

## **Q&A for the Invitation for Sponsorship Proposals for Fostering an IT Learning Atmosphere and Stimulating Students' Interest in IT in Secondary Schools**

### **1. What are the desirable outcomes for the programme?**

Please refer to the objectives stated in the Guide to Application:  
(Para. 17) The objective of this invitation for sponsorship project is to support the successful applicant in organising and conducting activities to promote the IT Innovation Lab programme so as to foster an IT learning atmosphere in the secondary school community, **in particular outreach to schools that did not participate in EITP-related activities previously**, and enhance the interest of secondary school students in IT and their computational thinking skills as well as innovative abilities. Moreover, it can encourage secondary school students to choose technology-related tertiary education programmes and pursue an innovation and technology career in the future. The proposal must set out activities in the technology theme of artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing or big data. The proposed project activities should also make use of government open data (including COVID-19 data, smart lampposts data, etc.). The outcome for the sponsored projects should be able to meet the objectives.

### **2. If the proposed theme is robotics/robotics coding related, must it include artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing or big data content to be eligible for application?**

Please refer to the Part VIII: Project Requirements in the Guide to Application:

(Para. 80) The proposed project activities shall be in the technology theme of AI, blockchain, cloud computing or big data.

The applicant can propose activities based on robotics coding or other attractive IT topics that can enhance students interest and provide variety of choice to students. Other IT technologies are not excluded,

given that the proposed project has to highlight or make reference to technology themes listed in the Guide to Application, i.e. artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing or big data.

### **3. How much weight should be on teacher training?**

There is no requirements on teacher training specified in the Guide to Application. The applicant are free to propose the best means on how to achieve the objectives stated in the Guide to Application.

### **4. What is the level of difficulties of the courses to be delivered?**

There is no requirements on the level of difficulties of the courses to be delivered. The applicant are free to propose the best means on how to achieve the objectives stated in the Guide to Application.

### **5. What are the KPI to be measured?**

Based on the awarded proposal(s), we will develop and agree on the KPI for the implementation of the sponsored projects, which should include metrics for meeting the objectives, for example, number of participating schools, number of participating students, **number of participating students from schools that did not participate in EITP-related activities previously**, feedback and rating of the participants.

### **6. What will be counted as innovative suggestions?**

(Para. 39 Note 1) Applicants are encouraged to propose innovative suggestions which are considered effective and practicable in improving the execution of the proposed project (Type I), and which may not be directly relevant to the proposed project but which can bring about positive values or benefits to the Government or public at large (Type II).

(a) Type I - innovative suggestions which are considered effective and practicable in improving the delivery of the proposed project. The benefits from this type of innovative suggestions are not pre-defined for proposal assessment. Applicants may propose innovative suggestions, which may not necessarily be technology-related, bringing benefits in terms of the following :

- better quality of the proposed project;
- boosting of participants' satisfaction;
- increased participation rate / public awareness of the proposed project; or
- any other benefits that can facilitate the implementation of the proposed project.

(b) Type II – innovative suggestions which may not be directly relevant to the proposed project but which can bring about positive values or benefits to the Government or public at large. Such positive values or benefits may include, inter alia, the following :

- promoting professional image of the IT industry and IT professionals to students and parents;
- promoting the image of Hong Kong as the international innovation and technology hub in the Greater Bay Area;
- enhancing the collaboration among the IT industry, universities and secondary schools; or
- other positive values and benefits to the Government/public in relation to IT manpower development (e.g. attracting more talent to join IT industry etc.).

## **7. Which secondary schools have not participated in EITP-related activities?**

Please refer to the following links for secondary schools that have participated in EITP previously.

- <https://www.eitp.gov.hk/en/partner-schools.php>
- [https://www.eitp.gov.hk/sites/eitp/files/participating\\_schools/List\\_of\\_Participating\\_Schools\\_for\\_Organising\\_2015-16\\_Enriched\\_IT\\_Activities\\_Programme\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eitp.gov.hk/sites/eitp/files/participating_schools/List_of_Participating_Schools_for_Organising_2015-16_Enriched_IT_Activities_Programme_EN.pdf)
- [https://www.eitp.gov.hk/sites/eitp/files/participating\\_schools/List\\_of\\_Participating\\_Schools\\_for\\_2017-18\\_Enriched\\_IT\\_Activities\\_Programme\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eitp.gov.hk/sites/eitp/files/participating_schools/List_of_Participating_Schools_for_2017-18_Enriched_IT_Activities_Programme_EN.pdf)

## **8. How many proposals will be accepted?**

(Para. 4)The final number of accepted proposals will be subject to the number of proposals received and their merits, solely at the Government’s discretion.

## **9. Where can the government open data be found?**

Applicants can find the government open data at <https://data.gov.hk>.

## **10.Can the applicant be a joint-applicant?**

There should be a lead applicant. Cooperating partner(s) can be included in the application.

## **11.Can the proposed project commence at the end of 2021?**

There is no prescription of the exact commencement date. Having said that, the objective of the sponsored project is to fostering an IT learning atmosphere in secondary Schools to promote the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools programme. Considering the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools will be launched on 1 December 2020, having a late project commencement may not be desirable. Please also note that the extent of the proposed project meets the objectives of this invitation for sponsorship proposals is one of the assessment criteria of the marking scheme.

**12. Is there any expense limit for individual expenditure items?**

No, but the actual expenses under each of the expenditure items shall not exceed the approved budget for the corresponding item as set out in the budget plan in Section D11 of the application form without OGCIO's prior written approval. Besides, the budget should be reasonable and realistic and uphold the principle of value-for-money, which is an assessment criteria of the marking scheme.

**13. Can the successful applicant charge activity fee?**

Applicant should consider if there is a genuine need to charge activity fee. They shall provide details of project income (including but not limited to activity fee) (if any) in Section D11.2 of the application form.

**14. Can the successful applicant award the winners of the competition with cash prizes?**

There is no prescription in the Guide to Application on the form of prizes to award winners of the competition.

**15. Must cooperating partners be non-profit making organisations registered in Hong Kong?**

There is no prescription in the Guide to Application or Guide to Application for OGCIO Sponsorship that cooperating partners must be a non-profit making organisations or an organisation registered in Hong Kong.

**16. Can the successful applicant receive equipment/goods/services support from the cooperating partner(s)?**

(Para. 38) Yes, applicants shall provide details of sponsorship from sources other than OGCIO (if any) in Section D11.4 of the application form and submit relevant documentary proof. A successful applicant shall seek prior written approval from the Government before accepting sponsorship (in cash or in kind) from other parties.

**17. Must the successful applicant adhere to the procedures in paragraph 47(a)-(b) of the Guide for procurement?**

(Para. 47-48) Yes, the successful applicant shall exercise the utmost prudence in procuring equipment, goods or services for the proposed project and must adhere to the procedures in paragraph 47(a)-(b) of the Guide unless the OGCIO agrees otherwise. In the case of universities and other post-secondary institutions, they may adhere to their established/current standard procurement procedures.

**18. Will the salary of the existing manpower be sponsored?**

(Para. 26) No, only salary (including employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund) of the additional manpower directly incurred for the proposed project will be sponsored.

**19. Do the successful applicant need to advertise job vacancies in newspapers?**

Yes, when hiring staff for the approved project, the successful applicant is required to adhere to the Brief Description of the Best Practice Checklist (BPC) on Staff Administration published by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) ([https://cpas.icac.hk/EN/Info/Lib\\_List?cate\\_id=3&id=220](https://cpas.icac.hk/EN/Info/Lib_List?cate_id=3&id=220)), and one of the staff recruitment practices is to advertise job vacancies in newspapers and on the website of the organisation. For more details, please refer to Para 51 of the Guide to Application.

**20.Can the successful applicant hire non-Hong Kong residents for the approved project?**

There is no prescription in the Guide to Application that the successful applicant must hire Hong Kong or non-Hong Kong residents for implementation of the approved project.

**21.In case that more than 1 proposal submitted by the applicant is accepted, can the project staff be responsible for more than 1 proposal?**

This is not recommended. The applicant should critically review its manpower capacity for the proposed projects to implement them effectively and the proposed implementation plan should be reasonable and practical. Please also note that effectiveness and practicality are assessment criteria of the marking scheme.

**22.Can the competition require particular tools/services?**

There is no prescription that the competition must use a particular tool/service. At the same time, please note that the successful applicant shall organise vendor-neutral competition i.e. not doing any favour to promote any particular brand names or services for commercial purpose. Free commercial tools/services shall be provided to the participants, if these tools/services are required in the competition.)

**23.Can the proposed project activities be online?**

Yes.

**24.Can the successful applicant complete the application form in Chinese?**

Yes, except those fields that are mandatory to fill in in English (for example, Organisation Name in English, etc.).