



## Call for 5 Minute Thesis Competition (5MT)

### 1. Overview:

To encourage participation of graduate students and provide them with new platform for presenting their work, the Technical Program Committee of SSD 2020 is introducing for the first time a new initiative called: the 5 Minutes Thesis (5MT) competition which celebrates the exciting research conducted by Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students.

In this competition, PhD students have three minutes to present a short and high quality presentation of their thesis and its significance. It is an exercise for students to consolidate their work and present it concisely to an audience specialized in different areas. Together with scientific and technical quality, SSD wants to promote soft skills of PhD researchers such as oral and presentation skills, and provide a platform for such students to gain visibility of their work.

### 2. How to apply:

PhD students interested in participating in the competition should submit a 300 word summary of their presentation (one page) plus a single (landscape) static PowerPoint slide (no slide transitions, animations or “movement” of any description) before 15 January 2020 by email to: [mderiche@kfupm.edu.sa](mailto:mderiche@kfupm.edu.sa) with subject SSD 2020 5MT Competition. The student should choose one track and mention it in the email.

Two enthusiastic PhD students will be selected from each of the tracks (SAC, PSE, SCI, CSP) to present their work in a special session during the SSD conference.

### 3. Judging Criteria:

#### Comprehension and Content (20 marks)

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Were the thesis topic, key results, and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of his/her presentation - or did the presenter elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

#### Engagement and Communication (10 marks)

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for the research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain the audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

### 4. Prizes and Certificates:

All presenters will be provided with a certificate honoring and acknowledging their participation and mentioning that the participants reached the final stage

There will 4 winners (one per track). The winners will receive a certificate and an award of \$ 250.

For more information, send an email to Prof. Mohamed Deriche, the competition coordinator, at [mderiche@kfupm.edu.sa](mailto:mderiche@kfupm.edu.sa)