

Format of the USP-IO SN Microgrant Project Proposal

The following information must be on the cover page of the proposal:

CONTACT INFORMATION

-
- Name of Affiliation (Company, Institution, University, etc)
 - Full Address of Affiliation (postal address, phone number, fax number, e-mail address)
-

TITLE OF PROJECT : _____

PROJECT TEAM LEADER : _____

PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS (S): _____

PROJECT SUPPORT STAFF : _____

DATE OF SUBMISSION : _____

SUMMARY OF BUDGET

Here, a list (not details) must be given, showing how the US\$900 will be used.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The body of the proposal should have the following sections, keeping in mind the goals and objectives of the USP-IOSN Microgrant Programme as outlined in Annex A:

- (1) [Introduction](#) - outline of projects, objectives of project.
- (2) [Background](#) - review of past work in the subject area, and any experience which the team has in the subject area.
- (3) [Development methods](#) - an account of the methodology underlying the project, and the methods and techniques to be used in its conduct. Where more than one team member are involved in a project, the roles of each should be clearly defined.
- (4) [Implications](#) - what this project will achieve in terms of promoting the wider use of free/open source software
- (5) [Time frame](#) - a realistic set of dates for completion of various stages of the project, noting that 6 months is the maximum duration allowed
- (6) [References](#) - literature cited in the text.
- (7) [Detailed budget](#) - the details of how the US\$900 is to be used must be given in this section.
- (8) [Copyright holder\(s\)](#) - state who the copyright holder(s) should be.
- (9) [License Agreement](#) - state under which FOSS license the software will be available. Details of such licenses could be obtained from FOSS organizations such as gnu.org, osi.org or creativecommons.org

In writing the text sections of the proposal, project teams should appreciate that it is in their best interests to be concise and avoid jargon wherever possible in order to be intelligible to those who do not necessarily share the team's detailed knowledge of a particular application domain.

The final project proposal must be typewritten and should include all references, diagrams and appendices referred to in the text.

Annex A

USP-IOSN Microgrant Programme:

Free/Open Source Software Microgrant Programme for Pacific Island Countries

Introduction

The rapid changes in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) has created new challenges and opportunities for developing countries. However, there are barriers to entry as access to ICT is severely limited in developing countries due to high costs. Developing countries have to contend with priorities such as health care, food, shelter, electricity and basic economic priorities amidst the challenges of expensive communication infrastructure, computer software and hardware.

Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) presents itself as a solution for lowering the cost barriers to ICT access. It provides an opportunity for these countries to adopt affordable software and solutions toward bridging the Digital Divide. FOSS is attracting a lot of attention not only in the developing countries but also in other parts of the world as its adoption goes beyond the cost aspects. It has already gained a strong foothold in the server software segment with leading market share worldwide in some categories. It is also gaining ground in desktop applications and it has been predicted that its use on the desktop will become significant in the near future.

The Pacific Island Countries face the same problems of high cost of access to ICT and would benefit from a greater awareness of the potential of FOSS. The development of human resources in the ICT sector with expertise in FOSS will also help these countries to take advantage of this new phenomenon in ICT. Towards this end, the International Open Source Network (IOSN), an initiative of UNDP's Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme (APDIP), in partnership with the University of the South Pacific (USP), proposes to launch the USP-IOSN Microgrant Programme: Free/Open Source Software Microgrant Programme for Pacific Island Countries in 2004. This Microgrant Programme is a competitive grants scheme made available to individuals or teams in the Pacific Island Countries.

An appointed committee will judge proposals on a competitive basis and award grants for carrying out the development of original and innovative software solutions. The grants are provided specifically for the development of software applications that will be released as Free or Open Source Software. These applications can be enhancements of existing applications or it can be a new applications. Software applications that run only on a proprietary platform will not be accepted. The USP-IO SN Microgrant Programme is expected to create greater awareness of FOSS solutions, build capacity in software development and accelerate the use of FOSS in the region.

Objectives

The general objective of the FOSS Microgrant Programme is to build capacity in software development particularly in the development of Free/Open Source Software (FOSS). The specific objectives of the programme are:

- To encourage innovation and creativity in the development of solutions to practical problems.
- To provide an incentive to enhance skills in the use of development tools for FOSS.
- To encourage participation and contribution to ongoing FOSS development efforts.
- To raise awareness of the FOSS development methodology.
- To foster the culture of sharing of source code and knowledge.

Benefits

There are a number of benefits and outputs. These include:

- Release of software applications with one of the Open Source Licenses
 - Tested and functioning as specified in the proposal
 - Source code as well as pre-compiled binaries for the supported platform made available
 - Programming language used should have an Open Source implementation
 - Documentation for the developer and user
- New software applications that will be released as Free or Open Source Software for all to share.

- Software that will enhance existing application or new.
- New software developments that can be used in development-related areas such as poverty reduction, GIS, health, poverty reduction, creative media and democratic and rural governance.
- Getting USP in the Open Source Software movement which is a milestone.
- To be part of a world movement in the use of Internet technologies and open standards will build and enhance USP's research reputation in this area.
- Encourage regional student research in a very innovative and new area.
- Create public and regional awareness in Open Source and research in ICT for economic and social development.