

Call for Papers

Best Case Study Paper Competition

INFORMS QSR Section Refereed Sessions

The Quality, Statistics, and Reliability (QSR) Section of the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences (INFORMS) announces the Best Case Study Paper Award to recognize excellence among the high-quality papers involving real-life problems and collaborations from industry, consulting, and government submitted to INFORMS QSR refereed sessions. This award program brings prestige to the QSR Section as well as to the recipients of this honor.

Update: In 2022, manuscripts prepared by selected finalists of the Best Case Study Paper Competition may be considered for a fast-track review process in the Journal of Quality Technology (JQT) Case Study Section. To prepare for this process, the participating teams should learn more about the requirements of the JQT Case Study Section, which are available at the link below. The teams can also contact Dr. Fadel Megahed (fmegahed@miamioh.edu) with any questions about the JQT Case Study Section.

https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=ujqt20&page=instructions#Case_requirements

Conference dates: October 16-19, 2022

Location: Indianapolis, IN

Conference website: <https://meetings.informs.org/wordpress/indianapolis2022/>

The primary objectives of organizing the refereed session for the QSR Best Case Study Paper Competition in the 2022 INFORMS Annual Meeting are to present a collection of novel papers on real-life applications in the areas of quality, statistics, reliability, and data science that cater to next-generation problems in industry, consulting, and government, and to foster a community in QSR that involves substantive collaborations between members of academia and individuals from industry, consulting, and government. This competition is differentiated from existing competitions in its focus on impactful and new case studies that (a) present innovative and well-reasoned strategies to solve challenging problems, (b) demonstrate the Scientific Method, and (c) can lead to further productive discussions and collaborations between academia and industry, consulting, and government. In addition, committee members and judges for this competition are drawn from industry, consulting, and government so as to put more emphasis on relevant applied considerations during the evaluation of the submissions.

Real-life case studies from all domains and sectors can be submitted for this competition.

On behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to invite you to submit a short paper (**not exceeding six pages**) for this peer-review process. We particularly encourage academic members of QSR to submit papers that are based on their collaborations and partnerships with industry, consulting, and government. The primary authors of the selected papers will be invited to present their work in a refereed session at the 2022 INFORMS Annual Meeting. All submitted papers and oral presentations will be reviewed and ranked by external referees. The winner will be announced during the QSR Business Meeting at the conference. The broad criteria for selecting the recipient of the QSR Best Case Study Paper Award are: (a) Novelty of the real-life problem, (b) Challenges associated with the problem, (c) Practical significance of the problem, and its impact on engineering or business, (d) Originality, depth, and completeness of the work, strategies, and solution, (e) Demonstration of the Scientific Method, and (f) The potential impact of the work and/or solution on future research and collaborations between academia and industry, consulting, and government.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process:

- At least one co-author of the paper must be a member of the QSR Section at the time of submission of the paper.
- At least one co-author must be currently employed in a company, medical facility, non-profit, or governmental agency, or previously employed in a company, medical facility, non-profit, or governmental agency at the time that the work on the case study project was conducted.
- One of co-authors must be committed to presenting the paper at a special QSR session of the 2022 INFORMS Annual Meeting.
- The co-author that presents the work should be a member of the QSR Section.
- The submitted paper should be unpublished work.
- The submitted paper should not have been selected as a winner of past competitions in IISE and/or INFORMS conferences.
- Finalists may not be announced until other INFORMS sessions are first organized. Thus, papers considered for this competition **MAY** be simultaneously submitted to other sessions of the INFORMS Annual Meeting. If a finalist is scheduled to present in another session, they need to present the paper twice: once in the QSR Best Case Study Paper Competition session, and once in their previously scheduled session.
- The QSR Section does NOT own the copyright of the paper. However, the paper must be available to the QSR Section to be posted on their web page.
- **Required Format for Submission:** The submitted paper should be at most 6 pages long, single-spaced, with two columns in 10 point Times Roman or Times New Roman typeface. Margins should be 1 inch or more. The paper must begin with an abstract of at most 50 words. The paper must follow the required format, or it will be returned without review.

To enter the competition, **a blinded as well as an unblinded version** of the paper in MS WORD or PDF format should be emailed to the contest coordinators (qsrbestcasestudypaper@gmail.com) prior to the deadline of **July 15, 2022**. This deadline will not be extended. Late submissions will be ineligible for the competition, and not reviewed.

Timeline:

July 15 11:59 PM (Pacific):	Paper submission deadline
September 15:	Decisions sent to authors
October 16-19:	Presentation in the refereed QSR session

For inquiries, please contact the **Chair** of the INFORMS QSR Best Case Study Paper Competition.

Committee:

Dr. Arman Sabbaghi, Purdue University (Chair): sabbaghi@purdue.edu
Dr. Ron Kenett, KPA Group and Samuel Neaman Institute, Technion
Dr. Peter Parker, NASA Langley Research Center
Dr. Kamran Paynabar, Georgia Institute of Technology
Dr. Shan Ba, LinkedIn
Dr. Raquel de Souza Borges Ferreira, Intel

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the INFORMS QSR Best Case Study Paper Competition:

- 1) Can I submit a paper that I have already submitted an abstract for in an invited session in the 2022 INFORMS Annual Meeting?
Yes, you can submit such a paper to the refereed session and participate in the QSR Best Case Study Paper Competition.
- 2) Who is eligible as an industry, consulting, or government partner for the paper submission?
Any individual who is either
 - (a) currently employed in a company, medical facility, non-profit, or governmental agency, or
 - (b) previously employed in a company, medical facility, non-profit, or governmental agency at the time that the work on the case study project was conducted,and who contributed to the research effort in the paper in any manner, including but not limited to data collection, data analyses, and interpretation of analytical results.
- 3) How will the winner be determined? Based only on the rankings of external reviewers? Or will there be a panel of judges who will evaluate the shortlisted papers?
The winner will be determined by a panel of expert judges.
- 4) Who will review/judge the papers, and what are the criteria for acceptance?
The panel of expert judges will be QSR members from industry, consulting, and government. These judges will rate the submissions based on considerations relevant to industry, consulting, and government, and not just academic criteria. In this way, the judges will conduct a fair comparison for the Best Case Study Paper competition. The broad criteria for selecting finalists for the competition are: (a) Novelty of the real-life problem, (b) Challenges associated with the problem, (c) Practical significance of the problem, and its impact on engineering or business, (d) Originality, depth, and completeness of the work, strategies, and solution, (e) Demonstration of the Scientific Method, and (f) The potential impact of the work and/or solution on future research and collaborations between academia and industry, consulting, and government. In general, papers that provide well-reasoned, strategic approaches to solve a real-life problem, and that demonstrate the Scientific Method, will be more highly ranked than papers that merely present a story of a particular case study.
- 5) What is the required format for the paper?
The paper should be 6 pages, single-spaced, with two columns in 10 point Times Roman or Times New Roman typeface. Margins should be 1 inch or more. The paper must begin with an abstract of at most 50 words. Please submit **a blinded as well as an unblinded version of the paper**. The submitted paper must follow this format, or it will be returned without review.
- 6) In addition to the paper, will it be necessary to submit the code and the data used in the real-life case study?
Participants are not required to submit code and data used in the real-life case study. Having said that, submissions that include code and data would be appreciated. The reason for this is that the judges would be able to perform reproducibility checks and validate the results in the paper. Furthermore, the Chair would appreciate the submission of code and data so that, with the permission of the participants, they could post these items to the QSR Section website for the purpose of fostering collaborations between QSR members from academia and individuals from industry, consulting, and the government that were involved in the case studies.
- 7) If the data used in the real-life case study are proprietary, would it be acceptable to use a simulated version of the data?
It would be acceptable to use simulated data that resembles the proprietary data so long as

the simulation mechanism is non-trivial. Simulated data that are generated using standard or trivial mechanisms will not be highly ranked.

- 8) Can I submit the same paper to multiple QSR competitions?
No, the same paper cannot be submitted to multiple QSR competitions.
- 9) Can I submit a paper that has been published in a journal?
No, the submitted paper should not have been published in a journal at the time of the Best Case Study Paper Competition.
- 10) Can I submit a paper that was, or will be, presented at another conference (e.g., the Joint Statistical Meetings, the IISE Annual Conference, NeurIPS, KDD, AISTATS, ICML, etc.)?
Yes, it would be acceptable to submit a paper that was, or will be, presented at another conference so long as the paper has not been published in the conference proceedings at the time of the Best Case Study Paper Competition.
- 11) Can I submit a paper that was selected as a winner in past competitions of the ASA, IISE, INFORMS, or other conferences?
No, the submitted paper should not have been selected as a winner in past competitions of the ASA, IISE, INFORMS, or other conferences.
- 12) Will the QSR Section seek to own the copyright on the submitted papers?
No, the QSR Section will not seek to own the copyright on the submitted papers. However, it would be appreciated if the paper could be made available to the QSR Section to post on their web page.