

Guidelines for applicants

Asi@Connect

Call for proposals 2021

NOTICE

When processing your application, any personal data (e.g. names, addresses and CVs) will be processed¹ solely for the performance management and monitoring of the call for proposal and the contract by the data controller.

Disclaimer

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

¹ In order to avoid asking for the same information more than once, information already available to TEIN*CC may be used where possible.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Asi@Connect project & TEIN*CC

Asi@Connect marks the 4th phase of the European Union (EU) funding to the Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) initiative, which was launched as an Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) initiative in 2001; it successfully established a regional research and education internet network (TEIN) and progressively expanded its geographical footprint over the years.

Asi@Connect provides dedicated high-capacity internet connectivity for research and education communities across Asia-Pacific; operating at speeds of up to 100 Gbps, it currently interconnects universities and research centers in 23 countries/economies across the region. It also connects to the 50 million European researchers and academics served by the GÉANT network and supports collaborative programs in areas such as Earth observation, disaster warning, climate research, food security, delivery of e-science, e-health, and e-learning. Projects also aim to encourage societal benefits by operating diverse areas such as gender equality and women's empowerment, pandemic prevention, etc. During this latest phase, greater emphasis has been placed on delivering the project with the 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 partly operational costs of the TEIN4 and its successor, Asi@Connect. TEIN*CC has full responsibility for the successful management and 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 in general and remote areas in particular. To achieve the above, Asi@Connect has put forth the following activities in Work Packages (WP) 2 to 6 as below.

In this Call for proposals, the following topics under all Work Packages are encouraged:

- To promote gender equality and women's empowerment
- To encompass broader NREN partners' participation and enhance the regional diversity
- To encourage capacity building that address broad participation, especially from Least Developed Countries (LDCs), specified in APPENDIX A
- To mitigate COVID-19 e.g. through increasing network resilience, emergency responses, developing and scaling up online services, and support for relevant remote learning etc.
- Proposals that support scaling up of existing deployments, TEIN network - 100Gbps link utilization - and promote take up by users of services such as Trust and Identity and Cloud Computing, etc.

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

This WP aims to enhance developing country NRENS' capacity to manage their national R&E networks and in promoting international R&E collaborations. These activities range from carrying out assessments of NREN needs to "on the job training" with other NREN partners on areas like financial administration, tendering, communication, public relations, etc.

- **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 eduoam 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, pandemic prevention like COVID-19.

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

This WP aims to 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. 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 like to invite those interested individuals or organizations willing to collaborate with the relevant results/outcomes in mind.

1.3 Areas of Interests and provision of financial allocation

This Call for Proposals will be 100% funded by Asi@Connect, however, contributions in kind are welcomed and will be recognised in the evaluation process but any such arrangement should be explicitly documented and detailed in the budget analysis within the proposal.

Furthermore, this Call for Proposals specifically promotes gender equality and enhance women's participation, regional diversity, and Asi@Connect network (including 100Gbps Singapore to Europe circuit) utilization.

In case of proposals engaging private sector(s) – encompassing profit business or international research company/organization/entity - as a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) approach, the following further conditions should be met.

- Asi@Connect invites private sector(s) only in the Capacity Building – i.e., WP2 & WP3. It calls for the impanelment of private companies under various categories of expertise like Emerging Technologies, Cyber Security, Network Technology, etc. and under classifications of types of support such as Providing Grant Support, Providing Experts, Services Support- Software Development, Training and Capacity Building, etc.
- Private sector should ensure only the reasonable cost recovery but not aim to create a profit, and cash or in-kind contribution is recommended.
- Private sector should work with a partner NREN or its member of organizations for this proposal – i.e., it cannot be the sole Leading Applicant/Principal Investigator.
- Private sector should further demonstrate a good knowledge/track record of working with the R&E community.

Detailed information on which Work Packages and areas you can choose is as below.

Work Package (WP) 2: Capacity Development of Developing Country NREs	
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 the following areas mainly for developing NREN's overall capability, but not limited to, e.g., <i>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 NREs and national user communities and make concrete recommendations for future capacity building, etc.</i>
Budget Allocated	Applicants can apply for up to 50K Euro per proposal.
Activities completion deadline	From March 2022 to February 2023

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	Applicants can apply for up to 100K Euro per proposal.
Activities completion deadline	From March 2022 to February 2023

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	Applicants can apply for up to 150K Euro per proposal.
Activities completion deadline	From March 2022 to February 2023

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, disease diagnostics, pandemic prevention like COVID-19.</i>
Budget Allocated	Applicants can apply for up to 150K Euro per proposal.
Activities completion deadline	From March 2022 to February 2023

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	Applicants can apply for up to 150K Euro per proposal.
Activities completion deadline	From March 2022 to February 2023

2 RULES FOR THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The following sections set out general guidelines, the eligibility, and application procedures.

2.1 General guidelines

This Call for Proposals put more values on gender equality and women's empowerment, regional diversity, and Asi@Connect network (including 100Gbps circuit between Singapore and Europe) utilization under the appropriate WP.

- 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 corresponding payment process).
- The scope of each proposal submitted should align with that of each relevant WP.
- Considering the worldwide pandemic situation, it is strongly recommended to utilize online based activities if the proposal includes diverse countries' participation.
- Considering this Call for Proposals' presumable timeline, the activities proposed should not start before **1 March 2022**, and its maximum duration of period will be until **28 February 2023 (1 year)**.
- 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 proposals, they will need to fully explain the relationships and interdependencies regarding costs and outcomes between the proposals.
- The outcomes for a proposal should be achievable within the period of the proposal.
- 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 and availability of budget.
- Availability of co-funding by other agencies or organization is not a 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 a 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** with no formality from those co-applicants or affiliates are required to be submitted at first step - concept note.
- **Indirect costs** (overhead) and contingency funding cannot be supported by the Asi@Connect project.
- In case a contract is not signed between TEIN*CC and the awardee within the presumed timeline (i.e. **3 months** after notification is received), TEIN*CC has the right to withdraw from the contract.

2.2 Eligibility Criteria

2.2.1 Location of activities

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

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.

2.2.2 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 NREN²s or the universities and other higher education/research institutions that are the NREN's members OR third party (e.g., private sector) expressly endorsed by the relevant NREN.
2. By preference they should be from those countries listed in Section 2.2.1 or from Europe. However, they may be from other regions where specialist capabilities are required.

² Please refer to Appendix 1 for the list of NRENs of Asi@Connect.

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. In other words, sum of transferred fund to awarded legal entity during Asi@Connect period cannot exceed 250,000 Euro. Therefore, the applicant needs to ensure that the accumulated amount of financial support – this can be checked beforehand via e-mail to: asi@connect-call@teincc.org - of his/her legal entity do not go beyond the limit.

2.3 How to apply and the procedures to follow

The Asi@Connect project takes two stages **sequentially** to award proposals as below:

A. Concept Note

B. Full application

Applicants shortlisted of their concept notes will be invited to submit their full applications. Details on the two stages are illustrated as follows.

2.3.1 First stage - Concept note

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the concept note instructions in the application form annexed to these guidelines (**Annex A**).

Applicants must apply in English.

Please note that:

1. In the concept note, lead applicants must only provide an estimate of the requested Asi@Connect contribution as well as an indicative percentage of that contribution in relation to the eligible costs of the proposal. A detailed budget is to be submitted only by the lead applicants invited to submit a full application in the second phase.

2. The elements outlined in the concept note may not be modified in the full application; the Asi@Connect contribution may not vary from the initial estimate by more than 20%. The lead applicant may replace a co-applicant or an affiliated entity only in duly justified cases (e.g. bankruptcy of initial co-applicant or affiliated entity). In this case, the new co-applicant/affiliated entity must be of a similar nature as the initial one. The lead applicant may adjust the duration of the proposal if unforeseen circumstances outside the scope of the applicants have taken place following the submission of the concept note and require such adaptation (risk of activities in the proposal not being carried out). In such cases, the duration must remain within limits imposed in Section 1.3. An explanation/justification of the relevant replacement/adjustment shall be included in an accompanying letter or e-mail.

Own contributions by the applicants can be replaced by other donors' contributions at any time.

3. The concept note form will be the primary basis for evaluation. It is therefore of utmost importance that this document contains ALL relevant information concerning the proposal. No additional annexes should be sent.

Any error or major discrepancy related to the concept note instructions may lead to the rejection of the concept note. Clarifications may be requested when information provided is not sufficient to conduct an objective assessment.

Hand-written concept notes will not be accepted.

2.3.2 Where and how to send concept notes

The concept note, together with the declaration by the lead applicant (Annex A.1 section 2) must be submitted by the following link: <https://forms.gle/peQ4vqXJKt3aMT2L6>. (You may need to log in the Google for the submission.) If you are not able to access to the Google, you may submit it to asiacconnect-call@teincc.org, and you should consult with TEIN*CC in advance. 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.

Upon submission of a concept note online, the lead applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt via reply e-mail.

Please note that incomplete concept notes may be rejected. Lead applicants are advised to verify that their concept note is complete by using the checklist for concept note (Annex A.1, Instructions).

2.3.3 Deadline for submission of concept notes

The deadline for the submission of concept notes is **13 June 2021 at 23:59 (Korean date and time)**. The lead applicant is strongly advised not to wait until the last day to submit its concept note, since heavy Internet traffic or a fault with the Internet connection (including electricity failure, etc.) could lead to difficulties in submission. The Contracting Authority cannot be held responsible for any delay due to such afore-mentioned difficulties.

2.3.4 Second stage - Full applications

Lead applicants invited to submit a full application following pre-selection of their concept note must do so using the application form annexed to these guidelines (**Annex B**). Lead applicants should then strictly keep the format of the application form and fill in the paragraphs and pages in order.

The lead applicant cannot modify the elements outlined in the concept note in the full application. The Asi@Connect contribution may not vary from the initial estimate by more than 20%. The lead applicant may replace a co-applicant or an affiliated entity only in duly justified cases (e.g. bankruptcy of initial co-applicant or affiliated entity). In this case, the new co-applicant/affiliated entity must be of a similar nature as the initial one. The lead applicant may adjust the duration of the proposal if unforeseen circumstances outside the scope of the applicants have taken place following the submission of the concept note and require such adaptation (risk of the activities in the proposal not being carried out). In such cases, the duration must remain within limits imposed by the guidelines for applicants. An explanation/justification of the relevant replacement/adjustment shall be included in an

accompanying letter or e-mail.

Lead applicants must submit their full applications in English.

Please complete the full application form carefully and as clearly as possible so that it can be assessed properly.

Any major inconsistency in the full application (e.g., if the amounts in the budget worksheets are inconsistent) may lead to the rejection of the application.

Clarifications will only be requested when information is unclear and prevents TEIN*CC from conducting an objective assessment.

Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Please note that only the full application form and the published annexes which have to be filled in (budget, logical framework) will be transmitted to the evaluators (and assessors, if used). It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL the relevant information concerning the proposal.

If necessary, additional annexes could be attached.

2.3.5 Where and how to send full applications

Full application forms together with the budget (Annex B) must be submitted. The link for the submission will be exclusively given to those who passed the concept note stage. 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.

Upon submission of the full application, the lead applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt via reply e-mail.

Please note that the proposal should be in line with template provided, and incomplete applications may be rejected

2.3.6 Deadline for submission of full applications

The deadline for the submission of full applications will be indicated in the letter sent to the lead applicants whose concept note has been pre-selected.

Lead applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the last day to submit their full applications, since heavy Internet traffic or a fault with the Internet connection (including electricity failure, etc.) could lead to difficulties in submission. The Contracting Authority cannot be held responsible for any delay due to such afore-mentioned difficulties.

Any application submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

3 EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

All applications will be examined and evaluated against criteria published in the call as below by TEIN*CC and representatives of the Steering Committee, and with the possible assistance of external assessors. The final decision regarding i) activities to be carried out and ii) selection of proposal 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.

If the examination of the application reveals that the proposed activities do not meet the eligibility criteria stated in Section 2.2, the application will be rejected on this sole basis.

3.1 Evaluation of Concept Note

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

The concept notes will receive an overall score out of 100 using the breakdown in the evaluation grid below. The evaluation will also check on compliance with the instructions on how to complete the concept note, which can be found in the concept note template (Annex A.1).

The evaluation criteria are divided into two main headings. Each main heading will be given a score between 10 and 50 as follows: 10 = very poor; 20 = poor; 30 = adequate; 40 = good; 50 = very good.

Evaluation Grid

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Score
1. Relevance of the proposal	50
1.1. How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals and to the specific themes/sectors/areas or any other specific requirement stated in this document? Are the expected results of the proposal aligned with the priorities defined in the section 1.2, Objective of the call?	
1.2. How relevant is the proposal to the particular needs and constraints of the target country(ies), region(s) and/or relevant sectors (including synergy with other development initiatives and avoidance of duplication)?	
1.3. How clearly defined and strategically chosen are those involved (final beneficiaries, target groups)? Have their needs and constraints been clearly defined and does the proposal address them appropriately?	
1.4. Does the proposal contain particular added-value elements (e.g. promotion or consolidation of public-private partnerships, innovation, best practices) ?	
2. Design of the proposal	50
2.1. How coherent is the overall design of the proposal? Do the activities indicate the expected results to be achieved by the proposal? Does the proposal explain the rationale and methodology to achieve the expected results?	

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Score
2.2. Does the design reflect a robust analysis of the problems involved, and align with the capacities of the lead applicant, the co-applicant(s) and the affiliated entity(ies)?	
2.3. What risks and assumptions have been identified that impact on the success of the design? Have risk mitigation approaches been identified?	
2.4. Are the activities feasible (including time frame and costs) and consistent in relation to the expected results ? Are results (output, outcome and impact) realistic?	
2.5. To what extent does the proposal benefit relevant issues, opportunities and rights such as environmental/climate change issues, promotion of gender equality and women’s participation, equal opportunities, needs of disabled people, rights of minorities, youth, regional diversity, utilization of TEIN network (e.g. 100G link between Singapore to Europe), and mitigation of COVID-19 (if there is a strong prevalence in the target country/region)?	
Maximum total score	100

Once all concept notes have been assessed, a list will be drawn up with rankings according to their total score. Only the concept notes with a score of over 60 will be considered for pre-selection.

3.2 Evaluation of the Full Application

The full applications will be evaluated on their quality, including the proposed budget and capacity of the applicants and affiliated entity(ies). They will be evaluated using the 10 evaluation criteria in the evaluation grid below, however not limited to them, subject to the contents of the Proposals:

Evaluation criteria (Maximum score 115)

Evaluation Criteria	Score
<p>Alignment with WP purpose and scope</p> <p>The proposal should explain its relevance and value to the Work Package as described in the 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.</p>	15
<p>Good concept with clear objectives and well-structured methodology</p> <p>A proposal, including clear objectives and well-structured methodology, should explain such as why and how it requires environmental/climate change issues, promotion of gender equality and women’s participation, equal opportunities, needs of disabled people, rights of minorities, youth, regional diversity, utilization of TEIN network (e.g. 100G link between Singapore to Europe) and mitigation of COVID-19 (max 500 words, this aims to qualify the proposals with good ideas.)</p>	15

Evaluation Criteria	Score
<p>Regional diversity and balance</p> <p>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, 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 to address regional diversity/balance within a country.</p>	15
<p>Clear benefit for the TEIN community</p> <p>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.</p>	15
<p>Capacity of proposers (e.g., demonstrates the capacity to manage funds, conduct proposal activities and document their outcomes effectively, within the specified budget and time limits)</p> <p>Proposals should provide supporting information to show the experience of their team to manage the project, including previous relevant project experiences.</p>	15
<p>Cost factors, realistic budget and timeframe</p> <p>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.</p>	10
<p>Potential for growth/further development</p> <p>Proposals should explain what plans or opportunities they provide for further activity after the Proposal is successfully completed.</p>	10
<p>Regional Results/Outcomes/Impacts based on the objectives of the Asi@Connect project</p> <p>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 activities or to be trained by trainers) with large-scale proposals favoured.</p>	10
<p>Relationship with other existing projects at a regional/global level</p> <p>Proposals should explain if they are related to any other projects and show that they are complementary or synergistic - not duplicated with existing projects. However, trials to construct services/communities to collaborate</p>	5

Evaluation Criteria	Score
with existing worldwide activities such as SDX/eduroam/eduGAIN/etc. may be welcome and encouraged.	
Visibility & PRs, etc. Proposals should set out plans for how the proposal and its outcomes can contribute to greater visibility for the Asi@Connect project.	5

After the evaluation, a table will be drawn up listing the applications ranked according to their score. The highest scoring applications will be provisionally selected until the available budget for this call for proposals is reached. In addition, a reserve list will be drawn up following the same criteria. This list will be used if more funds become available during the validity period of the reserve list.

3.3 Indicative timetable

	DATE(Korean date)	TIME(Korean time)
1. Start of invitation of concept notes	6 May 2021	-
2. Deadline for submission of concept notes	~ 13 June 2021	23:59
3. Evaluation of concept notes	~ 26 July 2021	
4. Acceptance notice on concept notes and Invitations to submit full applications	~ 3 August 2021	
5. Deadline for submission of full applications	~ 23 September 2021	23:59
6. Evaluation of the full applications	~ 23 November 2021	
7. Notification of award	8 December 2021	
8. Contract signature	13 December 2021 ~ 28 February 2022	

All questions and answers as well as other important notices to applicants during the course of the evaluation procedure will be published on the website of Asi@Connect: <http://www.tein.asia> Therefore, it is advisable to consult the above-mentioned website regularly to be informed of the questions and answers published.



Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 10 days before deadline for the submission of concept notes to the address(es) below, indicating clearly the reference of the call for proposals.

TEIN*CC has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date. Replies will be given no later than 7 days before the deadline for submission of concept notes.

E-mail address: asiaconnect-call@teincc.org

4 LIST OF ANNEXES

4.1 Documents to be completed

The following documents must be submitted as part of proposal application.

- Annex A – **Concept note**
 - A.1 Concept note template (incl. instructions for drafting the concept note)
 - A.2 Letter of endorsement or intent from co-applicants or affiliates
- Annex B – **Full application** (applicants only pre-selected through concept note step)
 - B.1 Full application proposal template
 - B.2 Full application budget template

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 and Territories	
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 and Territories	
Australia	Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNet)
Chinese Taipei	Taiwan Advanced Research and Education Network (TWAREN), Academia 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)

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