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| Future RAN: Diversifying the 5G Supply Chain Application Form |

1. How to Submit

This application form should be completed in accordance with the guidance provided in the Future RAN: Diversifying the 5G Supply Chain Competition Guidance document and supporting material.

Once completed, this document should be submitted in Microsoft Word format (contact [5g-diversification-strategy@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:5g-diversification-strategy@dcms.gov.uk) if this format will cause difficulties).

**Project leads should submit the following documents:**

1. This Project Application form (plus any allowed appendices)
2. Project Finance Form (one per project partner), signed
3. Copies of 2 years of the latest accounts for each partner
4. Summary Information

**Application Information (not scored)**

| **Project Name** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Lead Organisation** |  |
| **Project Lead Contact Name** |  |
| **Project Lead Contact Email** |  |

**Public description (not scored)**

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| **Describe your project in a way that will be understandable to the general public, and in a way that you are happy to see published.**  Please do not include any commercially sensitive information, e.g. intellectual property or patent details. We will publish this description. This could happen before you start your project.  We would also like to publish the partners involved in your proposal and the public description of the project, but this is not mandatory. Please also check the box below to confirm DCMS may publish a list of your proposed project partners with the description.  **400 words limit** | |
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| **DCMS may publish project partner list (organisation names only)** | ☐ |

1. Evaluated Questions

| **Section** | **Weighting** | **Ideal response** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A. Project description, objectives and outcomes** | 25% | A clear description of the project, stating its aims, its objectives and expected outcomes. The description should describe which elements of Open RAN and other technologies will be adopted and why, detail the project’s innovative elements and summarise the expected key impacts of the trials. The description should also outline the consortia and their roles, along with key members and who’s doing what. |
| **B. Outcome sustainability** | 30% | Provide a clear description of project outcomes and a reasoned and credible comparison of the benefits and costs of the project. Outlining how your successful trial will lead towards deployment of commercially-viable products and services sustained without further government grant funding. |
| **C. Delivery** | 25% | Evidence that the project plan and work package tasks have been thought through and that there is a robust approach to controlling the project in flight that is proportionate to the funding levels sought. |
| **D. Financial** | 20% | A clear overview and explanation of the costs of the programme and confidence that financial management and control of the project will deliver good value for money. |

In evaluating your responses, we value brevity and the maximum word limit is a guide, but please give sufficient evidence to support your bid. Tables will not be included in this word limit but should be only used where necessary. Additional diagrams should not be provided unless requested.

Tables will not be included in this word limit but should be only used where necessary. Additional diagrams should not be provided unless requested.

Your response should provide sufficient evidenceto support any assertions made and state any underlying principles or assumptions.

You should not include commercial sales messages about products or services being proposed.

**A Project description, objectives and outcomes (35%)**

Please provide a clear description of the project, stating its aims, its objectives and expected outcomes. The description should describe which elements of 5G and other technologies have been adopted and why, detail the project’s innovative elements and summarise the expected benefits of the project’s outcomes, including on telecoms network supply chain diversification. The description should also outline the consortia and their roles, along with key members and who’s doing what.

An ideal response to this section will provide a clear and compelling description understanding of the nature, scale and value of the proposed project, and why the proposed consortia is best placed to deliver it. It should address the following **three** questions.

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| **1. Describe the project's strategic aims highlighting which Open RAN challenges you plan to address? Including reference to competition objectives - 10% - 750 words (Triage Question)- 10%**   * Describe the main motivation for the project and the Open RAN challenges the project will address. Your description must identify genuine commercial drivers for success and the particular challenges that could be met using 5G capabilities, and highlight innovative aspects. * How will your solution impact the global and UK markets for Open RAN? How will it be differentiated from competing products or solutions? * State, in simple terms, what you will deliver in your project. |
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| **2. Describe in technical terms the system architecture and major technological components and innovations of the project including a diagram(s) - 10% - 750 words (Triage Question)** |
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| **3. Describe your approach to the project’s telecoms and cyber security? - 5% - 400 words**   * Describe how you will ensure your implemented solutions are safe and secure conforming to best practice. * What technical functionality is built into your system to appropriately manage and monitor telecoms and cyber security? * Where relevant, set out a Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) policy and process description. |
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**B Outcome sustainability, benefits and route to market (25%)**

Please provide a reasoned and credible picture of how the project’s expected outcomes might lead towards deployment of financially viable products including wider benefits of these telecoms network supply chain diversification.

An ideal response to this section will provide a reasoned and credible business case for the development of the project’s products. It should address the following **four questions.**

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| **1. Describe the project’s measurable outcomes - 5% - 400 words**   * Describe what the measurable impacts of your project will be by the end of the funding period and how you will evidence the impact of your project. * Describe your approach to the identification and dissemination of lessons learned and project outcomes and explain how it benefits the wider supply chain diversification ecosystem. |
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| **2. How will your project bring the product(s) or capability(s) closer to deployment and support the development of an 5G Open RAN ecosystem? If helpful, you may wish to use Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) to support this - 10% - 750 word limit**   * Describe how the project will contribute to developing the UK’s capabilities in the emerging 5G Open RAN environment. * Describe how your proposal will contribute to the development of an 5G Open RAN research, development and innovation ecosystem in the UK. * Highlight the key outputs of your project you will deliver in the first year and in the following period and how these will deliver against the challenges and use cases you have identified. * Describe how you intend to factor in the expected availability of the 5G services and devices featured in your proposals and how you intend to ensure the project will help develop the UK’s diverse supply chain in telecoms. |
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| **3. Building on your response to question 1, compare and contrast the project’s benefits to its costs. Please specify the project‘s measurable monetisable and non-monetisable benefits or explain how you will determine these as part of your project - 10% - 750 word limit.**   * How the project will deliver and measure benefits, these might include:   + Reducing the cost barrier for development and deployment of 5G Open RAN technologies, products and services.   + Accelerating 5G Open RAN technology maturity.   + Contribution to the development of 5G Open RAN standards.   + Increased opportunities for collaboration.   + Collaborating with DCMS to identify technical and commercial barriers to 5G Open RAN deployment.   + Developing and exploring new business models and applications, and potential benefits to businesses, including productivity improvements.   + Supporting the development of the local economy, including the growth of local businesses, particularly SMEs. * You should clearly identify what will be delivered before the Project Development Review at roughly the halfway point. * Note: You highly recommend that you begin to quantify some of these benefits as this will greatly support our benefits realisation efforts. |
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| **4. Describe your vision for the development and funding of the product(s) once the project is completed - 5% - 400 word limit**   * Describe how the project outputs will deliver value beyond the funding period, including how it could be further developed, scaled or improved beyond the timeframe or outside of the scope of this project. * Briefly detail any follow-on projects or future improvement opportunities currently envisaged. * Describe how this project will affect your longer term roadmap for new products and services. |
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**C Project Delivery (20%)**

Please provide a detailed plan for the delivery of the project. A good response will provide evidence that the project proposal is credible and that there is a robust approach to controlling the project that is proportionate to the funding levels sought.

It should address the following **three questions.**

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| **1. Provide a project plan: - 12.5% - 1000 word limit**   * Describe how the project will be delivered. * Outline key activities, including purpose and objectives of these activities. * Describe your mobilisation plan (from grant agreement to starting delivery). * Highlight key decision points. * Identify milestones, including grant payment milestones. * Gantt Chart (required) and other supporting materials can be provided as an annex. |
|  |
| **2. How will the project be governed and decisions made? - 5% - 400 word limit**   * Describe your proposed project management processes and governance structures * Describe the roles and responsibilities, skills and experience of all partners that are relevant to the approach you will be taking. In particular, identify the participant(s) who will be responsible for the management and operation of the testbed, and why they have the right skills and capabilities to deliver this. * Describe how your consortium will deliver this project. How will the organisations achieve more working together than if they were working individually? * Explain why the project lead is best placed to undertake this role. * Describe which legal entities will own any assets which are paid for by grant funding. * Describe the details of any vital external parties, including sub-contractors, who you will need to work with to successfully carry out the project. |
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| **3. Describe the most significant risks to the successful delivery of the project and how they will be managed (7.5%) - 600 word limit**   * Identify the main risks and uncertainties of the project and provide a risk analysis for the project content and approach, with a ranking of the risks and mitigations. Include any cost, timing, technical, commercial, managerial and environmental risks as well as other uncertainties (for example ethical issues, device/service availability issues) associated with the project. * Identify any internal and external dependencies, support or engagement that is required. Indicate what is agreed at the time of submission, and what is still to be agreed, for example any legal agreements or consents that need to be put in place to enable the works to be undertaken. |
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**D Financial (20%)**

Please explain the financial and value for money approach of the project.

A good response to this section will provide a clear overview and explanation of the costs of the programme and confidence in financial management and control of the project.

It should address the following **three questions.**

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| **1. Identify the major cost components and explain how these represent value for money - 10% - 600 word limit**   * Provide a narrative description summarising what each project participant will be delivering and the costs associated. * Describe the contributions in kind from each project participant (more detail in eligible project costs guidance). * Provide a cost breakdown of forecast expenditure on the project. Identify costs for the testbed and funded trials separately. Explain how the costs have been calculated. * Describe what network and any other infrastructure will be used in the project (if any), and how it will be sourced. * Describe any subcontractor costs and why they are critical to the project and are not grant receiving consortium members. * Identify the amount of DCMS grant and other funding you will set aside for working with the 5G Open RAN ecosystem. A minimum of 2-4% of grant funding is required * Provide an appendix separately identifying the following:   + The estimated project cost for each work package. Make clear the level of contribution from each project participant and the level of grant funding requested from DCMS.   + The spend profile by month, linking it to milestones and deliverables as needed. This should be fully consistent with the dates you have specified in the project plan. |
|  |
| **2. Explain how you will ensure value for money through your sourcing approach and supply chain - 5% - 400 word limit**   * Explain your sourcing approach. * Confirm that the grant amount requested includes any irrecoverable VAT, all fees and charges, and appropriate allowance has been made for any price inflation during the project period. |
|  |
| **3. Explain whether this project could go ahead without public funding and if so the difference public - funding would make. Why are you not able to wholly fund the project from your own or other private-sector funding? 5% - 400 word limit**   * Detail how the funding you require will allow you to undertake the project in terms of time to market and any other relevant factors, where you would otherwise be unable to. * Tell us whether the project could go ahead in any form without government funding, and if so, what difference would government funding make? Explain why this contribution would be beneficial to the project partners involved in the project, as well as the UK taxpayer (in terms of economic, social, environmental and other impacts). * Describe any direct follow-on funding from project partners. This should include any post-project research and development, further trialling and capital spending commitments by the project partners. * Describe any additional areas of added value not set out elsewhere in your proposal. |
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Note: As part of assessment of Section D, Assessors need to be confident the project is good value and can be delivered to the stated cost. They will consider:

* The response to these questions and the supporting financial information provided.
* The suitability of the proposed costs - costs considered excessive will be a cause for serious concern.
* The total amount of grant funding requested from DCMS. Whether there is an appropriate level of contributions from public sector organisations who are project partners.

1. Supplementary Information

Information provided here will be used to aid understanding of the assessed responses to the questions above.

**1 Finance Summary**

Please complete the following finance summary.

|  | 1. Organisation name (as officially listed e.g. on Companies House) | 2. Organisation registered postcode | 3. Entity registration number (e.g. Companies House) | 4. Enterprise category | 5. Postcode where majority of work will be done | 6. Costs to be funded by each organisation  (£) | 7. Funding sought from DCMS  (£) | 8. Other funding from public sector bodies  (£) | 9. Total  (£) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lead org. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 12 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 13 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 14 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partner 16 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [non-partner contributions 1] |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [non-partner contributions 2] |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [non-partner contributions 3] |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [non-partner contributions 4] |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total (£)** | | | | | |  |  |  |  |

Where organisations not requesting DCMS grant funding are contributing to the project, please enter their contributions in the *non-partner contributions* rows and populate

|  | **Information Request** | **For Completion**(guidance in italics) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2** | Please confirm that your consortium has reviewed and understands the Subsidy Control regime under which you intend to receive grant funding, and that your application complies with said rules? | *[Please state: ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ and which regime you intend to use]* |
| **3** | I confirm that the project has obtained a legal opinion and this bid would constitute allowable subsidy under the regime you intend to use. | *[Please state: ‘Yes’ or ‘No’, If No, when would this be expected to occur?]* |
| **4** | Has the financial contribution of each partner to the project been signed-off at an appropriate level within their organisation? | *[For each organisation please state: ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.*  *If ‘No’, when would this be expected to occur?]* |
| **5** | Can you confirm that your bid conforms to the DCMS High Risk Vendor (HRV) policy outlined in guidance. | *[Please state: ‘Yes’ or ‘No’]* |
| **6** | Do you require radio spectrum to carry out your project?  If yes, what spectrum do you require and have you yet secured it? | *[Please state: ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.*  *If not, please explain why not, and how you intend to secure this spectrum prior to the project commencing]* |
| **7** | Please provide the addresses of the key locations in the project? | |  | | --- | | **Location & address** | | *[Insert location name and address including postcode]* | |  | |
| **8** | Please confirm that the grant amount requested from DCMS includes any irrecoverable VAT, all fees and charges, and appropriate allowance has been made for any price inflation during the project period. | *[Enter ‘Confirmed’]* |
| **9** | Please confirm that if you are successful in this competition, the Project Lead will accept the terms and conditions in the draft grant funding agreement provided? We expect projects to sign within 6 weeks of notification of successful bid | *[Enter ‘Confirmed’]* |
| **10** | Confirm your project has reviewed and understand the 2-4% collaboration requirements outlined in the guidance. | *[Enter ‘Confirmed’]* |
| **11** | Please confirm whether partners have provided a letter of support or commitment to the project?  Please submit a copy of letter(s) as a PDF(s). | *[Enter ‘Confirmed’ and partner name]* |

**11 Other required attachments**

1. Project Finance Form (one per project partner), signed
2. Copies (.pdf) of 2 years of latest accounts for each partner