



Asi@Connect

Call for proposals 2018

Guidelines for applicants

TEIN*CC

Disclaimer

The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of TEIN*CC and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.



1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction of Asi@Connect project & TEIN*CC

Asi@Connect provides dedicated high-capacity internet connectivity for research and education communities across Asia-Pacific; operating at speeds of up to 10 Gbps, it currently interconnects universities and research centres in 21 countries/economies across the region. It also connects to the 50 million European researchers and academics served by the GÉANT network and supports collaborative programmes in areas such as Earth observation, disaster warning, climate research, food security, delivery of e-science, e-health and e-learning. Projects are also aimed at encouraging gender equality and women's empowerment.

Asi@Connect marks the 4th phase of EU funding to the Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) programme which was launched as an Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) initiative in 2001; it successfully established a regional research and education internet network (TEIN) from scratch in 2004 and progressively expanded its geographical footprint over the years. During this latest phase, greater emphasis has been placed on delivering the project with increased involvement of additional partners within the Asia-Pacific R&E community.

TEIN*CC was established in 2011 as a not-for-profit organization in Seoul, Republic of Korea. It has been expressly set up to run the TEIN program (TEIN4 at that time) under the endorsement from the ASEM leaders (ASEM8 Chair's Statement, 2010). It is supported by the Korean Government – the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) which has committed to fund its operational costs for the TEIN4 and its successor, Asi@Connect. TEIN*CC has full responsibility for the successful operation of Asi@Connect. More information on Asi@Connect, TEIN and TEIN*CC can be found at: <https://www.tein.asia/>

1.2 Objective of the call

The expected results of Asi@Connect include a well-functioning, resilient and high capacity, Internet connectivity network, an increase in the number of higher education institutions connected to Asi@Connect, a growth in volume of traffic over the network, an increase in the number of network enabled research and education collaborations, and more people with access to the Internet generally and remote areas in particular.

To achieve the above, Asi@Connect has specifically put forth the following activities in Work Packages (WP) 2 to 6 as below.

- **WP2 - Capacity Development of Developing Country NRENs**

The aim of this WP is to enhance the capacity of developing country NRENs to manage their own national R&E networks and in promoting international R&E collaboration. These activities range from carrying out assessments of NREN needs to “on the job training” with other NREN partners on e.g. financial administration, tendering, communication and public relations.

- **WP3 - R&E Network Design & Operations and associated capacity development**

The aim of this WP is to develop local network engineering expertise in developing country university IT departments and NRENs, also seeking to promote national investment for renovating campus networks and NREN facilities. Activities include technical training for



universities, NRENs and regional Network Operator Groups (NOGs), direct engineering assistance 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.

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

This WP will provide advanced network engineering products/services and associated training/capacity development to Asi@Connect partners e.g. PerfSONAR, Software Defined Networking (SDN), Openflow and cloud services. Applications to be deployed include eduRoam and eduGAIN and the underlying identity federation technologies that support these systems. The use of the Asi@Connect network as a test bed platform for Future Internet technologies and applications will be promoted.

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

This WP will identify and assess new collaborations, and the scaling-up of existing collaborations that directly benefit people in developing countries. These collaborations include telemedicine, e-learning, water resource management, climate and weather prediction, sensor networks in agriculture, earth monitoring, crop research and plant pest and disease diagnostics.

- **WP6 - Helping to Bridge the Digital Divide in Developing Countries**

This WP is aimed at creating and enabling 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. This includes the establishment of non-profit carrier-neutral Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and deployment of wireless community networks in underserved rural and remote areas to improve quality and bring down costs of local internet access to populations. This WP may also increase Internet access provision to underserved rural and remote locations and additionally bring down costs of local internet access at the national level.

TEIN*CC would therefore like to invite those interested individuals or organizations who are willing to collaborate with the relevant results/outcomes in mind.

1.3 Areas of Interests

This Call for Proposals is being carried out with TWO funding approaches. Applications can be submitted under any ONE of the following types:

Type 1: These projects will be 100% funded by Asi@Connect.

Type 2: These projects will require a 50% cash contribution to the project by applicants. Asi@Connect will then contribute 50% of the requested budget, up to a maximum of EUR 125,000 per proposal. (e.g. if a proposal is a 200K EUR project, then the applicant will co-fund 100K EUR and pay to TEIN*CC in cash).



Detailed information on which Work Packages and areas you would like to choose is shown in the tables below.

Work Package (WP) 2: Capacity Development of Developing Country NRENs	
Areas of Interest	Capacity building trainings, workshops, and seminars for engineers as well as non-technical administrators, e.g. in the areas of procurement and tendering, financial administration, communication and public relations. Prospective proposals may cover following areas, but not limited to, <i>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 existing NRENs and national user communities and make concrete recommendations for future capacity building, etc.</i>
Budget Allocated	Type 1: Applicants can apply for up to 250K Euro per proposal. Type 2: Applicants can apply for up to 125K Euro per proposal.
Project completion deadline	31 December 2020

WP3: R&E Network Design & Operations and associated capacity development	
Areas of Interest	Support the design and improvement of developing NREN's R&E networks, and conducting training with the concept of 'train the trainers', <i>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.</i>
Budget Allocated	Type 1: Applicants can apply for up to 250K Euro per proposal. Type 2: Applicants can apply for up to 125K Euro per proposal.
Project completion deadline	31 December 2020

WP4: Deployment of Specialized Network Products, Services and Applications and Associated Capacity Development	
Areas of Interest	Promote the use of the TEIN network, as a testbed platform for Future Internet technologies and applications, and to deploy advanced network engineering products/services and associated training/capacity development <i>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.</i>
Budget Allocated	Type 1: Applicants can apply for up to 250K Euro per proposal. Type 2: Applicants can apply for up to 125K Euro per proposal.
Project completion deadline	31 December 2020



WP5: Promoting Asi@Connect-enabled Research and Education Collaboration for Societal Benefit	
Areas of Interest	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. <i>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.</i>
Budget Allocated	Type 1: Applicants can apply for up to 250K Euro per proposal. Type 2: Applicants can apply for up to 125K Euro per proposal.
Project completion deadline	31 December 2020

WP6: Helping to Bridge the Digital Divide in Developing Countries	
Areas of Interest	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. <i>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'.</i>
Budget Allocated	Type 1: Applicants can apply for up to 250K Euro per proposal. Type 2: Applicants can apply for up to 125K Euro per proposal.
Project completion deadline	31 December 2020

2 HOW TO APPLY

The following section sets out the rules for the eligibility, general guidelines and application procedures activities financed under Asi@Connect.

2.1 Eligibility Criteria

2.1.1 Location of action

The location of proposed activities for this Call for Proposals is limited to the following locations (i.e. partner countries/economies of Asi@Connect):

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.



2.1.2 Eligibility of applicants

Applicants should fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for financial support under this Call for Proposals:

1. they should be either NREN¹s 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.
2. By preference they should be from those countries listed in Section 2.1.1 or from Europe. However, they may be from other regions where specialist capabilities are required.

Throughout the Asi@Connect project period, the maximum amount of financial support per each applicant that has legal status to enter into contracts is limited to 250,000 Euro. Therefore, the applicant needs to ensure that his/her organization can provide additional financial support.

2.2 General guidelines

Unless otherwise noted, the guidelines below apply to both Type 1 and 2 applications.

- Where a proposal includes the purchase of equipment or the procurement of a service, etc., it is required for the proposer to discuss this with TEIN*CC during the contracting process. The relevant activity can then be separately administered by TEIN*CC (e.g. procurement tender and its according payment process).
- 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 that, where a proposer submits multiple ones, they will need to explain more fully the relationships and dependencies regarding 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 proposals. Outlines of such intended multi-staged proposals are welcome and counted in the evaluation.
- Any outputs/outcomes will be made available to the public and to the wider research and education community.
- 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 the implementation period is subject to the result of evaluation.
- (Type 1 only) Availability of co-funding by other agencies or organisations is not a

¹ Please refer to Appendix 1 for the list of NRENs of Asi@Connect.



requisite but is encouraged. Donations or commitment (e.g. in-kind contribution) from the proposer is encouraged and will be considered during the 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 such as in the form of consortium. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with the experts of developed countries or other European organizations or institutions. However, strong evidence such as a **letter of endorsement** or **intent** from those collaborators or experts are required to be included in its proposal.
- **Indirect costs** (overhead) and contingency funding cannot be supported by the Asi@Connect project.
- Considering the presumable timeline of this Call for Proposals, the activities proposed should not start before **1 May 2019**.
- In case of a contract is not signed between TEIN*CC and the awardee within presumed timeline (i.e. **3.5 months** after notification is received), TEIN*CC has the right to withdraw from the contract.

2.3 Application procedures

2.3.1 Application forms

Any proposal should include the following. A template for proposals is attached separately.

- Set of objectives
- Details of Activities/Programs
- Approach and Methodology
- Deliverables
- Target beneficiaries/participant(s)
- Expected Results/Outcomes/Impacts (Benefit for the Community)
- Relationship with any other collaborations or related awarded projects or grants by other funding agencies
- Value Proposition of applicant in terms of skill set of proposed team, past projects delivered successfully, capacity in terms of infrastructure/labs etc.
- Activities proposed by applicant for visibility of the project
- Outline budget (subject to Work Packages as above)

2.3.2 Submission & deadline

The complete application form and associated budget must be submitted in Word and Excel or PDF. Applications must be submitted by email to: tech@teincc.org.

Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by mail) or delivered to other addresses will not be considered under this Call for Proposals.

Incomplete applications will be rejected.



The deadline for the submission of full project proposals is **31 October 2018** midnight (**GMT+9** hours) as evidenced by the date of receipt of submission email. Any application submitted after deadline will be automatically rejected.

3 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

3.1 Evaluation and selection of applications

All responses will be evaluated against criteria published in the call as below by TEIN*CC and representatives of the Steering Committee and also, if required, external experts. The final decision regarding i) activities to be carried out and ii) selection of project partners to implement the activities will be taken by TEIN*CC in consultation with the Asi@Connect project's Governors Meeting and its Steering Committee.

3.2 Evaluation criteria

The criteria outlined below will be used, however not limited to them, subject to the contents of the Proposals:

- Alignment with WP purpose and scope (15 points)

The proposal should explain its relevance and value to the Work Package as described in these Guidelines.

Proposals for capacity building need to include a clear program with detailed schedule/topics and qualified trainers. If working with other training organizations, the endorsement letter for that organization should be provided with the proposal as supporting documents.

- Good concept with clear objectives and well-structured methodology (15 points)

A proposal, including clear objectives and well-structured methodology, should explain why and how it requires access and use of the TEIN network. (max 500 words, this aims to qualify the proposals with good ideas.)

- Regional diversity and balance (15 points)

Except capacity building activities for individual countries, all proposed activities under this Call should have a regional dimension and therefore benefit several Asi@Connect partner countries/economies. The evaluation will particularly assess the degree to which DCI-eligible countries (<https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/37626>), and particularly, LDCs (Least Developed Countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal) benefit from the proposal. For proposals submitted for WP6, it is encouraged as well to address regional diversity/balance within a country.



- Clear benefit for the TEIN community (15 points)

Proposals should explain their Internet related societal benefits for the Asi@Connect project and the wider-TEIN community, which will be factors to utilize/promote the development/deployment of the TEIN network as well as provision of benefits to many economically developing countries, specifically for proposals submitted for WP4 and WP5.

- Capacity of proposers (e.g. demonstrates the capacity to manage funds, conduct project activities and document their outcomes effectively, within the specified budget and time limits) (15 points)

Proposals should provide supporting information to show the experience of their team to manage the project, including previous relevant project experiences.

- Cost factors, realistic budget and timeframe (10 points)

Proposals should demonstrate costs have been considered carefully, are realistic and necessary. Information about additional funding provided by or sourced by the proposer should be included.

- Potential for growth/further development (10 points)

Proposals should explain what plans or opportunities they provide for further activity after the Proposal is successfully completed.

- Regional Results/Outcomes/Impacts based on the objectives of the Asi@Connect project (10 points)

Proposals should provide information to allow the scale of its benefits or impact to be well understood. (e.g. the number of people trained by capacity building projects or to be trained by trainers) with large scale proposals favoured.

- Relationship with other existing projects at a regional/global level (5 points)

Proposals should explain if they are related to any other projects and show that they are complementary or synergistic. (and therefore not duplicating existing projects) However, trials to construct services/communities to collaborate with existing worldwide activities such as SDX/eduroam/eduGAIN/etc. may be welcome and encouraged.

- Visibility & PRs, etc. (5 points)

Proposals should set out plans for how the proposal and its outcomes can contribute to greater visibility for the Asi@Connect project.



3.3 Indicative timeline

- Proposal submission deadline: **31 October 2018**
- Acceptance notification: **15 January 2019**
- Contracts between TEIN*CC and awardees: **16 January - 30 April 2019**



4 DOCUMENTATION

4.1 Documents to be submitted on applications

The following documents must be submitted as part of the full project proposal application. Templates are provided accordingly.

- Annex A - Activity proposal template
- Annex B – Budget breakdown template
- Annex C – Letter of endorsement or intent from collaborators or experts

Further documentation may be required and these may be communicated to provisionally selected applicants in due course.



APPENDIX A – List of NRENs

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)	
Afghanistan	Afghanistan Research and Education Network (AfgREN)
Bangladesh	University Grants Commission (UGC)/Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN)
Bhutan	Department of Information Technology and Telecom (DIT&T)/ Druk Research and Education Network (DrukREN)
Cambodia	Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC)/Cambodia Research and Education Network (CamREN)
Laos	Lao Education and Research Network (LERNet)
Myanmar	Myanmar Research and Education Network (mmREN)
Nepal	Nepal Research and Education Network (NREN)
Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories	
India	National Knowledge Network (NKN)
Indonesia	Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB)/Indonesian HighER Education NeTwork (INHERENT)
Mongolia	Mongolian Research and Education Network (ErdemNet)
Pakistan	Pakistan Education and Research Network (PERN)
Philippines	Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI)/ Philippine Research, Education and Government Information Network (PREGINet)
Sri Lanka	Lanka Education and Research Network (LEARN)
Vietnam	National Agency for Science and Technology Information (NASATI)/ Vietnamese Research and Education Network (VinaREN)
Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories	
China	China Education and Research Network (CERNet), China Science and Technology Network (CSTNet)
Malaysia	Malaysian Research and Education Network (MyREN)
Thailand	Thailand Research Education Network Association (ThaiREN)
Developed countries	
Australia	Australia’s Academic and Research Network (AARNet)
Chinese Taipei	Taiwan Advanced Research and Education Network (TWAREN), Academica Sinica (ASOC)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Academic and Research Network (HARNet)
Japan	National Institute of Information and Communications (NICT), National Institute of Informatics (NII), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Network (MAFFIN)
New Zealand	Research and Education Advanced Network NZ Ltd. (REANNZ)
Singapore	Singapore Advanced Research & Education Network (SingAREN)
South Korea	National Information Society Agency (NIA)/Korea advanced REsearch Network (KOREN), Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI)/Korea Research Environment Open NETwork (KREONET)