Call for Submissions

You are invited to submit an agent to the **Human-Agent Negotiation (HAN) League** of the International Automated Negotiating Agents Competition (ANAC) as part of the IJCAI 2026 official competition track.

ANAC has been running since 2010 in conjunction with AAMAS/IJCAI. The HAN league focuses on the specific challenges facing an agent negotiating with a human partner instead of another agent.

The Challenge

The participants are challenged to build a negotiation strategy that uses the alternating offers protocol (AOP) augmented with text input/output to effectively negotiate with human subjects. Strategies should be compatible with standard AOP but may use multi-modal communication to influence or inform the human negotiator.

New in 2026

- **New Platform**: The league utilizes an open-source web-based Python interface (built on Panel) called Human Agent Negotiation Interface that provides humans with utility trajectories, offer distributions, and outcome choosers to encourage rational behavior. Previous iterations of the Human-Agent Negotiation League conducted as part of ANAC 2027 - 2022 used the Java-based IAGO Platform.

Negotiation Protocol

Agents act as negotiators in a bilateral setting. The protocol follows these rules: * **Alternating Offers**: Negotiators take turns making offers. On each turn, the negotiator (human or agent) can Accept, Reject (and counter), or End the negotiation. * **Multi-modal Communication**: Agents can return Markdown-formatted text to provide context or persuasion to the human user. * **Scenario**: Different scenarios will be evaluated including Procurement, Resource Distribution, etc. Evaluation scenarios can differ from the examples provides in the submission template.

Platform

The league is built on NegMAS, the same platform used for all ANAC 2026 leagues. * **Development**: Please download the template and follow the installation steps in `README.md` * **API**: We provide multiple APIs that can be used to implement your agent:

- You can implement a single `__call__()` method that receives an offer (containing text and/or proposal) and responds to it with a decision (accept/reject/end) and an optional counter offer (in case of rejection) with optional text.
- You can modify the prompts used by an LLM to implement the negotiation strategy.
- You can build your agent by combining existing or new offering strategies, acceptance strategies and opponent modeling methods (**BOANegotiator**).

Submission and Live Competition

The competition runs in two stages: 1. **Offline Qualifications**: Depending on the number of participants, an initial automated round in which the participant agents negotiate against personality-adjusted verified LLM negotiators simulating human negotiators. After this optional initial round, we will conduct qualifications and finals rounds using crowd-sourced human negotiators. 2. **League Demonstration**: Run **on-site** at IJCAI 2026. Any conference participant can negotiate with the finalist agents. This will not affect agent scores but will provide useful feedback for the finalists.

Evaluation

- **Agent Evaluation**: Agents are ranked based on the utility they achieve against a variety of human subjects. We will also evaluate agents based on the perception of human partners.
- **Human Evaluation**: To incentivize serious participation, prizes are awarded to the top-performing human negotiators.
- **Fairness**: To account for human learning, we use a "best m sessions" scoring system, allowing humans to practice and improve without being penalized for early low scores.

Organizing Committee

- **Yasser Mohammad**, NEC CORPORATION (main contact)
- **Reyhan Aydogan**, Özyeğin University & Delft University of Technology
- **Rafik Hadfi**, Kyoto University

Important Dates

- **Registration on the competition website (Recommended)**: April 25th, 2026
- **Preliminary submission deadline (REQUIRED)**: May 25th, 2026
- **Final submission deadline**: June 1st, 2026
- **Academic Report submission deadline**: June 5th, 2026

Sponsors

- **NEC CORPORATION**