This document describes the UK bid for Debconf7.

We have a strong local team ready to continue with research and to begin making firm arrangements. Below we describe our preliminary suggestions for the conference.

We propose a DebConf in central Edinburgh, among the neoclassical buildings of the 18th-century New Town and the narrow closes of the medieval Old Town. Edinburgh is a centre for politics, finance, technology, research, and the arts, and is a major conference destination for events of all sizes.

We believe that Edinburgh, easily accessible, with good communications and outstanding conference facilities, set in a beautiful location, will make an excellent location for DebConf.
Team

Local organisers:
  Neil McGovern
  Moray Allan

Local team so far:
  Mark Brown
  Kevin Campbell
  Jon Dowland
  Douglas Fraser
  Mark Hymers
  Steve Kemp
  Steve McIntyre
  Jon Middleton
  Peter Nuttall
  Stephen Quinney
  Paul Sladen
  Will Thompson

The Edinburgh Linux User Group and the Edinburgh University Computing Society have many members who are enthusiastic about helping organise DebConf in Edinburgh.

Debian UK Society

The Debian UK Society was formed as a collaboration of Debian Developers in the UK. Its activities include organising the attendance of many events in the UK. We intend to draw on its collective experience, and have already been offered much help in the organisation of DebConf7.
Edinburgh

- Capital of Scotland, home of the Scottish Parliament
- Population 460,000
- World Heritage Site; first UNESCO City of Literature
- Host to the Fringe, the largest arts festival in the world
- Fourth-largest financial centre in Europe
- Direct air links by more than 50 airlines to many cities in Europe, US, Canada

We propose holding DebConf in July, the warmest month in Edinburgh.

Annual rainfall:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Edinburgh</th>
<th>Rome</th>
<th>New York</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>626mm</td>
<td>760mm</td>
<td>1200mm</td>
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Proposal

We are continuing to research DebConf venues, but our current favoured venue is the Royal College of Physicians in central Edinburgh.

We have been working to a projection of 350-400 attendees, with a week-long DebCamp followed by a week-long DebConf.

The older part of the RCPE building dates back to the 1770s, and was designed by Robert Adam. The building also contains modern conference facilities, including a large lecture theatre seating 300 people. We would expect to use the large lecture theatre and the Great Hall (seats 180) for concurrent talks. The New Library is also available (seats 80). We would also have the use of five hacklabs, which each seats between 25 and 50 people. The venue has disabled access throughout.

The RCPE is located on Queen St in central Edinburgh. There is a small garden within the venue, and large public gardens within 5 minutes’ walk. The surrounding 18th-century New Town contains many pubs and restaurants, the major shopping areas, and the train and bus stations. The medieval Old Town is within 10 minutes’ walk. Beyond their architectural and historical interest, both the Old and New Towns contain an abundance of free museums and art galleries.

We propose to provide sponsored accommodation using hostel rooms close to the RCPE in central Edinburgh.
Costs

Edinburgh has a major airport, as well as good links by train to the rest of the UK - and onwards to continental Europe via the channel tunnel. There are also ferries from the continent to Rosyth near Edinburgh. There is a very competitive market for air travel to the UK, so DebConf attendees will be able to reach Edinburgh cheaply.

As we have not yet been able to guarantee the success of the UK bid for hosting DebConf7, we have not yet been able to acquire accurate pricing for the conference. However, we have managed to receive estimates from various companies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>GBP</th>
<th>EUR</th>
<th>EUR pppd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of venue, with A/V.</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>27,300</td>
<td>40,100</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown(^1)</td>
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Day trip: 1750GBP for a trip to the Edinburgh Dungeons. Central Edinburgh boasts many museums and galleries with free entry, so zero-cost options would also be available.

Connectivity: sponsored.

Audiovisual: should be very cheap (compared to Mexico at least).

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\(^1\) The catering market is very competitive in the UK, but we were unable to obtain any accurate information without definite dates and a commitment to a venue.
Facilities

Edinburgh is a major hub of the UK ISP peering network. There is excellent broadband access via cable, ADSL and ISDN throughout the city. We have offers of sponsored connectivity from Black Cat Networks, UKFSN, and WebTapestry. There is also the possibility of a multi-gigabit connection from Blueyonder, a major ISP who host a Debian mirror.

Audiovisual equipment can be hired from the RCPE at competitive rates, however we are also looking into hiring this equipment from an external provider, as we have contacts within the industry.