

Application to Participate in the Text Recognition Algorithm Independent Test (TRAIT) 2016

1. Who Should Participate

1.1. Computer vision technology researchers and developers from industry, research institutions, and academia are eligible to participate in the Text Recognition Algorithm Independent Test 2016 – hereafter referred to as the “TRAIT 2016”.

1.2. Anonymous participation is not permitted.

2. How to Participate

2.1. To request participation in the TRAIT 2016, potential Participants must read this application (*Application to Participate in the TRAIT 2016*), sign the “Request to Participate” section below, attach business cards from each of the signing parties, and send it to the address below (Paragraph 5.8). 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 document.

2.1.2. The Point of Contact (POC) is an individual with detailed knowledge of the technology applying for participation.

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 “Tentative Evaluation Participant.” NIST must receive this signed application with the algorithm prototypes. Algorithm prototypes shall be submitted as Software Development Kit(s) (SDK). They may be submitted during the submission period from **December 1, 2015 to October 31, 2016**. The application is required to be submitted with the **first** SDK submission; subsequent submissions do not require additional applications.

2.3. It is the Government’s desire to select all Tentative Participants as Participants. However, if demand for participation exceeds the Government’s ability to properly evaluate the technology, the Government will select Participants on a first come - first served basis.

2.4. The TRAIT 2016 will evaluate detection and recognition of unconstrained text in still images.

2.5. More information regarding the instructions, input and output formats, and technical specifications for each of the above tasks is included in the *TRAIT 2016: Concept, Evaluation Plan, and API* available at <http://www.nist.gov/itl/iad/ig/trait-2016.cfm>.

2.6. SDKs submitted must be compliant with the TRAIT 2016 protocol and must be delivered to NIST (at the address in paragraph 5.8 below) during the submission period given in paragraph 2.2 according to the technical specifications given in the *TRAIT 2016: Concept, Evaluation Plan, and API*. These require use of strong encryption.

3. Points of Contact

3.1. The TRAIT 2016 Liaison is the government point of contact.

3.2. All questions and correspondence should be directed to the TRAIT 2016 Liaison at trait2016@nist.gov. Questions and correspondence will be received by the TRAIT 2016 Liaison and other TRAIT 2016 personnel.

3.3. The answers to questions and correspondence will be provided as updates to the *TRAIT 2016: Concept, Evaluation Plan, and API*.

3.4. Interested parties and Participants should not contact any individual member of the TRAIT 2016 staff.

4. Release of TRAIT2016 Results

4.1. Interim results will be provided to Participants as a series of test report cards as described in the *TRAIT 2016: Concept, Evaluation Plan, and API*. These results will not identify Participants; instead results will be associated with random identifiers. The report cards may be provided to Government personnel.

4.2. The Government will release TRAIT 2016 results in Final Report(s), which will identify all Participants along with all of their results. The TRAIT 2016 Final Report(s) will contain, at a minimum, descriptive information concerning the TRAIT 2016, descriptions of each experiment, and performance results.

4.3. Participants will be notified of the public release of the TRAIT 2016 Report(s).

4.4. After the release of the TRAIT 2016 Final Report(s), Participants may decide to use the results for their own purposes. Such results shall be accompanied by the following statement: *"Results shown from the Text Recognition Algorithm Independent Test (TRAIT) 2016 do not constitute endorsement of any particular product by the U.S. Government."* Such results shall also be accompanied by the Internet address (URL) of the TRAIT 2016 Final Report(s) on the TRAIT 2016 website.

5. Additional Information

5.1. NIST will use the Participants SDK software only for the agreed-upon Evaluation, and in the event errors are subsequently found, to rerun prior tests and resolve those errors. NIST agrees not to use the Participants software for purposes other than indicated above, without express permission by the Participant.

5.2. This is a Software Development Kit (SDK) test. The algorithms will be run only on NIST machines by NIST employees.

5.3. Performance results will be publicly attributed to Participants and their SDKs in the TRAIT 2016 Final Reports.

5.4. Software that is not compliant with the TRAIT 2016 protocol specifications cannot be tested.

5.5. In order to be tested, SDKs must install easily (i.e., one installation step with no Participant interaction required), and shall be executable on any number of machines without requiring any machine-specific license control procedures or activation.

5.6. Participant agrees to hold harmless the TRAIT 2016 Sponsors, staff, contractors and all agencies of the U.S. Government for any harm or damage incurred in the course of participating in the TRAIT 2016.

5.7. The Government is not bound or obligated to follow any recommendations that may be submitted by the Participant. The United States Government and individual agencies are prohibited from, in any way, giving any special consideration to TRAIT 2016 Participants or any other party on future procurements, contracts or collaborations.

5.8. By signing this application, Participants acknowledge that they understand and agree to the provisions of this form and the technical specifications in the *TRAIT 2016: Concept, Evaluation Plan, and API*.

5.9. Original signed copies of the TRAIT 2016 application are required. Original, signed copies of this application,

with business cards from both signing parties attached, must be mailed to the address below. These must be signed paper hardcopies. Scanned documents submitted via email are not acceptable. Please send an email message to trait2016@nist.gov stating that you have sent your application. NIST will not accept applications from generic email addresses (e.g. gmail.com, hotmail.com, etc.). Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation email message.

Mailing Address:

TRAIT 2016 Liaison
 National Institute of Standards and Technology
 Information Access Division (894)
 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8940
 Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8940

Participants should complete the box below per the instructions for transmission of encrypted content to NIST as defined in the *TRAIT 2016: Concept, Evaluation Plan, and API* document and available at <http://www.nist.gov/itl/iad/ig/encrypt.cfm>. If preferred, participants can fax their public key to the TRAIT 2016 Liaison at 301-975-5287.

Participant's public-key fingerprint (enter here)	
NIST's public-key fingerprint	6318 4005 DB67 B917 C7F0 112E 9CD3 72EE 8267 9341

