Charter International Conference on Engineering Adaptive and Self-Managing Systems (SEAMS)

This Charter defines the duties and policies for the SEAMS Steering Committee and the key roles to the annual organization of SEAMS

v0.1 - May 20, 2022; discussed at the SEAMS 2022 Steering Committee Meeting
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v0.3 – March 9, 2023; online discussion SEAMS 2022 Steering Committee
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I.   SEAMS Mission

SEAMS is the primary scientific event on engineering self-adaptive and self-managing systems. It provides researchers and practitioners with a forum to present, investigate, discuss, examine and advance the fundamental principles, the state-of-the-art, and the solutions addressing critical challenges of engineering self-adaptive and self-managing systems.

SEAMS was founded by Rogério de Lemos, David Garlan, Hausi Müller, and Marin Litoiu. SEAMS started as a workshop in 2006, collocated with the International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE). In 2011 it became a symposium and in 2014 a conference. SEAMS is organized annually.

Thematic scope

SEAMS targets advances and breakthroughs beyond the state-of-the-art on self-adaptive and self-managing systems. It covers all aspects of engineering self-adaptive and self-managing systems, ranging from foundations and theory to technology and their applications.

Finances and Sponsorship

The SEAMS organization is funded from the symposium registration and possibly additional sponsoring actions. SEAMS is usually co-sponsored by ACM and IEEE Computer Society.

Geographical Scope and Frequency

SEAMS is a global event that is held yearly around May. SEAMS is usually collocated with the International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE).

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion are central to the realization of the SEAMS mission. SEAMS fosters an environment where all individuals are entitled to participate in any activity free of discrimination. This applies to team compositions, including but not limited to Steering Committee and symposium organizing committees. SEAMS meetings and symposia must provide a welcoming, open, and safe environment, that embraces the value of every person, regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, religion, national origin, ancestry, or disability.

II.   Purpose of the SEAMS Charter

The SEAMS charter defines the duties and policies for:

- The SEAMS Steering Committee (hereafter named the Steering Committee) and its Chair (hereafter named the SC Chair).
- The SEAMS General Chair(s) (hereafter named the General Chair).
- The SEAMS Program Committee Chairs (hereafter named the Program Chairs).

The SEAMS Charter may be modified according to the following process:

- Modifications may be proposed by any member of the Steering Committee to the SC Chair.
- To be adopted modifications must be approved by two-thirds of the members of the Steering Committee.

III.   Selection of SEAMS Organizers

A.   Selection of General Chair

The Steering Committee fosters and selects proposals for General Chair candidates. Proposals for General Chairs need to be submitted to the SC Chair two years before the actual date of SEAMS.

A proposal for General Chair candidates may include an initial list of names for Program Chairs, and other Organizing Committee members.

The members of the Steering Committee discuss the proposals and try to reach a consensus. If necessary, anonymous voting is organized and the candidate for General Chair with the highest number of votes is selected (in case of a tie, the SC Chair decides). Candidates can be ranked.

The SC Chair invites the highest-ranked candidate for availability and commitment to the duty. If the candidate does not accept, the next candidate is invited, etc.

B.   Selection of Program Chairs for SEAMS

Two Program Chairs are selected as follows:

a. The General Chair proposes a list of candidates for Program Chair to the SC Chair (name, link to home page, and summary of experience as Program Chair)
b. The SC Chair consults with the Steering Committee, advises the General Chair on these names, and may also suggest additional or reject proposed names.
c. The General Chair invites Program Chairs based on this advice and finally notifies the SC Chair of the name of the designated Program Chairs.

C.   Selection of SEAMS Organizing Committee

The General Chair selects the additional members of the Organizing Committee of SEAMS.

IV.   Duties of the General Chair

The duties of the General Chair for SEAMS comprise the following:

- Propose the names of candidate Program Chairs and interact with the SC Chair to

select two Program Chairs respecting equity, diversity, and inclusion.

- Assign a Chair for the Most Influential Paper award.
- Determine the other members of the Organizing Committee possibly in interaction with the Program Chairs. This includes chairs for specific tracks in the program, such as artifact chair, industry chair, and doctoral symposium chair.
- Secure the infrastructure for organizing SEAMS, with the ICSE organizers if SEAMS is collocated with ICSE.
- Arrange for proceedings publication possibly in collaboration with a proceedings chair, and with ACM and IEEE if they serve as technical co-sponsors.
- Establish a symposium calendar and track activities accordingly.
- Establish a conference management system, possibly in collaboration with the Program Chairs.
- Be responsible for the managing the symposium funding and ensuring, as much as humanly possible, that the symposium does not run a deficit. The SEAMS Steering Committee will support the actions of the General Chair.
- Consult the SC Chair for any changes to the accepted proposal for organizing and running the symposium.
- Establish a website for the symposium and social media channels, possibly collaborating with supporting publicity chairs.
- Oversee the quality and content of the SEAMS website.
- Ensure a SEAMS program that appeals to researchers and engineers (when appropriate) including research sessions, keynotes, industrial and other tracks.
- Disseminate the Call for Papers and Call for Participation possibly collaborating with publicity chairs.
- Promote SEAMS to ensure a robust participation of senior and junior researchers and industry practitioners in relation to industry-related events.
- Report the plans for their SEAMS at the series committee meeting the year before their SEAMS.
- Report the plans for the next SEAMS at the steering committee meeting the year before the symposium. Besides the regular plans, any novelty should be clarified and requires discussion and approval an OK from the SC.
- Prepare a report for the Steering Committee after the symposium.

Restrictions:

- The General Chair cannot submit papers to the symposium.

V.   Duties of the Program Chairs

The duties of the Program Chairs comprise the following:

- Prepare and propose the composition of the Program Committee, in consultation with the General Chair.
- Ensure that all members in the composition of the Program Committee are competent to review papers on engineering self-adaptive and self-managing systems.
- Ensure that there is balanced membership on the Program Committee regarding thematic coverage, geography, and experience level as well as promote equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Develop a Call for Papers and deliver it to the General Chair for distribution in

accordance with the timeline.

- Develop and follow a well-defined peer-review procedure for research papers.
- Ensure that papers obtain high-quality reviews and that papers are selected fairly.
- Ensure that all submitters receive acceptance or rejection notices on time and that rejections are accompanied by written feedback, including the acceptance rate.
- Ensure the quality of SEAMS as a top-ranked conference (A-ranked conference based on relevant criteria, in particular, the quality of accepted papers and its acceptance rate, e.g., the acceptance rate of full research papers around 20%).
- Ensure that camera-ready papers are properly prepared for publication in the proceedings.
- Prepare a balanced and attractive program for SEAMS.
- Oversee the final program of SEAMS with the GC and in consultation with the other chairs.
- Editors of the main proceedings can be either the Program Chairs or the Program Chairs with the General Chair.
- Initiate in consultation with the General Chair the organization of a Special Issue with the best papers of SEAMS (revised and extended versions). An option is ACM Transactions on Autonomous and Adaptive Systems (TAAS).
- Consult the General Chair for any changes to the accepted way of organizing and running the symposium.
- Assist the General Chair in preparing the final report to the Steering Committee.

Besides the regular information about the symposium, the final report should also include:

- The list of Program Committee members that provided a good service to the Program Committee and those that provided a bad service to the Program Committee (frequent delays, missing reviews, reviews of poor quality).
- The list of authors that did not present his/her paper – no-show.

Restrictions:

- Program Chairs cannot submit papers to the symposium.

VI.   Duties of the Steering Committee Chair

The duties of the SC Chair comprise:

- Be responsible for applying the SEAMS Charter and controlling future modifications.
- Be responsible for maintaining the quality of SEAMS as a top event on engineering self-adaptive and self-managing systems.
- Ensure that the General and Program Chairs know the SEAMS expectations and policies.
- Chair the yearly Steering Committee meetings, interim e-mail discussions, and videoconferences.
- Interact regularly with the General Chair to learn the status of symposium activities and to advise and guide decisions.
- Handle unexpected issues regarding an appointed General Chair that may impact the organization of SEAMS, if needed in consultation with the Steering Committee.
- Communicate major symposium status milestones to the Steering Committee.

- Maintain the repository of the history of SEAMS symposia and insights to help prepare future SEAMSs (with access to Steering Committee members only).
    - Maintain a record of the Organizing Committees for all SEAMSs.
    - Maintain a record of symposia results (acceptance rates, attendance, programs, tracks, etc.) for all SEAMSs.
    - Maintain the set of artifacts from previous SEAMSs that can help chairs plan future symposia, including realized budgets and relevant artifacts for the symposia ranking.
- Interact with other conferences to nurture cooperation and avoid conflicts.
- Ensure the yearly application to the appropriate bodies, e.g., CORE, to have SEAMS ranked.

The SC Chair may ask assistance from members of the Steering Committee.

VII.   Duties of the Steering Committee

The duties of the members of the Steering Committee comprise:

- Contribute to the realisation of the SEAMS mission.
- Support future modifications of the SEAMS Charter.
- Participate actively in the Steering Committee meetings (in person and online).
- Support the selection of the GC and PC chairs of yearly SEAMS symposia.
- Assist the SC Chair in other duties where applicable.

VIII.   Steering Committee Composition

The Steering Committee is updated yearly according to the following rules.

A.   Rules for Composition

- The general and program chairs of the next edition(s):
    - SEAMS at year+1.
    - SEAMS at year+2.
- The chairs of the current edition:
    - SEAMS at current year.
- The chairs of the past two editions:
    - SEAMS at year-1.
    - SEAMS at year-2.
- The founders of SEAMS. The founders decide themselves when they want to end their membership of the SEAMS Steering Committee.
- Service members. At most two key community members with a role similar to the founding members ensuring the continuity of the "SEAMS culture." These members are proposed by the SEAMS SC for five years and can be extended once for five years.
- Publicity strategy liaison. Takes care of a "publicity strategy" with responsibilities related to different aspects of publicity of SEAMS over time. This person will be a key point of contact for the publicity chairs of different SEAMS editions. Ensuring a fast take up of novel technologies and developments will be key. This member is proposed by the SEAMS SC for five years and can be extended once for five years.
- One representative of the Steering Committee of ACSOS (International Conference on

Autonomic Computing and Self Organizing Systems) (without voting rights) who is proposed by the ACSOS Steering Committee and agreed upon by the SEAMS SC.

B.   Update of the Composition

- At the yearly Steering Committee meeting organized with or around the time of the SEAMS symposium.

C.   Election of Steering Committee Chair

- The Steering Committee Chair will be elected among its members:
    - Among declared candidates.
    - By voting with a majority.
    - Mandate: 2 years (can be re-elected twice).

IX.   SEAMS Awards

The following awards will be delivered annually at SEAMS:

- SEAMS Best Paper Award.
- SEAMS Best Student Paper Award.
- SEAMS Best Artifact Award.
- SEAMS Most Influential Paper Award.

A.   SEAMS Best Paper Award

- This award is given to the best full paper.
- The Program Chairs nominate three papers considering review grades and suggestions from Program Committee members.
- The designated Sub-Committee of (at least three members of) the Program Committee selects the best full paper by vote. Members should be senior and have no conflict of interest with the nominated papers.

B.   SEAMS Best Student Paper Award

- This award is given to the best full paper with a student as first author.
- The Program Chairs nominate three papers considering review grades and suggestions from Program Committee members.
- The designated Sub-Committee of at least three Program Committee members selects the best full paper by vote. Members should be senior and have no conflict of interest with the nominated papers.

C.   SEAMS Best Artifact Award

- This award is given to the best artifact given that there are at least three accepted artifacts.
- The Artifact Chair nominates three artifacts considering review grades and suggestions from Artifacts Program Committee members.
- The designated Sub-Committee of at least three Artifacts Program Committee members selects the best artifact by vote. Members should be a mix of senior and junior and have no conflict of interest with the nominated papers.

D.   SEAMS Most Influential Paper Award (MIP Award)

- This MIP Award is given to the most influential paper of the edition of SEAMS in year - 10.
- The appointed MIP Chair puts together a designated Sub-Committee of (at least 4) senior members of the community to select the winner of the MIP Award.
- The selection of the MIP Award should consider all papers published in the edition of SEAMS 10 years ago based on different aspects of impact, including, generated citations, spawning of new lines of research, and direct or indirect industrial adoption, among others.

Appendix 1.   Composition of the Steering Committee

Composition of the SEAMS Steering Committee May 15, 2023 (SC meeting SEAMS 2023):
- Luciano Baresi, Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy (member)
- Radu Calinescu, University of York, UK (member)
- Javier Camara, University of Malaga, Spain (member)
- Rogerio de Lemos, University of Kent, UK (founding member)
- David Garlan, Carnegie Mellon University, USA (founding member)
- Pooyan Jamshidi, University of South Carolina, USA (member)
- Marin Litoiu, York University, Canada (founding member)
- Xiaoxing Ma, Nanjing University, China (member)
- Martina Maggio, Saarland University, Germany (member)
- Raffaela Mirandola, Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy (member)
- Liliana Pasquale, University College Dublin, Ireland (member)
- Bradley Schmerl, Carnegie Mellon University, USA (member)
- Danny Weyns, KU Leuven, Belgium and Linnaeus University, Sweden (member & chair)
- Antonio Bucchiarone (member from ACSOS).