

VeRoLog Solver Challenge 2014

The first international Vehicle Routing solver challenge

EURO Working Group on Vehicle Routing and Logistics Optimization - VeRoLog

www.verolog.eu

Overview

VeRoLog, the EURO Working Group on Vehicle Routing and Logistics Optimization, in collaboration with PTV group, is proud to announce the first edition of the VeRoLog Solver Challenge (VSC2014). This challenge is aimed at comparing on a specific variant of Vehicle Routing Problem (VRP), this year proposed by PTV, the computer codes implemented by the participants and submitted in executable form to the jury. The codes will be compared by considering the quality of the solutions obtained within a specific time limit on a set of test instances that will be defined by the jury. The declaration of the winners will take place at VeRoLog 2014 in Oslo, June 22-25, 2014.

The problem that is the subject of VSC2014 is called the Swap-Body VRP (SB-VRP) and will be described in detail in the following. The participant teams have to pre-register by sending an email to the jury at ewg.verolog@gmail.com indicating the name and affiliation of all team members and the name of the team leader.

There is no limit to the number of participants and we encourage teams formed by junior researchers. After the registration and before a prescribed date (see below) each team, through its team leader can submit queries to the jury including clarification requests about the problem definition and completion rules. Answer to the queries will be made available to all participants.

At the end of the pre-registration, an information package will be distributed, including the final description of the problem and the rules, the requisites of the executable code to be submitted, a first set of test instances, and an executable code that performs a feasibility check and computes the value of a solution.

In case the number of pre-registered teams is large, a selection will take place in spring. Only the selected teams will be entitled to participate to the final round that will be performed in June before the VeRoLog conference. Each team is free to choose the specific algorithmic approach to be coded and submitted in executable form to the challenge. However, originality and scientific or practical interest may be taken into account in the final evaluation. The actual evaluation rules will be part of the final package.

The jury of VSC2014 is chaired by Werner Heid and includes Geir Hasle and Daniele Vigo.

Both the possible pre-selection and the final stage will be performed by the jury by using the executable codes submitted by the participating teams. The winner is awarded a certificate and a monetary prize. The teams presenting particularly effective, innovative, and original



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approaches will be encouraged to submit their work to Computers and Operations Research. The jury will select the finalists and the winner at its sole discretion. All decisions will be final.

Important Dates

Pre-registration deadline:	December 31, 2013
Query deadline:	January 15, 2014
Challenge package distribution:	January 31, 2014
Query deadline:	February 15, 2014
Pre-selection submission (possible):	April, 15, 2014
Final code submission:	May 31, 2014
Winner proclamation:	June 22-25, 2014 in Oslo