**Call for Institutional Expressions of Interest (EOI) -**

**Giga Connectivity Credits**

**Date of the EOI: 7th July 2021**

**Closing Date of the EOI: 23rd July 2021**

**INTRODUCTION**

Giga ([www.gigaconnect.world](http://www.gigaconnect.world/)) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified companies/institutions to rapidly describe, prototype, document, and launch a first version of a Giga Connectivity Credit to help connect schools to the internet in a Giga country\*\*.

This Connectivity Credit would take inspiration from the work done around carbon markets, and also from the accountability and transparency offered through blockchain technology. It would create a set of incentives and linkages to ‘tokenize a gigabyte’ and ensure that a market exists for rural connectivity providers.

You can read an abstract of the Connectivity Credit proposal in [www.gigaconnect.org/credits](http://www.gigaconnect.org/credits).

\*\* Preference will be given to companies registered in: Botswana, Sierra Leone, Brazil, Rwanda.

Consideration will be given to companies registered in: Nigeria, South Africa and other Giga countries

**BACKGROUND**

According to the ITU, nearly 3.7 billion people remain unconnected from the internet, and by extension, unconnected to digital products and services that could dramatically improve their lives. Approximately 29% of 18-24 year-olds, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa, do not have digital access (~360m people) and thereby lack access to the same information, opportunity and choice as their more-connected peers. Unless things change, a big part of this rapidly growing group of young people is in danger of being left behind, excluded from the modern digital world.

Giga combines UNICEF’s focus on children and education with ITU’s experience in connectivity policy, to ensure that every school in the world has access to the internet – and every young person has access to information, opportunity, and choice.

In addition to connecting the more than 1 billion young people that Giga is aiming to serve through their schools, last mile infrastructure can also be used to allow for other public (and private) growth of internet access.

**PURPOSE AND MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE EOI**

The goal of the assignment is to tokenize a Gigabyte by describing, prototyping, documenting, and launching the first version of a Giga Connectivity Credit in a specific country\*\*. For this, the main activities include:

* Get 100 unconnected schools, at least one Mobile Network Operator (MNO) (or other ISP), the relevant Government stakeholders (particularly the ICT regulatory authority, the Ministry of ICT, and the Ministry of Finance/Economy), and Giga linked up to measure school connectivity and other ESG-related factors (i.e. energy usage of connectivity provider, use of gigabytes, distance from backhaul) through a blockchain-based token.
* Prototype and deliver an open-source marketplace for the Connectivity Credit / Token involving main stakeholders (above) and demonstrate the capabilities of a Connectivity Credit (or Token) marketplace.
* Document all of this thoroughly, as preparation to pitch for a further round of funding (i.e. implementing the working prototype system in a specific country, that Giga can then help scale).
* Build the relationships with all the ‘users,’ with the support of the Giga global team, so that this is a win-win and an exciting new way to monitor and incentivize extension of rural and global connectivity.

Through the assignment, the team would work fairly independently, with advisory support of the Giga HQ team as well as Giga (and/or UNICEF and ITU leads) in country, and be accountable to Giga leadership for final deliverables.

The resulting methodology and algorithms will be open (and open source) and available to the public according to appropriate creative commons or open-source terms.

Several teams may be engaged in similar work, simultaneously – mutual learning / support / cooperation will be coordinated through Giga HQ.

**TIMELINE AND PERIOD OF ASSIGNMENT**

6 months period starting as soon as the formal solicitation and contracting processes are completed.

**DESIRED TEAM COMPOSITION, PROFILE AND SKILLS**

**Qualified companies/institutions that have key personnel with the competencies below are invited to submit an EOI.**

* **Lead**: At least 5 years of professional experience with strong ESG background, and understanding of environmental approval models from oil and gas or telecommunications or built environment. System dynamics for ESG negotiations and partnerships, implementing government engagement strategies and deep reporting knowledge for ESG related activities and markets.
* **Licensing and Regulatory Expert.** Strong knowledge of national telcom and energy regulatory practices, as well as technology and innovation regulatory work being done by the government (i.e. fintech sandboxes, spectrum licensing innovations, etc.)
* **Network Design Specialist.** Experience with communication network design, product pricing (data packages, gb, etc) and pricing elasticity as well as consumer dynamics in selected market.
* **Blockchain / token economics lead.** Understanding of setup for a crypto economy, experience building open-source blockchain products, and managing a blockchain developer. Experience with setting up token launch (fair launch) and working within L1 ecosystems.
* **Blockchain developer.** Reporting to blockchain lead, experience with rapid, iterative product development on open-source blockchains. Experience with token-related projects. Ethereum a plus.

If the company doesn’t have all the competencies above, they are encouraged to partner with others.

In addition, the company must be registered in one of the implementation countries.

**SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

Interested institutions are encouraged to complete and submit the EOI form provided in the following page. EOIs should be sent to **nzurutuza@unicef.org** and copy **aadelidaran@unicef.org** no later than **23:59 NY time on Friday 23rd July 2021.**  Please quote **“Giga Connectivity Credit”** as the subject in your correspondence. Responses received without a duly completed form or an incomplete form will not be considered. If you have any questions about this EOI, please email **nzurutuza@unicef.org** and copy **aadelidaran@unicef.org** .

This EOI does not constitute a solicitation. We do not require bids or proposals at this stage; we merely seek your expression of interest in participating in the tender. A response to this Call for Expression of Interest does not automatically ensure that you will be selected to participate in the tender. A final TOR will be provided to those vendors invited to submit a full proposal by way of a Request for Proposal for Services (RFPS).

UNICEF reserves the right to change or cancel requirements at any time during the EOI and/or solicitation process. UNICEF also reserves the right to require compliance with additional conditions as and when issuing the final tender document.

Following this EOI, institutions will be short-listed and invited to tender for Request for Proposal for services (RFPS). More detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) will be sent to short-listed institutions in the form of RFPS. The RFPS will remain open for 4 weeks from the day of issue.

**Expression of Interest Form**

Please fill-in the form and submit to above email addresses

Full Name of Institution:

Type of Entity:

User Salutation: Dr. Ms.  Mr.

First Name:

Last Name:

Job Title/Role in Entity:

Phone Number:

(please include country & city code)

Alternate Phone Number:

(please include country & city code)

Contact E-mail Address:

City:

State:

Postal Code:

Country:

Mailing Address:

Address of Internet Website:

Alternate Contact Person:

**Please answer the following mandatory questions:**

**1.**  Provide information with an overview of the proposed methodology/solution and that will enable us to determine whether your organization has the capacity to describe, prototype, document, and launch a first version of a Giga Connectivity Credit. In no more than three pages, information should include:

 Organizational structure including any associates, partner firms, etc. and infrastructure in place to support the work

 The year in which the organization started operating

 Staff capacity, both technical and support staff (to the extent possible, attach CVs of prospective team members, pending confirmation of their availability)

**2.**  Provide information which will enable us to determine whether your organization has relevant experience and specialized knowledge. In no more than two pages, the information should include previous relevant projects have you led (or contributed to) that addressed issues of the scope of work that outlined in this EOI;

**3.** Confirmation that your entity:

 Has no on-going litigation with the UN;

 Is not currently removed/invalidated or suspended by the United Nations or UN system organizations.