

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)**

**“APT Small Grants”**

**Publication Date:** Dec 3, 2015

**1.0 Summary Data**

- 1.1 Funder (Prime Funder):** Internews (US Department of State)
- 1.2 Funder Project Name:** APT
- 1.3 Announcement Type:** Initial
- 1.4 RFA Number:** RFA-GX1456-1
- 1.5 CFDA Number:** 19.345
- 1.6 Application Submission Deadline:** 1/6/2016, 5:00, EST

**2.0 Program Overview**

**2.1 Project Goal:**

The goal of Internews’ activities globally is to support the development and deployment of pluggable transports. Internews’ activities are funded by an award from the US Department of State (DOS).

**2.2 Project Description:**

Through the Adaptive Persistent Tunneling (APT) project, Internews is contributing to the development of cutting-edge circumvention technologies and the applications they serve by enhancing the functionality of these tools to avoid detection and monitoring, while traversing hostile firewalls. The goal of APT is to build and support a wider, more diverse community of tool developers around the pluggable transport concept.

**2.3 Scope of Activities:**

The focus of these grants will be scoped to support projects seeking the following outcomes:

- \* Re-working existing obfuscation methods to fit within the PT model, including providing the generated transport to the community
- \* Modifying existing tools or services to support obfuscation by implementing PT support
- \* Upgrading existing obfsproxy implementations to current models, using the APT-supported pluggable transports methodology documentation
- Deploy community-developed transports based on the APT-supported PT Roadmap

*Construction activities will not be considered for award.*

**3.0 Subaward Information**

**3.1 Subaward Amount:**

Under this RFA, Internews anticipates awarding five (5) cost-reimbursable subgrants, each ranging from USD \$5,000 to \$50,000. Under no circumstances will Internews consider an application for an award exceeding \$50,000.

**3.2 Subaward Duration:**

Internews anticipates subgrants awarded under this RFA to have a performance period of 6 months.

**3.3 Eligibility Information:**

Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be considered eligible for a subaward resulting from this RFA:

1. Be in good standing in performance and reporting under any previous subgrants, from Internews or any other organization, where applicable.
2. Be willing to enthusiastically participate in technical and staff capacity building offered by Internews or its consortia partners
3. Be able and willing to demonstrate the organizations' commitment to continuing proposed activities after the subgrant period ends
4. Be able to meet all reporting requirements and deadlines
5. Be able to demonstrate how this work is crucial to promoting freedom of expression, and/or improved access to information.

### 3.4 Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a technical committee on a range of selection criteria. Each application will receive a score, with a maximum potential score of 100 points. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

These proposals will be judged based on their feasibility, focus, and in-country impacts.

Applications will be evaluated by a technical committee, with input from DRL, according to the following criteria that follows an abridged format of DRL's Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI):

#### 1) Quality of Program Idea and associated activities (40 Points)

- \* Project advances the state of pluggable transport centric obfuscation in censorship circumvention tools by adding PT support to additional tools or by adding additional transports to the community
- \* Preference will be given to projects which are (or become) open source, build in peer-review or security audit components, or provide new transport technology back to the community.
- \* Increases the number of pluggable transports developed
- \* Increases the number of USG-supported online tools developed or improved to maintain an open internet
- \* Increases the number of organizations assisted with software development to bring obfuscation to new markets
- \* Increases the number of digital security organizations updated or consulted with about the enhancements to circumvention technologies
- \* Increases the number of monthly users of any pluggable transport
- \* Increases the daily average users of any pluggable transport
- \* Increases the number of digital models of country censorship created
- \* Contributes to the development of Pluggable Adversaries
- \* Increases the number of monthly users of the Dust pluggable transport
- \* Increases the number of pluggable transports evaluated
- \* Increases the number of pluggable transport implementation guides created
- \* Increases the number of monthly visitors to PluggableTransports.info
- \* Increases the number of apps that integrate with Pluto
- \* Increases the number of pluggable transports brought to the Android market with Pluto
- \* Increases the number of privacy-enhancing libraries or apps released or significantly upgraded for Android
- \* Increases the number of publications on technical guidance or blockers to implementing pluggable transports on iOS
- \* Contributes to the progress of Orbot on iOS
- \* Contributes to the progress of Pluto on iOS
- \* Increases the number of browsers created for mobile devices that enhance privacy
- \* Increases the number of downloads for Tor Browser Bundle for Android
- \* Contributes to the progress of Tor Browser for iOS

#### 2) Program Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives (20 Points)

- \* Clear and achievable plan of work
- \* Deliverable deadlines are within the scope of the APT project timeline

- 3) Institution's Record and Capacity; Program Monitoring and Evaluation (20 Points)
- \* Organization has demonstrated commitment to supporting the censorship circumvention community
  - \* Ability to meet all reporting requirements and deadlines under a subgrant agreement
- 4) Cost Effectiveness (20 Points)
- \* Demonstrates commitment to continuing proposed activities after the subgrant period
  - \* Ability to contribute cost share

Subawards shall be made to the respondent whose application is responsive to the RFA and is most advantageous to the project, all factors considered.

### 3.5 Additional Considerations:

#### 3.5.3 DUNS Number

Prior to receiving any subgrant of USD \$25,000 or more, selected applicants must register for and receive a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. A DUNS number may be obtained from D&B by telephone (currently 866-705-5711) or the Internet (currently at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/>).

It takes approximately 1 day to 1 week to receive a DUNS number upon submitting the request to D&B.

#### 3.5.5 Indirect Costs

Selected subrecipients will be eligible for reimbursement of indirect costs if they:

1. Have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement from their cognizant agency, or
2. Accept a *de minimis* indirect cost rate of 10% applied to Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). MTDC is defined as all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, employee and consultant travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward or subcontract (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards or subcontracts under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, *participant support costs*\* and the portion of each subaward or subcontract in excess of \$25,000.

\**Participant support costs* are direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects.

#### 3.5.6 Substantial Involvement:

Internews may retain substantial involvement in subgrants awarded as a result of this RFA. Substantial involvement may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Approval of the Recipient's Implementation Plans
2. Approval of Specified Key Personnel
3. Internews and Subrecipient Collaboration:
  - a. Collaborative involvement in selection of advisory committee members
  - b. Concurrence on the substantive provisions of lower-tier subawards
  - c. Approval of the subrecipient's monitoring and evaluation plans

#### 3.5.7 Cost Principles:

Proposal budgets will be reviewed in accordance with, and selected subrecipients' costs will be subject to, the cost principles that apply to them to assure reasonableness, allocability, and allowability:

1. Not for Profit organizations:
  - [2CFR200](#) Subpart E, Cost Principles
2. For Profit organizations:

- [48CFR31.2 Federal Acquisition Regulations](#) (FAR) and [48CFR731.2](#)
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### 3.5.8 Subgrant Administration:

The following regulations and provisions, at minimum, will apply to subawards issued as a result of this RFA.

- [2CFR200](#) and [2CFR600](#) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards
- [US Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions](#)

### 3.5.9 Reporting

Subgrants awarded as a result of this RFA will include programmatic and financial reporting requirements. Narrative and financial reports will be submitted, per Internews' judgement, on a quarterly basis.

## 4.0 Application Information

### 4.1 Application Content Requirements:

Application(s) must meet the following requirements:

1. Include a signature page which bears the signature, title and full contact information of the authorized representative of the respondent, including email address and phone number.
2. Include a completed Subgrant Application Template.
3. Include a Detailed Budget, using the Subgrants Detailed Budget Template.

### 4.2 Application Submission Requirements:

Applications must be submitted by email to [bwiley@internews.org](mailto:bwiley@internews.org).

Individual messages may not exceed 2.5MB. The subject line must include the words "Response to RFA APT". The documents constituting the application must be included as attachments. The email must list and describe the documents to be included as parts of the application. If more than one message is required to transmit the application, each message must be identified as part of a multi-part submission. (E.g. "message 1 of 3")

Any portion of the application containing confidential or proprietary information should be clearly marked within the application itself either by highlighting or italics. The email must describe specifically how these sections are identified.

## 5.0 Award Notification and Responses:

All applications submitted will be acknowledged within two (2) weeks and will note the documents submitted. The respondent is responsible for ensuring and confirming that the emails comprising the application are received by the Internews representatives indicated in the Summary above.

Successful respondent(s) will be notified of selection within sixty (60) working days following the deadline for submission of applications.

The successful respondent(s) must confirm the application and acceptance of the selection within fourteen (14) working days of selection notification or the selection will be withdrawn due to non-responsive respondent and offered to the next most qualified respondent.

Once selection is finalized, unsuccessful applicants will be notified that an award has been made.

NOTICE OF SELECTION OF THE APPLICATION IS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS A CONTRACT OR SUBGRANT AWARD. Once the selection is confirmed, a final subgrant agreement will be negotiated and signed with the successful respondent, subject to prime funder approval, environmental clearances, and successful vetting of eligibility.

## 6.0 Inquiries:

All questions regarding this RFA should be directed via email to [bwiley@internews.org](mailto:bwiley@internews.org).

End of RFA