

# Evaluation of applications to .SE's Internet Fund

## Spring 2009

Applications submitted to the Internet Fund are evaluated in stages. Firstly, all applications received are reviewed to determine that they meet the basic requirements of the Internet Fund. Those that do are then further evaluated by the Internet Fund's Selection Committee. The Committee evaluates the applications and selects applications that it recommends for financing by .SE. From among these, .SE then selects the projects with which .SE enters into contract negotiations. Decisions on financing projects up to SEK 300,000 are made by .SE's CEO, and for projects in excess of this sum by the Board of Directors of .SE.

### 1 Basic requirements of the Internet Fund

Applications must meet the following basic requirements:

#### Scope

- The project is to run over a maximum of 12 months (1 year). (However, it is possible to re-apply for funding for additional parts of the same project in the following year. However, .SE cannot provide any pledges of funding for longer than one year at a time.)
- The Internet Fund is intended primarily for financing projects in the budget range of SEK 20,000 up to a maximum of SEK 400,000.

#### Type of project

- The project is to contribute to the development of the Internet's infrastructure or to the usage of the Internet.
- The object of the project must not be one that is already being accomplished by other projects, and the results are not to be already available.
- Funding for general O&M for activities is not granted.

#### Project result

- The project result is to be freely available to the general public and .SE, obtainable via the Web or some equally broadly accessible channel.
- Where the application concerns a text or a book, all or parts of this work are to be made freely available on the Internet at no charge. Copyright should be regulated through Creative Commons (<http://creativecommons.org/>)
- The project must not in any way have a negative impact on the .SE brand.

### **Requirements for applicants**

- Funding will not be granted to business operations or other activities of a primarily commercial nature.
- The applicant may not be an employee of .SE, a member of its board of directors, a member of its planning committee, or a consultant or company currently completing work/assignments for .SE.
- Any previous assignments that the applicant may have had funded by the Internet Fund are to have been completed without adverse comment or complaint.

### **Formalities**

- The project application is to be submitted in time before the final date for submissions, and comprise a complete project description with all sections filled in. The information requested, such as the project purpose, user benefit, measurable goals, deliveries and all the costs of the project are to be clearly stated in and readily apparent from this application.
- The applicant must accept the general terms and conditions of contracts with .SE's Internet Fund.

## **2 The Selection Committee's evaluation process**

In its evaluation, the Selection Committee places particular emphasis on the project's clarity and credibility with respect to User Benefit, Dissemination Capacity and the Management Plan.

### **User Benefit**

User benefit refers to the manner in which the project supports users' needs and opportunities for utilizing the Internet as well as the size of and which user groups the project targets. The evaluation of user benefit is based on the following:

- Which groups of existing end-users will be able to benefit from the project results.
- What the user benefit consists of (the description is to be understandable to the general public).
- How big the project's user benefit is anticipated to be for the user groups in question.
- How rapidly the planned user benefit of the project will be realized.
- The possibility of formulating measurable goals that describe the user benefit and can be used for follow-up after the conclusion of the project.

### **Dissemination Capacity**

Dissemination refers to how and to what extent the project results will be spread/communicated to the target user groups so that the planned usage of the results can be achieved. Spreading capacity will be evaluated on the basis of the planned packaging of deliveries, the project's dissemination and PR plans, etc.

### **Management plan**

Management refers here to how the project results will be provided on an ongoing basis to the users, and how the project results will be developed further and continue to be spread/disseminated.

The evaluation will be based on how the long-term management of the results has been designed with respect to finance, competencies, etc. However, there are no obstacles in principle to the project comprising a preliminary study, the purpose of which is to investigate issues relating to how results are to be managed.

## **3 Selection**

.SE makes the final selection and prioritization of the projects with which it then enters into contract negotiations. The selection is based on the following criteria:

- The probability that the project's purpose can be achieved. The risk that the project result will not be achievable will be weighed up in relation to the project's potential user benefit.
- The strengths of the project's user benefit, dissemination capacity and management plan.
- The financial feasibility and the amount applied for, and whether or not other financiers are involved. The reasonableness of salaries, consultant fees and overheads will be examined in particular.
- The principle of not unilaterally selecting only one type of initiative, but selecting across a broad field of problem areas.
- The impact on .SE's operations and development opportunities.
- That the applicant has demonstrated that he/she/the organization has the necessary skills and competence and the capacity to carry out the project; and the requisite collaboration opportunities and established relationships with the parties and financiers who will be participating in the project.