Scaling Bitcoin Conference - Call for Hosting

The following document is a Call for Hosting (CFH) the Scaling Bitcoin conference - http://scalingbitcoin.org.

Scaling Bitcoin is the leading conference for the academic and engineering community that focuses on research, development and operations on Bitcoin and Blockchain technologies in general. The conferences are run by a non-profit organization Base58 Association based in Montreal, Canada with support of many volunteers from the Bitcoin community.

We are currently seeking Local Supporting Organizations (LSO) who will be able to host a Scaling Bitcoin in the next few years (2017, 2018, 2019). Mindful of the development schedule, Scaling Bitcoin is typically held in the months of September-November (Q3-Q4) and targets between 250-300 regular participants. Each year we try to alternate geographical regions where Scaling Bitcoin is held. Previously, Scaling Bitcoin has been hosted in Montreal, Hong Kong, and Milan.

Scaling Bitcoin Conduct

- Scaling Bitcoin is primarily an engineering and technical detail oriented conference that is not suitable for non-specialists. As such, participation of individuals who do not have related technical backgrounds may not derive much benefit from attending. A Scaling Bitcoin attendee should have proficiency in the fields of blockchain, systems engineering, cryptography, mathematics, game theory, security economics or other related fields.

  The exception are sponsors, without whom it is not possible to run the conference. While sponsors are allocated tickets, we encourage sponsors to invite technical participants from their organizations or donate tickets to participants from academic organizations.

- Any promotional/marketing activities at the conference are strictly forbidden. The exception are social event sponsors, who are allowed to place their banner at the social event.

- The conference follows a strict Code of Conduct (CoC) that can be found at https://scalingbitcoin.org/code-of-conduct One of the most important requirements in the Scaling Bitcoin CoC is that we strictly prohibit photography or video recording at the event (other than the live streaming of presentations) to respect the privacy of attendees.

Distribution of funds

Funding for the event is raised via sponsorship and ticket sales. Base58 Association can provide limited working capital in the event of an initial shortage of funds (as sponsorship funding takes time and frequently funds are received after the event). Funds collected are used as follows:

- Venue related expenses
- Social event related expenses
- Travel Subsidies
- Interstitial operational expenses (e.g. tax)

If any funds remain after the event, these funds are accrued for the execution and planning of future Scaling Bitcoin events.

Funds held by Base58 Association are also used to cover internal business related expenses and sponsor technical initiatives that directly benefit the Bitcoin ecosystem. For example, Base58 Association is currently helping to organize "S3ND" - an initiative for Bitcoin related wallet standards (http://s3nd.org).

Travel Subsidies

To encourage diversity, the Scaling Bitcoin conference accepts Travel Subsidy applications, which are reviewed approximately 1 month before the event and approved or rejected based on various factors. Mainly, the Organizing Committee considers the applicant's research and development in conference related subjects, but also considers factors such as URM (Under-Represented Minority) status, student status, and employment status. Travel Subsidy applications are reviewed by a Travel Subsidy committee which is formed as a subset of the Organizing Committee.

Event Structure

- Evening 0 - Opening Party Reception (drinks + food)
- Day 1 - Presentations
- Evening 1 - Main reception dinner
- Day 2 - Presentations
- Evening 2 - Optional closing supper (by invitation)

Requirements of the Local Supporting Organization

The LSO should actively work with Bitcoin and the organisers must have attended at least one previous event. The LSO must also have demonstrable interest in developing technical and research expertise in the field. It is highly preferable if the event is organized at a local

academic institution, but it not absolutely necessary to the extent this presents significant logistical or venue complications.

The LSO receives a listing in the "Local Supporting Organizations" sponsorship section. If the LSO also acts as a sponsor, it receives a duplicate listing in the appropriate sponsorship category.

The following responsibilities must be undertaken by the LSO:

- Identification and organization of the venue for the event and related accommodation
- Identification and organization of the locations for social receptions
- Organizing local logistics and community outreach (transportation, hotels, venue information)
- Making sure that the venue is capable of handling ~500 WiFi connections
- Organization of on-site security (private contractors or security firm)
- Organization of live video broadcast to YouTube (venue must have a dedicated or QoS controlled Internet line, there must be a production company or in-house production team at the venue to facilitate live broadcast of the conference presentations)
- Help with organizing sponsorship (especially sponsorship from local businesses)
- Ability to dispatch invitation letters for attendees requiring invitations for travel visa issuance.
- Printing posters and the event schedule
- Help with translation of Bitcoin terminology into the local language and optionally (if resources allow) translation of http://scalingbitcoin.org
- The LSO may be required to engage with Base58 Association into a business relationship, where it may be required to act as a representative of Base58 Association for interfacing with local government or tax authorities.
- Active involvement in the event planning as a part of the Organizing Committee
- Selection of two local volunteers to serve on the Programme Committee
- Handling badges and event registration

Due to the international nature of the attendees, it is customary for local businesses (or LSO) to organize other Bitcoin related events (typically following) the Scaling Bitcoin event. They are free to do this. These events are not related to Scaling Bitcoin, however attendees can be notified of these events.

Typically, for the 2 days immediately following the event, an independent Bitcoin Hackathon is organized by Cory Fields (Bitcoin core developer). This is to take advantage of the assembled development and coding expertise. Local supporting organizations that are able to provide assistance in organizing this event are given preference. The Hackathon typically requires a location for ~30 people.

In the end, LSO and the academic institution (if hosted at an academic venue) get exposure in the Bitcoin community as well as local geographical region. Local developers are able to meet and interact with core developers and like-minded individuals who work on research and

software development in the field of Bitcoin. There is no better way to build bridges, come up with projects or have Bitcoin related questions answered.

If you have a growing local Bitcoin community and would like to host the event at your geographical region, please contact us with further questions at contact@scalingbitcoin.org

Best,

Anton Yemelyanov
Scaling Bitcoin Organizing Committee