UBUNTUNET ALLIANCE FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORKING
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:
PROJECT MANAGER, AFRICACONNECT

INTRODUCTION

UbuntuNet Alliance invites applications for the position of Project Manager, AfricaConnect. The Project Manager, reporting to the CEO of the Alliance, will provide management, technical and operational oversight to the AfricaConnect Project which will contribute to the establishment of UbuntuNet, the data network of the UbuntuNet Alliance. They will work within the context of: providing strategic leadership in the use of technology to further the Alliance's vision and strategic objectives; and taking responsibility for the management, control and maintenance of the Alliance's ICT resources to enable the achievement of the service levels of member research and education networks.

The UbuntuNet Alliance is the regional research and education network that covers eastern and southern Africa. One of the objectives of the Alliance is the establishment of a regional high capacity data network interconnecting the NRENs in the region, and also connecting them to the global research and education community. During May 2011, the European Commission entered into contract with DANTE, the operator of the European regional REN, GÉANT, to implement the first phase of UbuntuNet under the project umbrella named AfticaConnect. UbuntuNet Alliance is an implementing partner.

It is expected that the Project Manager is currently resident in one of the Alliance membership countries, and will therefore not be required to relocate, in line with the Alliance's strategy of minimising administrative and operational overheads. This demands that the individual is comfortable with regular online interactions and is always connected. The position will sometimes have heavy travel demands and will call for a person who preferably has regional exposure as well as contacts in eastern and southern Africa.

JOB SPECIFICATIONS AND APPLICATION:

Title:
Project Manager

Terms of engagement:
Contract, initial 18 months (with a three month probation period) with the option to extend the contract at any time through mutual agreement to four years; gratuity at the end of the contract period and twenty days leave every year, all in line with the Alliance Human Resource Policy; salary negotiable to match expertise and experience.

Location:
The Head Office of the Alliance is in Lilongwe, Malawi. The successful candidate will however not be required to relocate.

Key Results Areas:

i. Strategic and tactical development, implementation and evaluation of technology policies and programs to support and enhance the academic and research collaboration among UbuntuNet members as well as other Regional RENs through AfricaConnect and other initiatives;

ii. Liaison, at the AfricaConnect project level, with the technical leadership in DANTE as well as implementing partners in Europe and Africa;

iii. Leadership of the UbuntuNet Alliance Network Engineering Group (UNEG) responsible for technology architecture, strategy, and design for AfricaConnect;

iv. Design, procurement and implementation as well as management, control, and maintenance of all ICT resources, along with all associated costing, budgeting and cost control;

v. Negotiation and management of contracts with suppliers;

vi. Formulation and Management of service level agreements with both vendors and clients consistent with the overall service level targets of the Alliance, and provide/oversee the technical resources to fulfil agreed service levels;

vii. Maintaining professional contacts with other stakeholders and vendors concerning ICT.

Person Profile:

The Project Manager will be a person:

i. With at least five years experience in the implementation as well as management, control, and maintenance of large (multi-campus or national) data communication network(s);

ii. Who possesses management and leadership experience as well as specific project management experience that would enable them to interface, on behalf of the Alliance, with the different clients and stake holders;

iii. Holding a Bachelors degree in engineering with major focus on telecommunication engineering/internetworking. Related qualifications like the CCNP; or *relevant* qualifications and research at the Masters and PhD level will be added advantages. The Board may consider a track record of expertise and delivery at the internet engineering level in lieu of formal qualifications.

iv. With excellent report writing, oral communication, and presentation skills

v. With project management experience that preferably includes the development, application, implementation and reporting for grant funded projects.

Submission of applications:

The following should be submitted as a consolidated pdf, with the name of the applicant as part of the document name to info@ubuntunet.net; copied to ceo@ubuntunet.net, not later than the close of business on Friday 1st July 2011:

- Application Letter
- Statement of competence, highlighting the training and experience that responds to the KRAs;
- Signed CV

Commencement of duties:

It is expected that the successful applicant will start work not later than 1st August 2011, though this may be relaxed for exceptional candidates.