

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

# The Blizzard Challenge 2023

## Evaluating corpus-based speech synthesis on common databases

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In order to better understand and compare research techniques in building corpus-based speech synthesisers on the same data, the annual Blizzard Challenges 2005-2021 were held. We are now pleased to call for participation in the eighteenth challenge: Blizzard Challenge 2023. The challenge is to take the released speech data, build synthetic voices, and synthesise a prescribed set of test sentences. The output from each synthesiser is then evaluated through extensive listening tests. The following is an outline description of the challenge – for full details and the rules of participation, please see the web pages.

- **Hub task 2023-FH1 – French TTS:** About 50 hours of speech data from a female native speaker of French (NEB) will be released. The *Hub* task is to build a voice from the provided French data, using only publicly available data. Several supplementary sentences will be provided as reference for better understanding French language specificity.
- **Spoke task 2023-FS1 – Speaker adaptation:** About 2 hours of speech data from a second native speaker of French (AD) will be released. The *Spoke* task is to build a voice from the provided French data that is the closest to AD as possible. There are no requirements on the use of external data.

**Blizzard Workshop:** The systems will be presented by the participants at the Blizzard Challenge 2023 workshop, which we will be held in Grenoble, France, immediately after the 12<sup>th</sup> Speech Synthesis Workshop.

**Website:** [https://www.synsig.org/index.php/Blizzard\\_Challenge\\_2023](https://www.synsig.org/index.php/Blizzard_Challenge_2023)

**Registration:** Interested parties should register as soon as possible, by mailing [blizzard-challenge-organisers@googlegroups.com](mailto:blizzard-challenge-organisers@googlegroups.com). They should identify a contact person in their team, and provide email and postal addresses. A registration fee is payable for each system submitted for evaluation – details can be found on the website.

**Mailing list:** It is essential to join the *blizzard-challenge-discuss* mailing list, which is used to send important information to participants. Instructions are on the Blizzard website.

**Timeline:** [http://synsig.org/index.php/Blizzard\\_Challenge\\_2023#Timeline](http://synsig.org/index.php/Blizzard_Challenge_2023#Timeline)

**Further Information:** For further information please contact [blizzard-challenge-organisers@googlegroups.com](mailto:blizzard-challenge-organisers@googlegroups.com). A description of the challenge was published at Interspeech 2005: <http://www.festvox.org/blizzard/bc2005/IS051946.PDF>

Please *only* use the address [blizzard-challenge-organisers@googlegroups.com](mailto:blizzard-challenge-organisers@googlegroups.com) to contact the organisers of the challenge.