SRI2021 will draw on the lessons learned of SRI2020, with the major difference that in 2021, we will go deeper in exploring next generation conferencing. SRI2021 will include a strong virtual participation element, while the conference activities might take place in two or more hubs to reduce emissions from travel.

Similar to SRI2020, we anticipate an interactive meeting format, with a mix of both plenary and parallel sessions, short “ignite” style presentations, and significant opportunity for mixing and information exchange – panels, facilitated developmental activities, social sessions with posters and demonstrations, innovation spectacles, with significant space for sponsors and cyber-enabled engagement. We further expect that proposed venues would need to include a plenary hall (300+ people) and facilities to support all typical conference amenities (5 to 10 parallel session rooms, mingling / social / poster areas, registration and sponsor areas), and support from an on-site logistics team.
HOST SRI2021
Connecting innovators with science

Future Earth and the Belmont Forum are seeking a host or hosts interested in joining as a core convener in the development of the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress 2021 (SRI2021).

The annual Congress is a new series of gatherings uniting leaders, experts, industry and innovators to inspire action and promote a global sustainability transformation. A joint initiative of Future Earth and the Belmont Forum, it is a space of fierce advocacy for sustainability scholarship and innovation, trans-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration and action. The first Congress, SRI2020, will take place in Brisbane, Australia, on June 14-17, 2020.

Hosting SRI2021 is a unique opportunity for networks, universities, research institutions, government agencies, corporations, granting agencies, professional societies, non-profit organizations and other change-makers in sustainability aspiring to strengthen their global profile and thought leadership. The event will build on the outcomes and lessons learned from SRI2020, pushing forward an ambitious agenda for elevating the sustainability sector globally.

Hosts should demonstrate experience in, and possess the capacity to provide an internationally supportive venue accessible to 500-700 attendees from around the world for a 3-day event, with multiple side meetings before and after. In addition, conveners are striving to become leaders in next-generation, low-carbon conferencing. Virtual participation will therefore be a key element of SRI2021, and hosts are expected to provide facilities that enable interactive online engagement at scale. Hosts will also play a key role in designing and facilitating the event, which is why dedicated support of one full- or part-time staff person is requested. SRI2021 will take place between July and October 2021.

What are the advantages of hosting SRI2021?

This congress will be a timely opportunity to:

- showcase the leadership of your nation, region, city, company, or organization in sustainability research and innovation to the world stage
- meet and engage in substantial conversations with international funders to leverage your investments in international calls
- exchange with other actors to fine-tune your mechanisms to enable research and innovation for global impact
- expose your research and innovation community to new opportunities
- ensure you have a seat in discussions shaping global research and innovation agendas
- bid capacity: Direct co-funding amount, degree, experience, and breadth of support staff for the event.
- location: Degree to which location represents, or is attractive to, a significant academic and/or private sector research and innovation community at national, regional or global scales.
- sustainability and innovation: Commitment and capacity to deliver an event that embodies sustainability in all aspects, and capacity to explore and support next generation conferencing.
- community and connection: Host capacity to create connections across communities and between sectors.

Selection Process

The Congress Organizing Committee will select host(s) according to the following selection criteria:

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As diversity and inclusivity are part of our core values, we are particularly eager to accept bids from consortia of organizations that are from multiple nations (particularly including those of the Global South) and from across sectors (business, government, non-profits and granting agencies).

Hosting applications will be accepted until March 8, 2020. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the Belmont Forum, Future Earth and the winner. The winner of this competition will be announced at the SRI2020 closing ceremony.
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