2nd Call for Proposals for the Asi@Connect Project

On behalf of the Asi@Connect project, TEIN*CC[1] would like to release the 2nd Call for Proposals (CFP) to interested individuals or organizations who are willing to collaborate over the TEIN networks and its peering networks. Detail information on this Call is shown in the below tables. Further information about the Asi@Connect[2] project can be found on www.tein.asia.

Work Package (WP) 2: Capacity Development of Developing Country NRENs	
Main Activities	Enhance the capacity of the developing country NRENs in managing their national R&E networks and promoting international R&E collaboration. The activities range from carrying out assessment of NREN needs to "on the job training" with other NREN partners.
Areas of Interests	Capacity building trainings, workshops, and seminars for engineers as well as non-technical administrators, such as in the procurement and tendering, financial administration, communication and public relations. Prospective proposals may cover following areas, but not limited to, *e.g. Campus Network Design, Network Performance, Network Management and Monitoring, Network Security, Routing, Peering and Management, Financial Administration, Tendering, Communication and Public Relations, Survey the exiting NRENs and national user communities and make concrete recommendations for future capacity building, etc.*
Budget Allocated	Applicants can apply for up to 50K Euro per proposal.
Period of per proposal	3 to 5 days, one-time event
Implementation deadline	31 December 2019

WP3: R&E Network Design & Operations and associated capacity development	
Main Activities	Develop local network engineering expertise in developing country university IT departments and NRENs to optimally utilize Asi@Connect Internet capacity and equipment.
Areas of Interests	Support design and improvement of developing NREN's R&E networks, and of conduct of trainings with the concept of 'train the trainers', *e.g. Campus Network Design for developing NRENs and regional Network Operator Groups (NOGs), Direct Engineering Assistance (DEA) to improve networks, network security and performance monitoring, wireless infrastructure to improve faculty and student access and DNS stability, security and IP4/6 address technical assistance, etc.*
Budget Allocated	Applicants can apply for up to 200K Euro per proposal.
Implementation deadline	31 December 2019

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[1] TEIN*CC is a Not-for-profit Korean based institution to manage and operate the European Union funded project, specifically Asi@Connect.

[2] The Asi@Connect project consists of six (6) Work Packages which elaborate activities and programs to be project-managed by the TEIN*CC. The focus of this call for proposals are actions that shall be carried out at the following locations: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

WP4: Deployment of Specialized Network Products, Services and Applications and Associated Capacity Development

Main Activities	Provide advanced network engineering products/services and associated training/capacity development to developing country NRENs and promote Asi@Connect as a test bed **platform** for Future Internet technologies.
Areas of Interests	Promote the use of the TEIN network, as a testbed **platform** for Future Internet technologies and applications, and to deploy the advanced network engineering products/services and associated training/capacity development *e.g. Software Defined Networking (SDN), Network Functions Virtualization (NFV), OpenFlow, Cloud Computing services, Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT), Federated Identification/Eduroam/EduGain, Mobility, IPv6 and Security, etc.*
Budget Allocated	Applicants can apply for up to 250K Euro per proposal.
Implementation deadline	31 December 2019

WP5: Promoting Asi@Connect-enabled Research and Education Collaboration for Societal Benefit

Main Activities	Promote new and scale-up existing research and education collaborations to directly benefit people in developing countries.
Areas of Interests	To establish or extend, relevant **platforms**, collaboration structures, or workgroups in major application areas associated with Research and Education, enabled by TEIN networks, and which generate wide societal benefits. *e.g. e-learning, water resource management, climate and weather prediction and change, environment, bio-technology, e-culture, cyber performance, telemedicine, e-library, sensor networks in agriculture, earth monitoring, crop research, plant phenomics and plant pest and disease diagnostics.*
Budget Allocated	Applicants can apply for up to 250K Euro per proposal.
Implementation deadline	31 December 2019

WP6: Helping to Bridge the Digital Divide in Developing Countries

Main Activities	Develop Internet access to underserved rural and remote locations as well as help bring down costs of local internet access at national level.
Areas of Interests	Create and enable opportunities to build regional and national infrastructures and capacity to address the digital divide in countries such as Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines and Pakistan, and other Least Developing Countries. *e.g. establishment of carrier neutral Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and provision of associated capacity building such as 'train the trainers', Deployment of Wireless for Community (W4C) networks and provision of associated capacity building such as 'train the trainers'.*
Budget Allocated	Applicants can apply for up to 250K Euro per proposal.
Implementation deadline	31 December 2019

General Guidelines and Requirements for proposals:

- Applicants must fulfill the following criteria in order to be eligible for financial support under this call: they should be either NRENs or the universities and other higher education/research institutions that are the NREN's members or their Asi@Connect activity is expressly supported by the relevant NREN.
- In case a proposal includes purchase of equipment or procurement of service, etc., it is required for the proposer to discuss with TEIN*CC during the contracting process. They can be separately administered by TEIN*CC (e.g. procurement tender and its according payment process).
- All the submitted proposals shall be evaluated and selected based on their compliance with the objectives and specific eligibility criteria of the Asi@Connect project (i.e. the Grant Contract ACA 2016/376-562 concluded with the European Commission (EC)).
- Any proposed activity under this Call should have a regional dimension and must benefit by preference the DCI-eligible countries (https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/37626), and should include at least one LDCs (Least Developed Countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal).
- A proposal should explain why and how it requires access and use of the TEIN network.
- The scope of each proposal submitted should align with that of each relevant WP.
- Proposers may submit multiple proposals (e.g. two (2) proposals that align with WP3 and WP5 respectively). It is requested, where a proposer submits multiple ones, to explain more fully, relationships and dependencies with regards to costs and outcomes between the proposals.
- The outcomes for a proposal should be achievable within the period of the proposal. Multi phased proposals are welcome but must be staged and submitted separately in successive calls for proposal. Outlines of such intended multi-staged proposals are welcome.
- The maximum amount of financial support per each applicant is limited to 250 K Euro.

Evaluation Criteria covering but not limited to the following areas, subject to any change to the contents of the Proposals:

- Quality of programs (e.g. effects on the developing countries and networks)
- Aligned with WP purpose and scope
- Clear benefit for the TEIN community
- Regional diversity and balance
- Clear objectives and well-structured methodology
- Capacity of proposers (e.g. Demonstrates capacity to manage funds, conduct project activities and document outcomes effectively, within the specified budget and time limits)
- Cost factors, realistic budget and timeframe
- Potential for growth/further development
- Impact analysis for the output of the proposal based on the objectives of the Asi@Connect project.
- Relationship with other existing projects at a regional/global level
- Visibility & PRs, etc.
- For WP4 and WP5, special weights on the promotion of the use of the **TEIN** network as well as provision of benefits to **many economically developing countries.**

A proposal at the least should include the following. *Templates for a proposal is attached separately.*

- Set of objectives
- Details of Activities/Programs
- Deliverables
- Target Participant(s)
- Expected Impacts/Outcomes
- Any other collaborations or related awarded projects or grants by other funding agencies
- Outline budget (subject to Work Packages as above). A break-down cost quotation for estimated budget is to be included in the Proposal in **Euros**. Budget can be used to partially support travel of resource persons and participants and for the organization of the event.

Data Policy:

- Any outputs/outcomes will be made available to the public and to the research and education community.

Other Points to be noted:

- TEIN*CC can request applicants to provide more details and modify any part of the proposal (including the requested budget) at any time during the selection process.
- The final amount to be funded and implementation period is subject to the result of evaluation.
- Availability of co-funding by other agencies or organisations is not a requisite but encouraged. Donation or commitment (e.g. in-kind contribution) from the proposer is encouraged and will be considered under evaluation. Any complementary funding must be declared in the budget section of the proposal.
- A proposal can be carried out by one group, institution/organization or collaboratively with others.
- It is encouraged to collaborate with the experts of developed countries or other European organizations or institutions and can be conducted as a training format.
- Indirect costs (overhead) and contingency cannot be supported by Asi@Connect project.

Important Dates:

Proposal submission deadline: 12 November 2017, addressed to: tech@teincc.org
Acceptance notification: 22 December 2017

For any inquiries, please email to: tech@teincc.org