



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Request for proposals from Internet Peering Communities in Africa for supplementary funding toward Internet Transit connectivity and capability to be used for downloading content onto CDN Cache(s) connected to the IXP, for the benefit of the participating Peers.**

### Background

At the end of 2018, there were 45 IXPs located in 40 cities across 33 countries in Africa. Many of these IXPs were established within the last decade and have demonstrated significant growth during this period in connecting traditional operators. The next phase of IXP growth will require even more innovative approaches to attract non-traditional operators and in particular content producers who are unaware of their value proposition in the Internet interconnection ecosystem.

As a way forward, IXP operators will need to enhance their level of collaboration and cooperation with their members, partners and community as a whole, to address some of the barriers that may inhibit content creation and localization.

In this regard, the Internet Society in partnership with Facebook are aiming to support at least five internet peering communities (coordinated through IXP representatives) in Africa with supplementary funding for Internet Transit connectivity to be used to connect and serve **ANY** CDN Cache(s) connected to the IXP.

### Objective of the Call for Proposals

The overall objective of this initiative is to demonstrate the value and potential impact of locally accessible content achieved through collaboration. We hope that this will further catalyze growth of locally available Internet content at IXPs in Africa. By supporting the initial connection of **ANY** Content Cache(s), the community will enjoy the availability of more content that could be served locally instead of from more expensive, less performant sources.

### Expected Results

The expected results on the specific objectives of this call for proposal, is for the selected internet peering communities to develop a collaborative and sustainable model for seeding the growth of locally available and accessible Internet content.

### Eligibility Criteria

Applications from operational Internet Exchanges Points (IXPs) in Africa; or from Internet peering communities must demonstrate that they are associated with and have the support of their respective IXP in Africa, that meets the following criteria;

- Must have at least 75% of the ISP/operator networks in the domestic market connected or contractually agreed to connect to the IXP
- The IXP should operate under the commonly accepted IXP Best Practices including;



- Provide neutral operations (ownership and management)
  - Operate OSI Layer 2 topology (Switched peering infrastructure)
  - Have an updated website with relevant information (Peers, contact info, etc)
  - Available aggregate traffic statistics for at least 3 months
  - Stable and secure operating environment
  - Non-profit with publicly available information on its governance and leadership structure
- Must have an operational sustainability plan
  - Must have appropriate admin and technical human resource(s) (shared, part or full-time)
  - Active in, and have a record of, promoting peering and interconnection at the local level.
  - Must agree to collaborate with ISOC on relevant impact improvement and performance analysis initiatives

### Evaluation and Selection of Applications

- Present a cost sharing formula to cover the transit link monthly recurrent fees
- Evidence that more than 50% of the peers have endorsed the cost sharing formula
- Existing or proposals under consideration from local operators where the per Mbps rate of the shared cost is lower than the per Mbps rate of International transit capacity.
- Verifiable data of a responsive technical operations and support team
- Number of member and community events organized in the last 12 months
- Hosting other value-added services i.e DNS Root Servers instances, Atlas Anchor/Probe, local open source mirrors, NTP servers, etc.

### Support Period

The qualifying applicants will receive financial support, in form of a percentage of the total monthly cost share (for the transit capacity), to complement other member's monthly payments. The duration of the support will be limited to a maximum of 36 months. However, the period and monthly percentage, of the financial support, may vary depending on the cost share rate negotiated by the peering community with the transit provider.

### Additional Information

Some members of the Africa IXP Association (Af-IX) have successfully implemented a cost sharing formula, for Cache fill link, using the template available here <https://www.af-ix.net/resources/2017/06/template-shared-cache-public-tender>

Applicants are encouraged to consider the above template as a guideline to developing their own cost sharing formula.



### **Important to Note**

This request for proposal has no requirement or preference on the Cache(s) provider considered for support under this initiative. Therefore, the peering community is free to choose and decide on **ANY** CDN Cache(s) they wish to host and request for support.

### **Timeline**

This is an open-ended call for proposals which will close after 5 peering communities have been selected and awarded during the course of 2019.

Applications will be reviewed and considered within 20 days of submission.

### **Questions and Clarifications**

All questions, comments and clarifications should be sent to [cache-fill@isoc.org](mailto:cache-fill@isoc.org)

We look forward to receiving your proposals.