**EACDS Terms of Reference**

**185: Frontier Technologies: Livestreaming, Futures and Foresighting**

1. **Background** 
   1. Frontier technologies for international development are new or emerging innovations that have the potential to impact on economic, social and political activities in ways that can drive widespread changes and positive impacts on development goals. The Frontier Technology Review process commissioned by DFID in early 2016 highlighted a range of technologies and approaches which are emerging at pace and which represent new opportunities to achieve development objectives, while at the same time shifting the mindset, skills base, culture, structure and strategy of the organisation.
   2. While harnessing frontier technologies holds significant potential to deliver positive development impact for DFID programmes, a number of issues make it challenging for the organisation to engage more systematically with, and channel the benefits of latest frontier technology innovations towards, its objectives. These include a shortage of technology skills in-house; the absence of a funding mechanism to internalise and mainstream innovations into wider DFID programming; and a lack of DFID Adviser time for “non-core” activities.
   3. The Frontier Technology Review process in 2016 also highlighted that an organisation-wide approach emphasising mainstreaming frontier technologies, integrated with DFID’s core business, could have important benefits for the organisation. It could enable DFID staff to access and engage the skills and technologies they do not currently have to further programme objectives as well as potentially to break new ground bringing Frontier Technologies closer to developing country markets. This process also exposed substantial latent demand amongst DFID staff to engage with innovative technologies they consider relevant for their work.
   4. Following from these conclusions, DFID launched Frontier Technology Livestreaming (FTL) within the Ideas to Impact (i2i) programme in October 2016 to build DFID’s capacity to engage across the board with innovative technologies, generate in-field experience and evidence on the use of Frontier Technologies in DFID priority applications, and strengthen the ecosystem of innovators working on development applications of new technologies. It has accomplished this primarily through supporting in-field pilots based on applications sourced from DFID Advisers through open calls. To date, FTL has received 44 applications and supported 18 frontier technology pilots applying 14 frontier technologies.
   5. FTL has also received requests to support DFID Country Offices to engage more deeply with digital and frontier technologies and their ecosystems in their own country contexts to increase understanding of the development impact as well as potential harm that such technologies can deliver. In response to this, FTL launched its first FT Futures engagement with DFID Bangladesh which included remote consultation, a week of activities in-country, and the development of a roadmap for the CO to engage further with frontier technologies.
   6. The programme also responded to internal DFID demand to examine the potential for the organisation to engage more widely both with assistive technologies and with technologies strengthening the link between finance and measurement. FTL has supported both of these through consultative Frontier Technology Foresighting studies delivered by specialist organisations.

1. **Objective**
   1. The primary objective of this EACDS FTL assignment is to support a round of 8 new FTL pilots, conduct 3 FT Futures CO engagements, and deliver multiple FT Foresighting studies (number/size to be agreed on basis of need).
   2. Frontier Technologies aims to achieve the following outcomes:

* Improved availability of evidence, data and experience with a range of Frontier Technologies in developing country applications (with a focus on open data wherever possible).
* Increased awareness and technology literacy amongst DFID staff, and improved developing country application experience amongst leading frontier technologists.
* Number and scale of DFID and other development agency take-up of Frontier Technologies in mainstream programming, influenced by supported pilots or analysis.
* Cost reductions and availability and performance improvements in a range of Frontier Technology offers in developing countries, based on learning curve effects.
* Matching public and private investment leveraged by DFID support.
  1. The anticipated impact of Frontier Technologies is to:
* Provide access to essential goods and services that would otherwise be unavailable due to physical, social or economic constraints.
* Reach remote or excluded populations with new services.
* Bring a range of household and other assets into the market economy.
* Reduce the transaction costs of key market, public and social activities.
* Generate and manage data in new and innovative ways.
* Catalyse new collaborative business models facilitated by digital platforms and technologies.
* Generate new sources of income and welfare.

1. **Recipient**
   1. The recipient of the services is the Research and Evidence Division (RED) and the Emerging Policy Innovation and Capability (EPIC) departments of DFID.
2. **Scope of Work**
   1. The scope of work of the assignment will include, but not be limited to, the following:

* Support an additional 8 Frontier Technology pilots expected to be selected in February 2019 by providing them with strategic support in accordance with the FTL agile delivery methodology, matchmaking them with the required specialist technology expertise, overseeing the disbursement of approximately £100,000 to each pilot, and undertaking related research and learning activities.
* Provide an additional 12 months of FT Futures support, including delivering an additional 3 additional Country Office and Central Department Futures engagements and follow-ups
* Design, compete and contract a number of Foresighting studies of size and duration to be agreed, in responsive mode with the agreement of the DFID leads via the Frontier Tech Investment Committee.

1. **Deliverables**

It is anticipated that the following deliverables would be produced as part of this programme:

* **Pilot support:** One case study for each of the pilots reaching their completion; one pilot report for each pilot regardless of final outcome; encourage and ensure consistent blogging from the pilots to the Medium Livestream
* **FT Futures engagements with DFID COs/departments:** A follow-on engagement plan for each Futures engagement, detailing how the Frontier Tech Hub and DFID staff in RED and EPIC can continue to support the legacy of the Futures engagement (eg through support to programme development, a “harnessing frontier technology roadmap”, or broadening networks with the local ecosystem).;
* **FT Foresighting Studies:** Completed studies (precise number TBD depending on scale) signed off by DFID. First study expected to be on Frontier Data.
* **CCMEL:** Reporting aligning with current structure of FTL and i2i (quarterly and annual reports) to the I2I CCMEL function.

1. **Timing**

The project would commence on 1st March, 2019 and continue for 18 months until it is concluded by 30th September, 2020.

1. **Submission of Proposals**

The supplier is required to submit a brief proposal (comprising technical and commercial responses). The technical proposal (approx. 8-10 pages) should set out understanding of the assignment; approach and methodology and staffing arrangements. The proposal should also describe overall management of project and arrangements for dealing with the FT ‘pilots’. Brief pen pictures should be provided for long term (core) staff to be deployed (CVs not required).

The commercial response should comply with the proforma attached.

Given the extremely flexible nature of the assignment, indicative staffing levels and skills levels should be shown, as well as indicative reimbursables.