

## Welcome to VLDB 2005



*Kjell Bratbergsengen, General Chair  
Mads Nygård, Organization Committee Chair*

Welcome to the 31st Very Large Data Base conference in Trondheim, Norway. It has been 20 years since the VLDB conference last time visited Scandinavia when our good neighbors in Sweden hosted the conference in Stockholm.

Preparing the conference has been a most pleasant experience due to the very good work by all our officers and the high standing of the conference. Special thanks to the technical program chair Christian S. Jensen. He and the members of his committees have all done a marvelous job. We are also very pleased with our information service and our web editors. Make sure to use the web service throughout the conference to keep up to date!

The large database community in Trondheim has made it easy to handle all the local tasks. Many researchers, students and staff from the Department of Computer and Information Science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) here in Trondheim have taken part in preparing and organizing the conference.

In addition to the main conference, VLDB 2005 also has 11 workshops. The first five started already last Sunday while the last workshops will finish next Saturday. More than 300 people have registered for the workshops, and more than 500 for the VLDB conference. Participants come from more than 40 countries.

Norway is an expensive country, and our currency is strong at the moment. Thanks to generous sponsors, we have still been able to keep the registration fee at a reasonable level. In order to foster recruitment to our field, we have strived to keep the student registration fee low. It is therefore a pleasure to observe that more than 30 % of all the participants are students. Hence, we would like to thank all our sponsors, with special thanks to those that have been particularly generous: IBM, Microsoft and Oracle.

Having some workshops start ahead of the main conference has been very helpful as

it allowed us to test our organization, technical support systems, and registration procedures.

It has fortunately been possible to have almost all activities located at the Radisson SAS Royal Garden Hotel. In this way we are not very dependant on good weather. However two social events, the orienteering race today and the boat tour on the fjord on Thursday are more sensitive to the weather conditions. At this time of the year, the weather in Trondheim may vary from horizontal rain and 7°C to sunshine from a blue sky at 25°C. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee good weather, but we hope for the best.



Trondheim is a former capital and one of the oldest cities in Norway, having had its millennium anniversary in 1997. When the Viking Leiv Eriksson set out for Greenland 1005 years ago and accidentally discovered North America, his voyage started close to the hotel location. The historical status of Trondheim is also evidenced by the Nidaros Cathedral. Nidaros is the older name of the city, meaning the city at the mouth of the river Nid (Nidelven).

Do not miss the free concert for the VLDB participants in the Nidaros Cathedral on Thursday night, close to the old Archbishop's Palace where the reception last night was held.

We are honored and proud to host the VLDB 2005 conference in Trondheim and will do our best to give you a memorable stay. Enjoy a full week of database discussions and social activities in Trondheim!

## Keynote Address by Bjørn Olstad

The title of Olstad's presentation is "*Why search engines are increasingly used to offload queries*". In his talk he will review key trends from search engine development and relate these trends to concrete user scenarios.



Bjørn Olstad is the CTO in Fast Search & Transfer (FAST) and adjunct professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). The Norwegian company FAST has emerged as one of the leading providers of Enterprise Search Platforms (ESP). Companies like Reed, Elsevier, IBM, Dell, AOL, Factiva and Reuters

use FAST ESP to power information retrieval and analytics solutions.

Before joining FAST, Olstad was employed at NTNU, where he was appointed full professor at the age of 28 - making him one of the youngest professors in NTNU's history. He has also headed development at GE Healthcare, Cardiac Ultrasound. Bjørn Olstad has published more than 70 research papers and has been granted more than 30 patents.

More information about Bjørn Olstad's keynote address can be found on page 28 in the conference brochure as well as on the complete program page at the conference web site.

More information about FAST can be found at [www.fastsearch.com](http://www.fastsearch.com).

## Have you submitted your presentation?

You were supposed to send us your presentation by August 26th. If you haven't yet, you should submit your presentation to [contact@vldb2005.org](mailto:contact@vldb2005.org) as soon as possible.

Please remember that your presentation is supposed to be available on our web site at 06:00 the day of the presentation. Our service to the other participants depends on your kind cooperation.

## Announcements

**Proceedings:** The hardcopies of the VLDB2005 proceedings are available for sale at NOK 1350 at the conference secretariate. Conference proceedings CDs are also available for sale at NOK 100.

**Extra lunch tickets:** Lunch tickets for accompanying people are sold at NOK 230 at the secretariate. The tickets have to be bought the day before at the latest.

**Social events:** There are still a few tickets available for the orienteering race and to the Ringve Museum. Tickets are sold at the secretariate up until one hour before the event starts.

**Conference banquet:** Please note that the banquet starts Wednesday at 19:00 and not 18:00 as stated in the conference brochure. Extra tickets can be bought at NOK 800 until Wednesday 14:00.

**List of participants:** Updated lists of VLDB 2005 participants are available at the conference secretariate.

## Internet Access

**Wireless:** Use the network with the SSID of "VLDB". This is an open network at 11 Mbit/s (IEEE 802.11b). In order to **browse the web, read e-mail, or log on to remote systems**, you need to **register at the firewall** by visiting any web page using a web browser.

The web page that you will receive is a log on page for the local wireless network. Enter "vldb" (all lowercase letters) as username and "trondheim" as password (all lowercase letters). Afterwards you can access the Internet through http, https, imap, imaps, pop3, smtp, rdp, ssh and other protocols.

Please note that the wireless network is not encrypted. If you need secure connections, you should use encrypted protocols, e.g. https instead of http. If you have questions or encounter any problems, please contact the conference secretariat.

The VLDB network is only available in the conference area. Access to wireless network in other parts of the hotel, including the rooms, can be bought at the hotel front desk.

**Desktop computers:** There are 12 desktop computers with Internet connection available at the **Rosenborg** PC room.

## Today's Social Events

### Oracle reception

17:30-20:00 Oracle will host a Hospitality Event at Safari. Use this occasion to talk to Oracle developers about their cutting edge database technology and exiting development opportunities.

### Orienteering Race

For the sporty participants we will organize an orienteering race in the outskirts of Trondheim. We will provide two different courses — one for people with some prior experience and one easy course for everyone who is able to walk paths in the forest.

A bus to the race track will leave the Royal Garden hotel at 18:00. After the race, participants will be able to take a shower and change clothes. The orienteering race event will end with a meal before a bus brings the participants back to the hotel. More information about the orienteering race can be found on the Social Events page.

Tickets for the orienteering race (NOK 400) can be bought in the secretariat until 17:00.

### Sightseeing Excursion

The sightseeing excursion is a tour around Trondheim centre and its outskirts by bus and with an authorized guide. The bus will leave from outside Royal Garden hotel at 18:00. The whole trip is expected to take about two hours. All tickets for the sightseeing excursion have been sold.

## Yesterday's Social Events

### Conference Reception



Last night, the Municipality of Trondheim hosted a reception for the participants of the conference. Deputy Mayor Knut Fagerbakke was our host in the Archbishop's Palace which is the oldest secular building in Scandinavia. Several hundred participants could enjoy the atmosphere of the old building while being served drinks, fruits, and snacks.



Deputy Mayor Knut Fagerbakke (image below) and VLDB 2005 General Chair Kjell Bratbergsengen held short speeches which complemented the eating and socializing practiced by the participants.



More photos are available at the conference web pages.

## Weather Forecast

### Today



Low: 6°C / 42°F

High: 13°C / 55°F

Cloudy with periods of rain.  
Moderate breeze

### Tomorrow



Low: 6°C / 43°F

High: 17°C / 63°F

Partly cloudy. Light breeze

## What's On

### Exhibition: Paintings for a Cathedral

Nidaros Cathedral, Open 09:00 - 15:00  
Tickets cost NOK 40/20

Nidaros Cathedral hosts a celebrated exhibition, Paintings for a Cathedral, by Håkon Gullvåg who's probably Trondheim's best known contemporary artist.

### Museum: Trondheim Art Museum

Bispegaten 7B, Open 10:00 - 17:00  
Tickets cost NOK 40/20

The 2005 Summer Exhibition (open until September 4th) is focused on visual art by female artists. It shows paintings, photography and installations. Female esthetics – illusion or reality?

## Near the Hotel



**Olavskvartalet** - Concert and Shopping Center, located at Kjøpmansgate 48.



**Nova Cinema and Conference Center**, located at Olav Trygvassons gate 5.