Subject: FP7 project SCI-BUS searches for subcontractors

Date: January, 2012

The SCI-BUS (Scientific gateway Based User Support) project is looking for six subcontractors. The subcontractors are expected to bring in new user communities preferably with an application area and segment of community which is not yet covered by any project consortium member. The task of subcontractors will be to develop their application-specific gateways and to contribute to the dissemination of the SCI-BUS technology through their user communities.

The SCI-BUS project

SCI-BUS is a project that aims to create a generic-purpose gateway technology as a toolset to provide seamless access to major computing, data and networking infrastructures and services in Europe including clusters, supercomputers, grids, desktop grids, academic and commercial clouds. SCI-BUS will elaborate an application-specific gateway building technology and customisation methodology based on which user communities can easily develop their own customised gateways.

SCI-BUS will use the gateway technology and customization methodology to create 11 application-specific gateways customized for various types of user communities (represented in the project) and to provide gateway services for these communities including *astrophysics, seismology, helio-physics, bio-science, computational chemistry, biomedical communities, PireGrid SMEs community, Blender community, citizens'web-2 community, DCI application developer community or business process modeling community.*

SCI-BUS aims to:

•   Establish production gateway services for the represented user communities and will attract further user communities by training and by other forms of disseminations activities.

•   Use the established production customized gateways as best-practice case studies based on which other communities can build their own customized gateway.

•   Provide gateway development, operation and maintenance support for the new communities to build and operate their own customized gateways.

•   Provide user support for application developers and end-users to develop

and run new DCI applications based on the developed gateways.

• Develop business models to enable the commercial exploitation of the developed technologies and to guarantee the sustainability of the gateway services developed in the project.

Objectives and expectation towards subcontractors

We are looking for organizations whose communities need a Science gateway to access DCI resources in a convenient and transparent way, that are willing to work with the widely utilized Liferay based WS-PGRADE/gUSE portal that enables customization to the needs of each community.

Specifically, the goals of bringing subcontractors into the project are:

• To support communities not covered by the current consortium

• To validate the ASM (Application Specific Module) API and the customization methodology

• To get more feedback from user communities

• To increase the number of customized gateways

• To increase the number of portlets in the Portlet Repository

• To increase the number of applications in the Application Repository

• To increase the overall impact of the project

Benefits and rights

SCI-BUS project offers services for their communities such as continuous and free gateway support and training for Portal technology and customization, science gateway services, access to all DCI infrastructure and end-user support.

This call offers a unique opportunity to applicants to access major computing, data and networking infrastructures and services in Europe including clusters, supercomputers, grids, desktop grids, academic and commercial clouds.

Obligations

As stated above, the task of subcontractors will be to develop their application-specific gateways, to establish a production gateway based on the development and operate this gateway as a production service for their user communities. Subcontractors are also expected to contribute to the dissemination of the SCI-BUS technology through their user communities. The application specific gateway needs to be developed using the SCI-BUS generic gateway technology as starting point. Subcontractors need to extend and customize the SCI-BUS generic gateway by developing and/or customizing portlets that access applications widely applied by the targeted user community.

Furthermore subcontractors are expected to participate on a training course that is organized at the beginning of the subcontracting period, and in at least one project meeting and one dissemination event. Subcontractors are also obliged to prepare quarterly progress reports summarizing the work that has been carried out and the resources that have been utilized. Any deviation when compared to original project plan need to be explained in these reports with appropriate contingency plans applied.

Financing

SCI-BUS offers a financial contribution of 20.000 €. Successful applicants will be invited to join the SCI-BUS project as subcontractors, following the rules laid out by the European Commission for subcontracts in Seventh Framework projects.

This call is open both to academic organisations that we expect to represent a wide user community (preferably within the EU and ICPC countries), and to industrial organisations that we expect to be part of a broad user community that includes at least several user companies.

As annex to this open call there is an application form to be filled in. You can also find this on the SCI-BUS project website.

Please, feel free to contact the SCI-BUS consortium at any time. Our goal is to select the best possible candidates and hence we will help you filling in the application form.

Deadlines

Submission deadline	February 29 , 2012
Subcontractors selected	March 25, 2012
Contracts signed, including a development and deployment plan	June 5, 2012
Preparation and training	June 5 - August 31, 2012
First prototype	January 31, 2013
Production service	September 30, 2013
Dissemination period	October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014

Selection criteria

The selection criteria will contain the following main points:

- Size of the community (number of users, applications, geographical coverage)

- Potential impact on user community/industryClear evidence that the developed solution will be utilized by a larger community and/or will have significant commercial impact.

- Sustainability and business/commercialization model

    ○ Clear evidence that the operation of the developed gateway is sustainable beyond the lifetime of the sub-contract.

    ○ Clear business and/or commercialisation model for the operation and maintenance of the gateway.

- Feasibility of the proposed work

    ○ Is the proposed work feasible taking the provided funding and offered non-funded contribution into consideration?

    ○ Has the applicants have the necessary expertise and background to carry out the proposed work?

- Representing

    ○ new scientific field or

    ○ new industry or

    ○ new web 2.0 community

- Unfunded effort and resources brought into the project

    ○ Subcontractors are expected to bring in at least matching amount of additional funding that is covered from other sources outside the SCI-BUS project.

    ○ Subcontractors are also expected to have access to DCI resources and have applications already utilized on these DCIs (but not from a convenient science gateway).

- Engagement in the dissemination activities of SCI-BUS

    ○ Number of SCI-BUS events they are ready to organize or participate

    ○ Number of SCI-BUS training events they are ready to organize or participate

    ○ Number of publications they plan to write on their SCI-BUS related work

Submission

The application form and template will be made available on the web and it can be submitted before 29th February, 2012. We kindly ask all applicants to fill out the template thoroughly.

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