IRIS Digital Asset Call FY20

Introduction

In financial year 2020(FY20) IRIS is continuing to offer a modest amount funding for creating digital assets not included within the Ada Lovelace Centre (ALC). The primary intent is to provide funding for Digital Assets required to support the Particle Physics, Astronomy and Nuclear Physics (PPAN) sector and core mission of IRIS.

This process is intended to be lightweight and proposals are expected to be 2-3 pages in length.

Questions regarding this process should be addressed to the IRIS Project Manager philip.jackson@stfc.ac.uk

Scope

Proposals must be for Digital Asset projects.

A Digital Asset project must create or enhance a piece of software or digital material that can be clearly evidenced upon completion. This would typically mean; creating a new piece of software, enhancing existing software, configuring an instance of software, creating documentation.

A digital asset **cannot** be operations / maintenance of software or services, creating prototypes or administrative effort.

Proposals must be of a modest size

There will be **up to** £400,000 in total available for projects depending on proposals, hardware requirements and other budget constraints. Proposals are encouraged to be achievable within FY2020 (completion before March 2021), however multi-year proposals will be considered.

Timeline

The deadline for proposal submission is 21st February 2020. This will be followed by a clarification period where the review panel will be able to ask for further detail or clarification from submitters.

Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
Issue call for proposals	0 days	Wed 22/01/20	Wed 22/01/20
Receive all proposals	0 days	Fri 21/02/20	Fri 21/02/20
Clarification period	1 wk	Fri 21/02/20	Thu 27/02/20
Review proposals	2 wks	Fri 21/02/20	Thu 05/03/20
Confirm which proposals are accepted	0 days	Thu 05/03/20	Thu 05/03/20
Issue Grants	8 wks	Fri 06/03/20	Thu 30/04/20

How to Apply

A short proposal should be sent to the IRIS secretary john.kewley@stfc.ac.uk and Project Manager philip.jackson@stfc.ac.uk on or before 21st February 2020 to be considered.

Proposal Structure

Proposals should use the following structure:

1. Describe the un-met need including information on current state of the art and explanation of why the need is unmet.
2. Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed work and how does it relate to the IRIS community and strategic goals.
3. Describe the digital asset deliverables you propose to create and how they will meet the un-met need.
4. Provide a project plan for your proposed work including:
   a. Proposed start date
   b. Milestones on a quarterly (or more frequent) basis
   c. End date
   d. Costings including total funding requested
5. Why are you well placed to carry out this work?
6. Any other pertinent information you would like to be considered in your proposal.

Assessment

Proposals will be assessed by a small panel including the IRIS technical director then be presented to the IRIS delivery board as an ordered priority list to make a decision on funding.

Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be assessed with the following primary criteria in mind:

1. Relevance and strategic importance of the unmet need to the IRIS community.
2. Quality and validity of proposed solution (contextual)
3. Quality and credibility of the project plan, deliverables and costings.
4. Quality of proponents including track record & other aspects as appropriate.

Points of note

- This is intended to be a lightweight simple process, the IRIS Delivery Board and Directors reserve the right to use a fair and appropriate amount of discretion.
- Sites may only expect to bid for the costs of the staff time, and may not include any other items such as equipment, travel etc.
- The proposal must satisfy capitalisation accounting rules at both the proposing site and STFC.
- Grants will be issued to Universities using the standard JeS system
- Early engagement is encouraged.
- Upon project completion, proponents will be expected to evidence completion of their deliverables to close the project.