

EU-AFRICAN R&D PROPOSAL IDEA**Personal Details**

Gender:	Male
Title (e.g. Dr, Prof, etc.)	Dr.
Surname	BOKKA
First Name(s)	RAMA RAO
Company / Institution	NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA
Street or P.O. Box	P.B.No 425
City	BUTARE
Zip / Postal Code	P.B.No 425
Country	RWANDA
Telephone with area code	00250- 08539312
Fax with area code	00250- 530210
E-Mail	rsvpn1@yahoo.com
website	www.nur.ac.rw

Proposal**Title**

Role of the National University of Rwanda in bridging the digital divide in Rwanda- A case for financial support to deepening the effect

The title of your Proposal: please provide a maximum of 15 words that accurately reflect what your proposal is about.

Proposal idea (max 500 words):

The National University of Rwanda is the largest composite university in the country to serve the people by providing the light of education with a deliberate bias towards information and communication technology. The vision of the university is “to become a bilingual and regional university of excellence based on solid information technology (IT)-supported education and problem-oriented research leading to the peaceful, democratic and gender-balanced transformation of urban and rural society”.

The mission, objectives and goals of the university are also emphasize the same tempo of vision statement. NUR has been putting efforts, with the support of external donors, in the areas of IT infrastructure building, designing and offering various academic and research programmes and community extension service activities.

The NUR has been playing a significant role in the country especially in contributing towards realizing the targets of VISION 2020 and the ICT goals of the country. Educating more than 8000 youth with a bias towards ICT, extension of university expertise in giving training in ICT topics, providing the community services by helping the local governments in establishing the IT infrastructure, giving support to eGovernment, hosting distance learning programmes of African Virtual University and the NetTel@Africa Network, providing strong technical support to initiate and running the www.rwandadevelopmentgateway.org , digitalization of the university library and providing the necessary IT support to establish the Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing Centre are the steps in the direction contributing much to bridge the digital divide in Rwanda.

This can be regarded as a significant achievement for a country like Rwanda, which has undergone turbulent times of Genocide and War. Apart from recovering from the debacles and paving the ways for construction and development of human resources with IT orientation is a step towards bridging the digital divide.

The efforts of the National University of Rwanda will be more fruitful and yield high results if some more inputs are added. By recognising that element, it clearly established in its strategic plan to strengthen more and more of the ICT infrastructure and academic programmes. As such it envisages for putting in place the following developmental efforts in the university ICT domain. It requires a financial investment to the tune of 539,780 USD.

1. Strengthening the Bachelor of Information Technology Application in Management (BITAM) programme through curriculum revision by holding a stake holders conference and extending the equipment base by acquiring new software and hardware.

The budget estimates are as follows;

-Stakeholders work shop (60 persons for 2 days):	12,000 USD
- Laboratory up gradation with 40 computers and accessories	60,000
- Acquisition of software	10,000
- Acquisition of books & journals	30,000
- Training of staff (master level education for three persons)	<u>120,000</u>
Total	<u>232,000</u>

2. Starting of masters programme in ICT Policy and Regulation:

This programme is to provide a continuing online-education platform to the policy makers and the decision makes.

- Laboratory extension wit 40 more computers	40,000
- Servers and other accessories	<u>10,000</u>
Total	<u>50,000</u>

3. Establishing an eContent Development Centre:

It is aimed to extend eContent support to eLearning. Econtent is the heart of eLeraning. Online articles, streaming video, audio segments, images, specially designed Web sites and unique learning objects-these electronic elements are created to enhance courses and improve learning. Budget estimate is as follows:

- Equipment	100,000
(Audio visual equipments such as Video Camera, mic etc. and 4 PCs and 2 Laptops with higher capacity)	
- Software	<u>20,000</u>
(Video editing software, Screen capture, Web developing, Operating System and other supporting softwares)	
Total	<u>120,000</u>

4. Establishing the Software Development Centre:

A modern Software Development Center will be established in order to develop and provide Software of high quality to the National University of Rwanda, and other institutions in need and to improve programming skills of the students.

<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Total \$</i>
<i>1. Human Resources</i>	<i>30,000</i>
<i>2. Materials and equipment</i>	<i><u>107,780</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i><u>137,780</u></i>

The total budget estimate required for deepening the effects of NUR in bridging the digital divide is as follows:

1.Strengthening BITAM -----	232,000
2.Starting Masters in ICTPR-----	50,000
3.Establishing eContent Development Centre-----	120,000
4.Establishing Software Development Centre -----	<u>137,780</u>
Grand Total -----	<u>539,780</u>

This estimate is exclusive of the building space required to host the said programmes and the core teaching staff and the administrative assistance. These requirements will be met from the budget allocations of the university. As such it solicits a financial support to the tune of 539.780 USD from the initiative of European-African R&D Project for Bridging the Digital Divide in Africa.

Short Description of Institution

A short description of the institution (between 200 and 300 words) to include the most recent relevant experience related to the proposal idea.

The National University of Rwanda started in 1963 as an institution of higher learning with a mission to provide tertiary-level teaching, to conduct scientific research, and to provide services to the community. The NUR suffered from the bad history of the country, especially the 1994 genocide. It is the prime and nationally recognized comprehensive university only one of its kind in the country offering undergraduate and graduate education. It has nine faculties, three schools, and eight operational centres. It is running 30 undergraduate and nine graduate programmes in different domains giving a priority to information and communication technology.

The National University of Rwanda is located at the South Province in Huye District of Rwanda. Currently it has 8221 students and 425 permanent teaching staff. It offers education in a bilingual environment both in French and English. Its prime goal was to impart education in an ICT environment. As a result every student studying in this university becomes a computer literate in the first two years and thereafter gains skills in his or her specialised area of study.

The NUR has commissioned an eLearning programme in July 2005 in collaboration with the NetTel@Africa offering a Post Graduate Diploma in ICT Policy and Regulation targeting policy and decision makers in the telecommunication and information technology sectors. It aims to start a Master's programme in the same field by the next academic year. It requires financial support to the tune of 50,000 USD to establish a computer laboratory.

The NUR started in 2002, a bachelor degree programme in IT Applications In Management. This programme needs to be revisited and streamlined in the light of changes in the stakeholders needs. It requires at least 232,000 USD to organise programme revision and upgrading of the infrastructure requirements like laboratory, software etc.,

The NUR-NetTel PGDICTPR has been contemplating an idea of starting a eContent development centre (EDC) with the prime objective of launching at least two undergraduate programmes of the university online to meet the needs of the nationals and neighbourhood countries. It has a project estimate cost of 120,000 USD

The computing centre of the university has around 900 networked computers on three hills. All these computers are connected currently with a 2 Mbps Upstream and 768 Kbps Downstream VSAT system. It has an ambitious plan of commissioning the software development centre with a project cost estimate of 137,780 USD.