

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

100 Parliament Street

London

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**Open Networks R&D Fund Collaboration - Programme Participation Agreement**

In December 2020 the former Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport published the [Diversification Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/5g-supply-chain-diversification-strategy/5g-supply-chain-diversification-strategy) which identified R&D as a barrier to entry for new suppliers in the telecoms supply chain. This contained recommendations to commit to allocate grant funding to testbeds and trials of Open RAN technologies as part of a wide-ranging government response to the challenge of diversifying the UK’s supply market for radio equipment set out in the Diversification Strategy.

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) is now leading the Government’s approach to driving telecoms innovation, ensuring more secure and resilient networks and a more diverse and competitive supply chain.

An important success factor for the Open Networks R&D Fund collaboration will be how members of the UK ecosystem collaborate, share knowledge and join up, both within the UK and internationally. For this reason, DSIT has developed a series of principles called the "**Open Network R&D fund Collaboration - Participation Principles**” that embody the expectations of participants in the ecosystem. The principles are as follows:

1. Knowledge and outcomes are measured and shared
2. Collaboration takes place between projects and across the telecoms supply chain diversification ecosystem
3. Standards and Patents
4. Secure by design
5. Promoting the UK as a world leader in telecoms supply chain diversification

The full text of the principles is attached to this document.

This Participation Agreement (governed by the laws of England and Wales) is not itself a binding document. However, by becoming a signatory to this Participation Agreement, you are showing your commitment to the UK’s telecoms supply chain diversification ecosystem and to the principles.

As the competition evolves, so may the expectations of the ecosystem participants, so we may need to amend the principles from time to time. DSIT intends on consulting with signatories before making changes to the principles.

Please sign this document where indicated over the page and return a signed original to DSIT. Your signed version of the Participation Agreement may be published online and DSIT (and its delivery partners) may include your name and logo in promotional materials.

Yours sincerely

Keith Bullock,

Programme Director, Future Network Programmes

**Acknowledgement and agreement to the Open Network R&D fund Collaboration Programme Participation Principles**

By signing below, you acknowledge and agree (either individually, if applicable, or on behalf of the organisation stated below) that you agree to the terms set out in the collaboration Participation Agreement. If you are signing on behalf of an organisation, you warrant that you are an authorised signatory for the organisation stated.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of organisation / individual |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Signature: |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Name:  *(Only if signing on behalf of an organisation; if not, leave blank)* |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Position:  *(Only if signing on behalf of an organisation; if not, leave blank)* |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Date of signature: |  |  |

**OPEN NETWORKS R&D FUND - PROGRAMME PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES**

**Principle 1: Knowledge and outcomes are measured and shared**

* Signatories to the Programme Participation Agreement (Participants) are expected to collect and share knowledge regarding their activities and experiences in connection with the Open Networks R&D Fund (“the Fund”), including lessons learned, case studies and other knowledge gained in the projects.
* Participants are expected to monitor and evaluate the progress and success of their projects and to share that information with other projects within the Fund.
* The aim of this activity is to inform the Open Networks R&D ecosystem, seek feedback and dialogue, build a pool of knowledge and expertise, surface common challenges, boost efficiency in other projects, and reach a wider audience than if knowledge and outcomes are shared by the government alone.

**Principle 2: Collaboration takes place between projects and across the Open Networks R&D ecosystem**

* Participants are expected to work with government and other projects and initiatives in an open and collaborative manner, to leverage the work of the Fund and encourage increased inward investment and the timely deployment and take up of telecoms in the UK.
* Participants are expected to participate in and contribute to the UK Telecoms Innovation Network (UKTIN) and to encourage other organisations to join UKTIN and to participate in the Programme’s activities.

**Principle 3: Standards and Patents development**

* Activities under the Programme, including projects, are expected to build on and apply emerging international standards and also standards, protocols and ways of working adopted by the Fund ecosystem in the UK, with the aim of achieving openness and interoperability.
* Participants should outline how their proposals could contribute to DSIT’s objectives to contribute to global standards development and advance IPR generation, as outlined in the competition guidance.
* Participants should identify which technical standards the project will address, be impacted by, or that the participants may seek to influence, remain in dialogue with DSIT on standards and IPR issues, and seek to engage with HMG-led coordination initiatives where relevant.
* Participants should be willing to offer licences for any Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) to other and future DSIT projects on Fair, Reasonable, And Non-Discriminatory terms at an appropriate point, consistent with the Open Networks Ecosystem Competition Guidance.

**Principle 4: Secure by design**

* A crucial feature of all activities under the Programme, including projects, is maintaining the security and integrity of the technology and facilities being funded. We are partnering with the National Cyber Security Centre to help provide guidance on standards and cyber security.
* The aim of this activity is to enshrine security in the deployment of telecoms products and services in the UK, and to ensure that future telecoms networks are secure in support of the government's aim to make the UK the safest place to live and do business online.

**Principle 5: Promoting the Open Networks R&D Programme and the UK as world-leading**

* Participants are expected to be advocates for the Programme (at home and internationally): working together to put the UK and UK businesses in the best position possible to enjoy the efficiency and productivity benefits of telecoms diversification.
* This may involve providing case studies, and participation in events or publicity activities, to support and promote the Programme and UKTIN.