The ACM INTERNATIONAL COLLEGIATE PROGRAMMING
CONTEST sponsored by IBM

FACT SHEET – February 11, 2002

About the Contest

The ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) traces its roots to a competition held at Texas A&M in 1970 hosted by the Alpha Chapter of the UPE Computer Science Honor Society. The idea quickly gained popularity within the United States and Canada as an innovative initiative to assist in the development of top students in the emerging field of computer science.

The contest evolved into a multi-tier competition with the first Finals held at the ACM Computer Science Conference in 1977. Headquartered at Baylor University since the 1980s, the contest has expanded into a global network of universities hosting regional competitions that advance teams to the World Finals.

Since IBM became sponsor in 1997, the contest has nearly tripled. Participation has grown to over 3,000 teams involving more than 17,000 of the finest students and faculty in computing disciplines at over 1,300 universities from 67 countries on six continents.

The contest fosters creativity, teamwork, and innovation in building new software programs, and enables students to test their ability to perform under pressure. Quite simply, it is the oldest, largest, and most prestigious programming contest in the world.

The annual event is comprised of several levels of competition:

- **Local Contests** – Universities choose teams or hold local contests to select one or more teams to represent them at the next level of competition. Selection takes place from a field of over 100,000 students in computing disciplines worldwide.

- **Preliminary Contests** – Some teams compete in multi-university preliminary contests that advance teams to Regional Contests.

- **Regional Contests** (September to December) – This year, participation in preliminary and regional contests increased from 2,770 teams to 3,082 teams from 67 countries on six continents. Though the number of regional sites increased from 90 to 94, an additional 200 teams were turned away due to lack of space.

- **World Finals** (March 20-24, 2002 – Honolulu, Hawaii) – Sixty-four World Finalist teams will compete in Honolulu for awards, prizes and bragging rights. These teams represent 64 universities located in 27 countries on six continents.

Battle of the Brains

The contest pits teams of three university students against eight or more complex, real-world problems, with a grueling five-hour deadline. Huddled around a single computer, competitors race against the clock in a battle of logic, strategy and mental endurance.

Teammates collaborate to rank the difficulty of the problems, deduce the requirements, design test beds, and build software systems that solve the problems under the intense
scrutiny of expert judges. For a well-versed computer science student, some of the problems require precision only. Others require a knowledge and understanding of advanced algorithms. Still others are simply too hard to solve – except, of course, for the world’s brightest problem-solvers.

Judging is relentlessly strict. The students are given a problem statement – not a requirements document. They are given an example of test data, but they do not have access to the judges’ test data and acceptance criteria. Each incorrect solution submitted is assessed a time penalty. You don’t want to waste your customer’s time when you are dealing with the supreme court of computing. The team that solves the most problems in the fewest attempts in the least cumulative time is declared the winner.

For additional information about the competition, please visit http://www.acm.org/contest.

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Contest Growth

ACM and IBM are thrilled that the contest continues to attract the best and brightest students from around the world, growing from 3,750 students in 1997 to more than 17,000 in 2001. Since the beginning of IBM’s sponsorship in 1997, contest participation has more than tripled. For more information on previous contests, and last year’s final standings and problem sets, please see http://www.software.ibm.com/acm or http://icpc.baylor.edu/past/.

World Finals 2002

Sixty-four winning teams from regional contests have qualified for the World Finals, which will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii from March 20-24, 2002. Recent gold medal winners in order of finish include:

- 2001: St. Petersburg State University (St. Petersburg, Russia)  
  Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, VA, U.S.A.)  
  St. Petersburg Institute of Fine Mechanics & Optics (St. Petersburg, Russia)  
  University of Waterloo (Waterloo, Canada)

- 2000: St. Petersburg State University (St. Petersburg, Russia)  
  The University of Melbourne (Melbourne, Australia)  
  The University of Waterloo (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada)

- 1999: The University of Waterloo (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada)  
  Albert-Ludwigs-Universitat Freiburg (Freiburg, Germany)
About ACM

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) is a major force in advancing the skills of information technology professionals and students. ACM serves its global membership of 75,000 by delivering cutting edge technical information and transferring ideas from theory to practice. ACM hosts the computing industry’s leading Portal to Computing Literature. With its world-class journals and magazines, dynamic special interest groups, numerous conferences, workshops, and electronic forums, ACM is a primary resource to the information technology field. For additional information about ACM and the ACM Portal, see www.acm.org.

IBM’s Commitment

IBM’s sponsorship commitment to the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest is part of a company-wide effort to advance the next generation of computer scientists. For more information about other IBM college initiatives, please visit the IBM/ACM contest Web site and click on the Student Portal button - http://www.software.ibm.com/acm.

IBM is the world's largest information technology company, with 80 years of leadership in helping businesses innovate. IBM software offers the widest range of e-business infrastructure software for all types of computing platforms, allowing customers to take full advantage of the new era of e-business. The fastest way to get more information about IBM software is through the IBM home page at http://www.ibm.com/software.

Baylor University’s Commitment

Baylor University has been the home of the ICPC since the 1980s, where it has been managed under the direction of Executive Director and Professor, Dr. William B. Poucher. The ICPC contributes to Baylor’s global mission to encourage the next generation to develop and apply their problem-solving talents to the challenges that face the world today and the world to come. Chartered by the Republic of Texas, Baylor is the oldest institution of higher learning in the State of Texas. You may find more about Baylor at http://www.baylor.edu/.

Upsilon Pi Epsilon’s Commitment

The Upsilon Pi Epsilon International Computer Science Honor Society recognizes the best and brightest student in computer science and engineering in the world. Since its earliest, the UPE has provided support and scholarships to the World Finals teams. The UPE boasts the longest continuous relationship to the ICPC, dating back to 1970 with the first event held at Texas A&M by members of the Alpha Chapter of the UPE. For more information about other UPE activities, its chapters, and its membership click on: http://www.acm.org/upe/.

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The 2002 ACM Programming Contest World Finals Roster

Africa and the Middle East

- Cairo University: Sabah El Gamal, Coach
- American University in Cairo: Ahmed El-Hamed, Mohamed Abdel El-Wahab, Osama Abdel El-Hamal

Asia

- American International University Bangladesh: Caroline Z. Lamagia, Coach
- Adib Hasan Mamob, Md. Mahabub Alam, Md. Nazmul Amin
- Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology: Mohammad Kaykobad, Coach
- Abdullah Al-Alamoudi, Md. Kamruzzaman, Mushifur Rouf
- Fudan University: Kuanli Xia, Coach
- Nanjing Technological University: Edmund Lu, Coach
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong: Irwin King, Coach
- Taipei University: Cheng Lin, Coach

Europe and the Russian Federation

- Albert Einstein University Ulm: Walter Guntram, Coach
- Charles University Prague: Pavel Topol, Coach
- Moscow State University: Eugene Pervakov, Coach
- Budapest University of Technology and Economics: Ferenc Baricz, Coach
- St Petersburg Institute of Information and Optics: Andrey Stepanov, Coach
- Wageningen University: Jan Mady, Coach

Latin America

- Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Madero: Graciela Moro Otroco, Coach
- Fernando Alonso Pecina, Katya Murcia Casavieja
- Universidad de Buenos Aires: Pablo Coll, Coach
- Universidad Federal de Pernambuco: Katia Guimaraes, Coach

North America

- California Institute of Technology: California Institute of Technology
- Cornell University: Cornell University
- Florida Institute of Technology: Florida Institute of Technology
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- The University of Chicago: The University of Chicago
- University of California at Berkeley: University of California at Berkeley
- University of California, San Diego: University of California, San Diego

South Pacific

- University of New South Wales: University of New South Wales
- University of Otago: University of Otago