



TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Emergency Call for Proposals:
Digital Solutions for Governments to Tackle the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic in
Africa**

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Theme: | Improve and accelerate the African governments response to the challenges of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic |
| Eligible applicants: | African*1 startups and innovative SMEs or other African entities |
| Amount of the fund: | Open Bid |
| Client: | Smart Africa Secretariat 9th Floor, Bloc C, Makuza Peace Plaza, 10 KN4 Avenue, Kigali, Rwanda +250 788-300-581/ 0784013646 PO Box: 4913 info@smartafrica.org www.smartafrica.org |
| RFP#: | 2020/SAS/COVID19/RESPONSE |
| Release date: | 25 th March 2020 |
| Closing date: | 2 April 2020 12:00 pm (Local time, Kigali) |
| Contact | For any questions or enquiries, please write to: covid19@smartafrica.org |

¹ Headquartered in Africa, of which main technologies have been genuinely created within teams operating in Africa

1. ABOUT THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

COVID-19 has reached 42 African countries, Africa has yet relatively less been affected by this deadly epidemic compared to other continents, with 1,200 cases and 37 deaths. However, recent data from other countries show that numbers can grow exponentially in a relatively short amount of time.

In response to COVID-19, African countries have taken a series of strong responses such as increasing awareness of hands hygiene, barring entry to arrivals from badly-hit countries, mandatory quarantine of passengers from affected regions, prohibiting mass gatherings, physical distancing, allowing people to work from home, cities lockdowns and shutting down schools.

Africa faces specific challenges in the coordination of its response, including weaker health systems, proliferation of informal economy and urban crowding, which can pose additional affects efforts to combat the highly infectious disease.

COVID-19 being highly contagious, Africa must take the window of opportunity offered to her to take vigorous measures to contain the propagation of the Coronavirus epidemic.

In order to face this unique crisis, by its magnitude and its impact on society, through this call for projects, the Smart Africa Secretariat wishes to support digital health services projects that aim at improving and accelerating the African governments response to the challenges of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Your project will therefore address the following issues:

- Assess individual risk and guide decision making;
- Assist African populations in finding nearby testing sites;
- Provide reliable updates and alerts from public health authorities;
- Report on community status;
- Track and report transmissions.

2. ABOUT SMART AFRICA

Smart Africa is a bold and innovative commitment from African Heads of State and Government to accelerate sustainable socio-economic development on the continent, ushering Africa into a knowledge economy through affordable access to Broadband and usage of Information and Communications Technologies.

The Transform Africa Summit held in Kigali, Rwanda on 28th-31st October 2013 culminated in the adoption of the Smart Africa Manifesto document by seven (7) African Heads of States in which they committed to provide leadership in accelerating African socio-economic development through ICT's.

On 30th-31st January 2014, the Smart Africa Manifesto was endorsed by all Heads of State and Governments of the African Union at the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the

African Union in Addis Ababa. This development places the Manifesto at the heart of the ICT agenda in Africa beyond just the 7 original signatories at the Summit to all the 54 African countries.

The Smart Africa Alliance has since grown to include 30 African countries that represent 750+ million people.

The Smart Africa Manifesto aims to put ICT at the center of national socio-economic development agenda of member countries; improve access to ICT especially Broadband; to improve accountability, efficiency and openness through ICT promoting the introduction of advanced technologies in telecommunication; to put Private Sector first; and to leverage ICT to promote sustainable development.

3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The Smart Africa Secretariat will not take into consideration proposals that do not comply with the following technical criteria:

- ✓ Must be a solution available via web, application (iOS, Android, Windows), [SMS](#), USSD, and other messaging platforms;
- ✓ Must collect data from diverse points such as individual smartphones or terminals at public facilities (e.g. testing terminals at border controls, testing terminals by medical authorities, etc.);
- ✓ Must have a reporting dashboard accessible to the admin with relevant data – specific rights depending on the status of the admin (e.g. public authorities, medical authorities) will be established;
- ✓ Anonymized data (no personal information including name, ID, address recorded on the system) generated by use of the solution can be published in real-time through a database accessible with an API and map interface on a public website for public health authorities to monitor;
- ✓ Must provide reliable informative content available in local languages in various formats (written – vocal with Interactive Voice Recognition technology) – e.g. prevention practices, isolation practices, closest health facilities, additional one-on-one support, etc.;
- ✓ Must have assessment and guidance compliant to the World Health Organization (“WHO”), national and local public health guidelines and include exposures, symptoms of illness, and underlying health status.

Guidance can include physical distancing, self-triage for isolation, self-monitoring, and further testing and evaluation, possibly with the support of virtual call centers. The assessment

feature shall be made available as a widget so that other organizations can embed it in their portals and websites.

The project can be developed in close collaboration with leading public health agencies, medical associations, research and academic institutions, and leading technology companies.

On relevant solutions in other fields other than the aforementioned project, Smart Africa will take into account similar criteria applicable to such solution (i.e. availability via web, app, USSD and messaging platforms, respect of data privacy principles, reliability of content and availability on various formats in local languages, etc.).

The development of any solution needs to take into account that it will be hosted locally in data servers available in the national jurisdictions of Member countries that will implement the solution.

4. SELECTION PROCESS

The selection of the startup or innovative SME solution(s) shall be done in two (2) phases.

The first phase consists of short-listing the entity based on the relevance of the project to tackle the Coronavirus outbreak in the member countries of the Alliance, as per an assessment of the concept note submitted and the reliability of the solution for a speedy scalability plan. The short-list will be presented to member States to gather their interest, requests and feedbacks in implementing the solution in their respective countries.

The second phase consists of selecting one (1) to three (3) projects in the shortlist of pre-selected projects based on team experience and proven capacity to implement the project.

Additionally to the funding available to the implementation of the winning project, Smart Africa will possibly be able to facilitate access to other funding and investment sources for short-listed projects.

5. INDICATIVE TIMELINE

The selected projects must be ready to carry out implementation at scale within 1 week from the date of signing the contract.

6. ENTITY PROFILE AND EXPERIENCE

The selected entity(ies) will be required to assemble their team and any additional human resources as deems necessary in consideration of the implementation needs.

The work shall be carried out by highly qualified professionals (i.e. web-developers, designers, product managers, project managers and any other relevant professionals).

7. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A specific outline must be followed in order to facilitate the Smart Africa Secretariat's review and evaluation of the responses received.

A response to this call for project must include the following sections in the order listed:

- a)** A cover letter confirming the entity's interest to answer the call for projects
- b)** Technical proposal containing the following content:
 - Concept note of the innovative solution(s);
 - Technical specifications;
 - Team experience;
 - Work Plan / Schedule for an implementation in member countries of the Alliance;
 - Mission team experience/profiles;
 - Implementation plan with budget and timeline.
- c)** Any other relevant documentation as an additional value proposition.

8. SUBMISSION PROCESS

Complete applications soft copies must be sent **before April 2nd, 2020, at 5pm**, by e-mail at **covid19@smartafrica.org** with an e-mail title marked as follow: **"#TBD": "Emergency Call for Proposals: Digital Solutions for Governments to Tackle the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic in Africa"**.

9. RIGHTS RESERVED

This RFP does not obligate the Smart Africa Secretariat (SAS) to complete the RFP process. SAS reserves the right to amend any segment of the RFP prior to the announcement of a selected firm. SAS also reserves the right to remove one or more of the services from consideration for this contract should the evaluation show that it is in SAS's best interest to do so. SAS also may, at its discretion, issue a separate contract for any service or groups of services included in this RFP. SAS may negotiate a compensation package and additional provisions to the contract awarded under this RFP.

Late proposals will be rejected.

The proposals shall be opened on the same day in public session at 1:00 pm the day after date of closure in a Smart Africa Secretariat online conference room and interested bidders will be receiving an update on the decision taken by the bidding committee upon completion of the selection.

10. VALIDITY

Proposals and quotes must remain valid for a period of 180 days after the date of closing noted above. After, the closing date and time, all proposals received by the Smart Africa Secretariat become its property.

11. ENQUIRIES

Any enquiries will only be received and addressed 1 day or more prior to the bid submission deadline. Prospective respondents who may have questions regarding this RFP may submit their enquiries to **covid19@smartafrica.org**.