

# Application and Agreement to Participate in the Speaker Recognition Sequestered Evaluation (SRSE)

## 1. Who Should Participate

- 1.1. Participants should be developers of speaker recognition systems that can be made available under various terms or licenses for application to speaker recognition problems. .
- 1.2. Anonymous participation will not be permitted. This means that signatories to this document, *Application and Agreement to Participate in the Speaker Recognition Sequestered Evaluation* (“Agreement”), acknowledge that they understand that the results (see Section 4) of the test of their Submission will be published with full attribution to their institution or organization (“Organization”).

## 2. How to Participate

- 2.1. In order to participate in SRSE, an Organization must provide the information requested in Section 5 of this Agreement identifying the Responsible Party and the Point of Contact. Organization must also print and sign this Agreement and send it to the location designated in Section 5. Signatures of both the Responsible Party and the Point of Contact are required.
  - 2.1.1. The Responsible Party is an individual with the authority to commit the Organization to the terms in this Agreement.
  - 2.1.2. The Point of Contact (POC) is an individual with detailed knowledge of the participating Submission.
  - 2.1.3. In some cases, the Responsible Party and the POC may be the same person.
- 2.2. Upon receipt of the signed application by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Organization will be classified as a “Participant.” NIST must receive this signed application either before or with the algorithm prototypes. Algorithm prototypes (“Submissions”) shall be submitted in a containerized form compliant with the NIST test framework as defined in the [Speaker Recognition Sequestered Evaluation Test Plan \(“Test Plan”\)](#). The application shall be submitted either before or with the **first** Submission; subsequent Submissions do not require additional applications.
- 2.3. NIST intends to evaluate all Submissions from all Participants on a first come, first served basis.
- 2.4. Participant shall provide a submission (“Submission”), conforming to the specifications in the Test Plan. A Submission shall include all executable code, validation results, configuration files, documentation, and all other files required by NIST and the Participant to validate and execute the tests specified in the Test Plan. Datasets that include human data, regardless of whether it is identifiable, should be vetted to ensure they have been appropriately approved or consented for use in research. This should include datasets posted on the internet.
- 2.5. The Submission need not be used in a production system or be commercially available. However, the Submission must, at a minimum, be a stable implementation conforming to the Test Plan that NIST has published for SRSE.
- 2.6. The Submission must be encrypted and signed before transmission to NIST. Instructions for Submission can be found on the SRSE website. Generic encryption instructions can be found in [Encrypting Software for Transmission to NIST document](#). Enter the Participant’s public key fingerprint in the Agreement below. Submissions that are not signed with the public key fingerprint listed on the Agreement will not be accepted.
- 2.7. Submissions must be compliant with the Test Plan, NIST test hardware, and NIST test software. Submissions must be delivered to NIST during the submission period given in paragraph 2.2 of this Agreement according to the technical specifications given in the Test Plan.
- 2.8. To the extent allowable by Federal law, NIST agrees to protect Submissions as business proprietary information by using same degree of care, but no less than a reasonable degree of care, to prevent the unauthorized use, dissemination or publication of the Proprietary Information as NIST uses to protect its own confidential information of a like nature. NIST agrees not to transfer any Submissions to any third party without the prior written permission of the Participant.

- 2.9. These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General or the Office of Special Counsel of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this Agreement and are controlling.

### **3. Points of Contact**

- 3.1. The SRSE Liaison is the NIST point of contact for SRSE.
- 3.2. All questions should be directed to [SRSE@nist.gov](mailto:SRSE@nist.gov), which will be received by the SRSE Liaison and other SRSE personnel.
- 3.3. These questions and answers may be provided as updates to the Test Plan at the discretion of the SRSE Liaison.

### **4. Release of SRSE Results**

- 4.1. After the completion of SRSE testing, NIST may publish all results obtained, along with the Organization's name on the internet, and potentially in government meetings, conferences, workshops or journals. NIST does not intend to publicly disclose any pre-decisional data generated from testing the Participant's Submission in accordance with the Test Plan. Participant acknowledges that such pre-decisional data may be subject to mandatory public disclosure in accordance with relevant Federal regulations.
- 4.2. Participant will be notified of some of their results via the Responsible Party and the Point of Contact provided on the Agreement at the discretion of the evaluation sponsor.
- 4.3. After the release of SRSE results, Participant may use the results for its own purposes. Such results shall be accompanied by the following phrase: "Results shown from NIST do not constitute an endorsement of any particular system, product, service, or company by NIST." Such results shall also be accompanied by the Internet address (URL) of the SRSE websites: <https://www.nist.gov/programs-projects/speaker-recognition-sequestered-evaluation-srse>.

### **5. Additional Information**

- 5.1. Any data obtained during SRSE, as well as any documentation required by NIST from the Participant (except the Submission), becomes the property of SRSE. Participant will not acquire a proprietary interest in the data and/or submitted documentation. Any data or documentation provided by Participant to NIST will only be used for the purposes of preparing and executing the test tasks of the SRSE evaluation.
- 5.2. Participant agrees that it will not file any SRSE-related claim against SRSE sponsors, supporters, staff, contractors, or agency of the U.S. Government, or otherwise seek compensation for any equipment, materials, supplies, information, travel, labor and/or other Participant-provided services.
- 5.3. NIST is not bound or obligated to follow any recommendations that may be submitted by the Participant. NIST is not bound, nor is it obligated, in any way to give any special consideration to Participant on future contracts.
- 5.4. NIST is conducting SRSE pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §272(b)(8), (c)(2), and (c)(14).
- 5.5. By signing this Agreement, Participant acknowledges that it understands any test details and/or modifications that are provided on the SRSE website supersede the information in this Agreement.
- 5.6. Participant may withdraw from SRSE at any time before its Submission is received by NIST, without its participation and withdrawal being documented in the Final Report(s).
- 5.7. NIST will use the Participant's Submission only for the agreed-upon SRSE test, and in the event errors are subsequently found, to re-run prior tests and resolve those errors.

- 5.8. NIST agrees not to use the Participant's Submission for purposes other than indicated above, without express permission by the Participant.
- 5.9. Participant shall not use the name of NIST on any advertisement, product or service which is directly or indirectly related to this Agreement. NIST does not directly or indirectly endorse any product or service and Participant shall not in any way imply that this project or the results of this project are an endorsement of any such product or service.
- 5.10. This document shall be printed, signed, and scanned as a PDF file. The PDF file shall be emailed to [SRSE@nist.gov](mailto:SRSE@nist.gov). NIST will not accept applications from generic email addresses (e.g. gmail.com, qq.com, etc.). Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation email message.

Request to Participate (complete rows 1-10)					
1.	<b>Responsible Party (RP) shall complete this information:</b>  <b>With my signature</b> , I hereby request consideration as a Participant in the Face Recognition Vendor Test (SRSE), and I am authorizing my Organization to participate in SRSE according to the rules and limitations listed in this Agreement.  <b>With my signature</b> , I also state that I have the authority to accept the terms stated in this Agreement.	Signature		Date	
2.		Print Name		Title	
3.		Email address <small>(gmail, yahoo, qq are not acceptable)</small>			
4.		Organization Name			
5.		Organization Website			
6.		Organization country of headquarters			
7.	<b>Point of Contact (POC) shall complete this information:</b>  <b>With my signature</b> , I also state that I have the authority to accept the terms stated in this Agreement.  The POC may be the same person as the RP.	Signature		Date	
8.		Print Name		Title	
9.		Email address <small>(gmail, yahoo, qq are not acceptable)</small>			
10.	Participant's public-key fingerprint				
11.	NIST's SRSE public-key fingerprint	2CDF 087E C651 FA86 7856 BF06 EF33 2DEA F78B FBED			
Participants shall complete the box on row 10 following the <a href="#">instructions for transmission of encrypted content to NIST</a>  <b>Note: Do not delete or lose your signing key! If you lose the key, you will need to re-submit this form. If you retain the key, you only need to submit this form once.</b>					