

NeGD/08-03/2016 (P-3058575)

**National e-Governance Division
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

**Call for Expression of Interest (EoI) for
Proposed project to establish
'Centre on Digital Government and Knowledge Societies' to
Promote knowledge creation in the area of e-Governance**

DATE OF ISSUE: 23 August, 2016

EXTENDED last date for responding to this call for EoI: 19-Sep-2016 (5pm)

1. Knowledge Societies and Sustainable Development Goals

Knowledge Societies

Knowledge and information have significant impact on people's lives. Therefore, sharing knowledge and information particularly through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has the power to transform economies and societies. Knowledge societies must build on four pillars: freedom of expression; universal access to information and knowledge; respect for cultural and linguistic diversity; and quality education for all.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. These officially came into force on 1 January, 2016.

The 17 SDGs are: No Poverty; Zero Hunger; Good Health and Well-Being; Quality Education; Gender Equality; Clean Water and Sanitation; Affordable and Clean Energy; Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Reduced Inequalities; Sustainable cities and Communities; Responsible Consumption and Production; Climate Action; Life Below Water; Life on Land; Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; Partnerships for the Goals.

References:

- (a) http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E
- (b) <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- (c) <https://docs.google.com/gview?url=http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf&embedded=true>

2. Digital India Programme

Digital India is a flagship programme of the Government of India. It aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It is being coordinated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, and is implemented by all concerned departments and agencies across the nation.

Digital India is centered on three key vision areas, each with specific stated aims.

Vision Area 1 – Digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen:

- (i) Availability of high-speed internet as a core utility for delivery of services to citizens
- (ii) Cradle to grave digital identity that is unique, lifelong, online and authenticable to every citizen
- (iii) Mobile phone & bank account enabling citizen participation in digital & financial space
- (iv) Easy access to a Common Services Centre (CSC)
- (v) Shareable private space on a public cloud
- (vi) Safe and secure cyber-space

Vision Area 2 – Governance and services on demand

- (i) Seamlessly integrated services across departments or jurisdictions
- (ii) Availability of services in real time from online & mobile platforms
- (iii) All citizen entitlements to be portable and available on the cloud
- (iv) Digitally transformed services for improving ease of doing business
- (v) Making financial transactions electronic & cashless
- (vi) Leveraging Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) for decision support systems & development

Vision Area 3 – Digital empowerment of citizens

- (i) Universal digital literacy
- (ii) Universally accessible digital resources
- (iii) Documents/certificates to be available on cloud
- (iv) Availability of digital resources/services in Indian languages
- (v) Collaborative digital platforms for participative governance

The implementation thrust of the Digital India initiative is articulated in terms of nine pillars:

- (i) Broadband highways
- (ii) Universal access to mobile connectivity
- (iii) Public internet access programme
- (iv) e-Governance: Reforming governance through technology
- (v) e-Kranti: Electronic delivery of services (National e-Governance Plan 2.0 framework)
- (vi) Information to all
- (vii) Electronics manufacturing: Target net zero imports
- (viii) IT for jobs

- (ix) Early harvest programmes:
- IT platform for messages
 - Wi-Fi in all universities
 - Public Wi-Fi spots
 - Government greetings to be e-greetings
 - Secure e-mail within government
 - School books to be e-books
 - Biometric attendance
 - Standardise government email design
 - SMS-based weather information, disaster alerts

This umbrella programme covers multiple government ministries and departments. It weaves together a large number of ideas and thoughts into a single, comprehensive vision so that each of them is seen as part of a larger goal. Each individual element stands on its own, but is also a part of the larger picture.

References:

- (a) http://meity.gov.in/sites/upload_files/dit/files/Running%20single%20file.pdf
(b) <http://digitalindia.gov.in/content/about-programme>
(c) <http://digitalindia.gov.in/>

3. National e-Governance Division

National e-Governance Division (NeGD) is an autonomous business division within Media Lab Asia under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. NeGD supports MeitY in various programme management aspects of the Digital India initiatives including strategic planning and capacity building; development of standards, policies and guidelines; awareness and communication; evaluation and assessment; and citizen engagement through physical and digital/social platforms.

References:

- (a) <http://meity.gov.in/content/e-governance>
(b) <http://negd.gov.in/>

4. Proposed Project to Set Up Centre on Digital Government and Knowledge Societies

National e-Governance Division is planning to undertake a project as a part of its R&D and strategic positioning thrust to establish one or more 'Centre/s on Digital Government and Knowledge Societies'. The proposed project is geared towards various aspects of building knowledge societies in sync with aforementioned stated aims under the three vision areas of Digital India, which also address relevant aspects of the (aforementioned) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice etc.

- The vision behind establishment of such centre/s is to bring together the aforementioned four pillars (on which building a knowledge society is hinged), within the framework of Digital India. The proposed centre/s should aim

towards benefiting a wide cross-section of society, including women, marginalised sections and differently abled etc. This also includes developing cutting edge applications.

- The proposed centre/s should also aim at global benchmarking with emphasis on promoting open content, proven technology and best practices through research and documentation, capacity building, knowledge sharing and awareness drives etc. The advantage of open systems and open access (including open educational resources, open access to scientific information, free/open software and free/ open e-learning) is that data and information can be shared more easily and freely. This way, stakeholders in education and research communities including students and trainers have much easier access to ‘open’ knowledge.

PS: As a possible example of international benchmarking, readers may like to refer the ‘integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO’, available at:

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/BSP/pdf/en-37-C-18-PART_I.pdf

(Only for reference/ illustration purposes apropos international benchmarking.)

- The proposed centre/s should focus on policy-driven electronic governance and support specific efforts by the Government, cities, communities, countries and other territorial and social units to develop themselves, e.g. to pursue specific public policy and sustainable development goals from an IT/Digital Government perspective. Centre/s should also focus on specialisation of Digital Government initiatives including their objectives, design, operations and outcomes to different local, sectorial and local-sectorial contexts. The combination of context-specificity and development objectives will be the cornerstone of the centre/s.
- The centre/s should evolve as think-tank/s in the domain of Digital Government and knowledge societies, with some key objectives as follows:
 - a. Conduct research on Digital Government and knowledge societies issues.
 - b. Capture formative and sustainable practices in Digital Government and knowledge societies design and implementation.
 - c. Act as a nodal centre for promoting start-up incubation.
 - d. Promote fair information practices, universal access to information and knowledge.
 - e. Develop programs for cultural and linguistic diversity, and education for all in e-governance domain.
 - f. Promote ‘Openness’ in content, technology, and processes through policy intervention, capacity building and awareness programs.
 - g. Promote awareness of security issues in digital government and knowledge societies and also aid in developing security procedures and manuals.
 - h. Internship/collaboration opportunities for students.

PS: The objectives may further be extended or modified from time to time as per emerging needs and policy guidelines from the Government.

- The proposed centre/s shall enter into collaborations with other institutes/organisations across the globe subject to the rules of the Government of India for the stated objectives.

NeGD shall provide project-funding for at least 1 to 2 years. At the end of the funding period, the centre/s should continue based on the sustainability model that is expected to be evolved starting from the approaches suggested and discussed in the calls for expression of interest to this document. It is also expected that the centre/s would become self-sustaining over a period of time.

NeGD support would also include operational aspects/operational costs for:

- (i) Identifying areas of relevance for taking up R&D
- (ii) Hiring of professional and full-time resources/equipment etc
- (iii) Taking up and sponsoring research in Digital Government and Knowledge Societies domain etc

NeGD shall not create any permanent liability.

5. Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI)/ proposals

The EoI is invited from institutions of higher learning conducting education programmes at Masters and Ph.D. levels. These include institutions such as IITs, IIMs, NITs, IIITs, Central Universities, State Universities and other premier institutes. Such institutions of higher learning can be any registered private or public institutions which are duly recognised by the competent authority (Central Government, State Government, UGC, AICTE, State Council, etc.).

Networks/consortia of such educational and research institutions with established records may also apply.

6. Shortlisting Procedure

A Committee set up by the competent authority shall scrutinize and evaluate the response to this call for EoI received and shortlist the eligibility criteria for final request for proposal (RFP) to be submitted later by the responding institutions.

The shortlisting criteria may include:

- (i) The quality and level of Education and Research
- (ii) Central institute/organisation, State institute/organisation, private institute/organisation
- (iii) Established record of research and research policy connection in the area, alignment with the policy context, value added and complementarity with respect to existing institutions, record of collaboration with the government and other non-academic entities, etc
- (iv) Infrastructure, space, facilities and expertise
- (v) Initiatives for technology entrepreneurship development

- (vi) Initiatives taken for research and development
- (vii) International collaborative projects/collaborations
- (viii) Commitment and willingness of the Institute for supporting this activity
- (ix) Proposal/idea (including sustainability beyond the NeGD-project-funding period)

7. The Host Institute (HI)

The Host Institute plays an important role not only in the establishment of the centre but also in its smooth, efficient functioning and nurturing it into a successful model for the stated objective or objectives ,if any, in future that may be added by the Government of India from time to time.

Host Institute is expected to provide full support to the centre – including policy, Infrastructure, built-up space for the Centre, and also enable access to institutes' expertise and facilities. The Host Institute will also ensure that the funds provided by NeGD to the HI are utilised for the specific purpose.

Interested institutes may respond to this call for EoI on official letterhead, duly signed, and submit the same to

Smt. S. Radha Chauhan, IAS
President & CEO
National e-Governance Division
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Electronics Niketan
6 C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi – 110003

Scanned copy of the same to be emailed to:
innovation@digitalindia.gov.in

Please include all your details and your proposal/idea towards meeting the various objectives/goals under the proposed project as above for establishing Centre/s on 'Digital Government and Knowledge Societies'.

Extended last date for responding to this call for EoI:
5pm, MONDAY, 19-September-2016

Contact numbers:

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