from other international destinations, especially in the summer.

We have identified Divan Antalya Talya Hotel as the potential venue for ISIT 2013 (<http://www.divan.com.tr/hotel/talya/>). Talya is a 5-star hotel in city center situated on top of a beautiful cliff overlooking the Mediterranean. There are many other accommodation options in the vicinity, from luxury hotels to budget pensions.

The conference facilities are large enough to hold a meeting for up to 1000 participants.

You will find attached a tentative working budget for ISIT 2013 Antalya with 17% surplus. Talya Hotel will not charge us for the meeting rooms or for audiovisual equipment; they only require us to reserve a block of 150 rooms. With single person rates at €100 and doubles at €125, we don't think we will have a problem filling up the rooms. Also, as you can see from the budget, the meal prices are very reasonable. In this initial budget, we intentionally kept the administrative costs high to account for possible fluctuations until the budget is finalized. Our current expense level suggests that we will be able to keep the registration fees low; IEEE in advance member registration is currently set at €600.

Our plan is to finalize the budget and the payment plan and have a site visit in the next few months. We plan to get the final BoG approval either before or at ISIT 2009.