

Third opportunity to apply for NGIatlantic.eu Open calls

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Slides prepared by:

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Agenda

16:00 - 16:05	Welcome from Jorge Gasos - NGlatlantic.eu Project Officer, European Commission, DG-CONNECT
16:05 - 16:20	NGlatlantic.eu 3 rd Open Call details & call topic overview - Cristina Mancarella, Trust-IT Services
16:20 - 16:30	US partner funding opportunities (Existing and New) - Jim Clarke, Waterford Institute of Technology, NGlatlantic.eu project coordinator
16:30 - 16:45	FAQ & Lessons learned from 1 st and 2 nd Open Calls - Jim Clarke, Waterford Institute of Technology, NGlatlantic.eu project coordinator
16:45 - 17:00	Applicants contributions, Open Floor for Questions & Answers, with assistance by Dr. Deepankar Medhi, Program Director, Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering / Computer and Network Systems (CISE/CNS), National Science Foundation.
17:00	Close

NGIatlantic.eu 3rd Open Call details & call topic overview

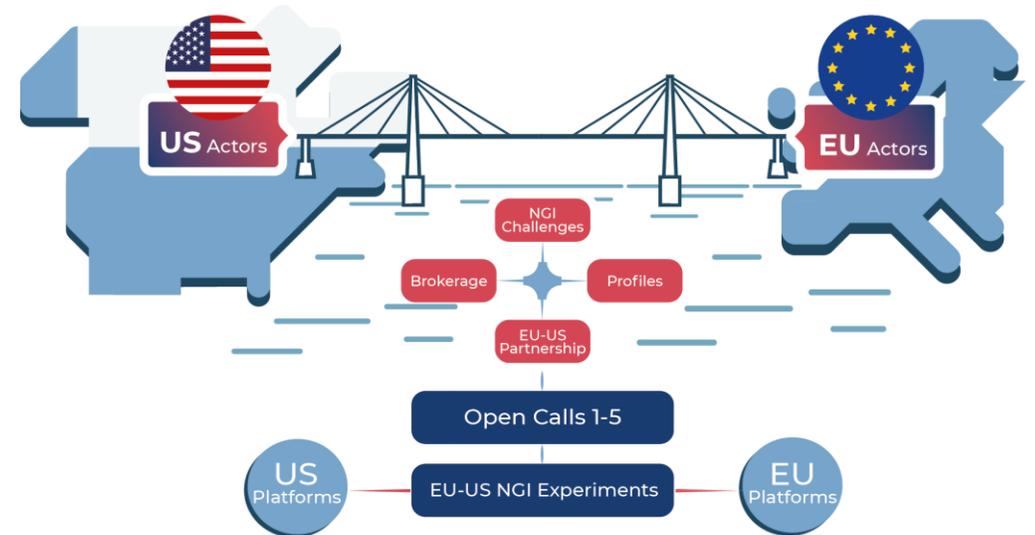
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NGIatlantic.eu: bridging EU-US research on NGI

From January 2020 through June 2022, NGIatlantic.eu will fund EU-based researchers and innovators to carry out **Next Generation Internet** related experiments in collaboration with **US research teams**.

- 5 Open Calls for Proposals, with a total € 2.8 Million Euros budget for EU participants;
- Projects funding range from € 50.000 to € 150.000, up to 3 (Short term) or 6 months (Long term);
- An External Pool of Evaluators (EPE) of 50+ members to support the review process - continuous open call;
- 2/5 open calls completed – 3rd call open until 26/02/21



3rd Open call topics

TWO-FOLD COVERAGE:



a. **EU – US Experimental Platforms interconnection**

For established designers and facility providers of experimental infrastructures, testbeds, and platforms enabling experimentation in the NGI areas.

b. **NGI Priority topics where results are already available for experimentation on EU – US platforms**

The focus on NGI priority topics for the second Open Call continues to focus on experimentation of results in areas related to **Privacy & Trust enhancing technologies, Decentralised data governance, Discovery and identification technologies, Strengthening internet trustworthiness with electronic identities, Greening the Internet: a Sustainable and Climate-friendly NGI** (note: new EU innovators not already involved in other NGI projects also welcome)

<https://ngiatlantic.eu/ngiatlanticeu-3rd-open-call>

The main goal is to incentivize EU-US NGI teams to carry out experiments using EU or US based experimental platforms

Third open call for proposals – expectations

This NGIAtlantic.eu open call targets the following types of proposal submissions:

- Category a: EU-US experimental platforms interconnection
- Category b: Experiments with key enabling technologies in 5 NGI topics (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

The call foresees two types of proposals:

- Long term (LT): estimated 6 months duration; funding €50,000 - €150,000
- Short term (ST): estimated 3 months duration; Funding €25,000 - €75,000

NGI topics for experimentation of results:

- 1. Privacy and Trust enhancing technologies**
- 2. Decentralised data governance**
- 3. Discovery and identification technologies**
- 4. Strengthening internet trustworthiness with electronic identities**
- 5. Greening the Internet: a Sustainable and Climate-friendly NGI**

Total budget for this call: €600,000



The following proposals will be given preference for funding:

- Category a: minimum 2 proposals with a clear centre of gravity in Cat a. It is recommended to use the ST type for proposals that focus on this category. If proposals combine topics of Cat a and b, they can use the LT type;
- Category b (5): minimum of 2 ST proposals with a centre of gravity in Cat b (5);
- Category b (1-4): all topics 1-4 shall be covered by proposals, with expectation of 3 ST projects funded and 1 LT project funded (please note this 1 LT could be a combined project concerning category a and category b).

a: EU-US experimental platforms interconnection; b: (1) Privacy and Trust enhancing technologies; (2) Decentralised data governance; (3) Discovery and identification technologies; (4) Strengthening internet trustworthiness with electronic identities; (5) Greening the Internet: a Sustainable and Climate-friendly NGI.	Category a - ST	Category b (5) - 2 ST	Category b (1-4)- ST	Category b (1-4)- LT	Total expected funding
Indicative number of projects to be supported	2	2	2	1	7
Estimated financial support per project (max)	€75,000.00	€75,000.00	€75,000.00	€150,000.00	
Estimated financial support total	€150,000.00	€150,000.00	€150,000.00	€150,000.00	€600,000.00



US partner funding opportunities (Existing and New)

Jim Clarke, Waterford Institute of Technology, NGIatlantic.eu (jclarke@tssg.org)

How are US partners funded? Some existing possibilities to consider (1/2)

- US partners can use own NSF project funds, if they have (or desire) an international EU connection;
- Some examples of NSF programs underway with large scale platform projects in the following areas:
 - NSFCloud: CHAMELEON <https://www.chameleoncloud.org/> and CloudLab <http://www.cloudlab.us>
 - NSF Network Inf.: FABRIC - <https://fabric-testbed.net/events/fabric-experimenters-workshop-2021> - suggest you register to their upcoming Experimenters workshop, 8-9 April, 2021.
 - NSR PAWR: COSMOS - <https://COSMOS-lab.org/>), POWDER-RENEW <https://POWDERWireless.net/>, and AERPAW <https://AERPAW.org/>
 - NSF Platforms for Advanced Wireless Research (PAWR) supplemental fund available to US based academics, and what they call 'active NSF-funded wireless researchers' for receiving connection and support to the 3 PAWR platforms, COSMOS (<https://COSMOS-lab.org/>), POWDER-RENEW (<https://POWDERWireless.net/>), and AERPAW (<https://AERPAW.org/>). Note: while not specifically designated for international connections, there could be some scope to utilise this fund for teaming with an EU partner. See <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20046/nsf20046.jsp>

How are US partners funded? Some existing possibilities to consider (2/2)

- Some examples of NSF programs underway with large scale platform projects (continued):
 - ICE-T program – US-EU Internet Core & Edge Technologies (ICE-T)
<https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?ProgEleCode=7363&BooleanElement=Any&BooleanRef=Any&ActiveAwards=true&#results> Many of the RC projects (3 year duration projects) may be finishing but we understand that some may still have some funds remaining and could be looking for EU partners;
 - International Research and education Network Connections (IRNC) –
<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20535/nsf20535.htm> and results at
https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503382&org=NSF;
 - A number of these IRNC projects have objectives related to collaboration with international, including EU partners. Some of these have been listed in our [Twinning Lab](#).



How are US partners funded? A new dedicated fund for NGLatlantic.eu for those with an existing NSF grant (1/2)

NEW

- A new NSF program has been launched this week as a *Dear Colleague Letter* for existing grant holders
 - NSF US-EU DCL 21-048 – a new dedicated supplemental fund for existing US NSF grantees to team up with NGLatlantic.eu partners, if they are in successful NGLatlantic.eu applications.
 - Open to **active NSF-funded researchers** within NSF's Computer and Network Systems Core and Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace programs;
 - Funding available for NSF grantee of up to \$100,000 or 20% of original grant budget for max duration of one year (**n.b.** the duration must fall within the period of their existing NSF grant period);
 - Proposers still have to explain how their US partners will fund their activities (independently from the DCL) and the proposals will be evaluated and selected based only on this information. US partners have to commit to their work even if they finally do not receive their funding through the DLC;
 - All supplemental funding requests subject to NSF's merit review process (more details on next slide);



How are US partners funded? A new dedicated fund for NGLatlantic.eu for those with an existing NSF grant (2/2)



○ A new DCL (continued)

- **IMPORTANT: No difference will be done in the evaluation process between proposals with NSF funded partners and the others. All proposals will have equal opportunities and will be selected based exclusively on their merits;**
- The deadline for submission of supplemental funding requests for consideration is **within a week of any NGLatlantic.eu open call deadline**. For OC3, it must be submitted to NSF by **5th March, 2021!**
Supplement fund request to include:
 - Summary of the active research award, including original research vision, goals, activities, and accomplishments, spanning Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts, and how this award is related to the proposed work for the NGLatlantic.eu open call (about a page);
 - The project description that was submitted to the NGLatlantic.eu open call;
 - Bio-sketch of the EU lead partner (one page); and
 - Justification of the need for the supplemental funds request.
- See <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21048/nsf21048.jsp> for further information and NSF contact points.



FAQ & Lessons learned from 1st and 2nd Open Calls

Jim Clarke, Waterford Institute of Technology, NGIatlantic.eu (jclarke@tssg.org)



What we are doing differently based on lessons learned from OC1 + OC2

○ Topics being addressed

- Multi-stream approach to attract EU – US experimental platforms to interconnect for future projects;
- Some opportunities to leverage US funds have been identified (& new one is now implemented specifically for NGIatlantic.eu project teams consisting of active NSF funded grantees);
- There is a **clearer set of expectations** on what **topics AND project size** will be funded in OC3 per topic – please take careful note of this when building your projects – there is now **more emphasis on smaller term projects to give more opportunities to the NGI communities.**

a: EU-US experimental platforms interconnection	Category a - ST	Category b (5) - 2 ST	Category b (1-4)- ST	Category b (1-4)- LT	Total expected funding
b: (1) Privacy and Trust enhancing technologies; (2) Decentralised data governance; (3) Discovery and identification technologies; (4) Strengthening internet trustworthiness with electronic identities; (5) Greening the Internet: a Sustainable and Climate-friendly NGI.					
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What we are doing differently based on lessons learned from OC1 + OC2

- New Platform requirements
 - **Description of Honour (DoH) required to be submitted with the application signed only by EU COO; however, US Team's PI must include a signed Letter of Support within the DoH.**
 - Details on past and / or present NGI applications and EU H2020 applications;
 - For winning project, GA is **non-negotiable** – please review this before submission and make sure you are OK with it, as there will be strictly no negotiations at a later stage; In the first two OCs, we have taken on board all the requested updates for all types of organisations and the GA is now fixed. **All relevant documents** can be found in **Supporting documents** link at the bottom of <https://ngiatlantic.eu/ngiatlanticeu-3rd-open-call>.
 - Additional fields added to include resources for **multi-EU team applications**;
 - Clearer format of **downloadable PDF version of submitted applications**, which can easily be converted to a Word document (e.g. with Adobe Acrobat), if needed.

What we are doing differently based on lessons learned from OC1 + OC2

- Pre-application support continued
 - Coaching calls found to be useful for participants will be continued.
- Some lessons learned from review process
 - Provide a precise, coherent and realistic budget breakdown;
 - Funding is for effort, travel and a fixed 25% OH – do not include any other inadmissible costs;
 - Precise information about the US experimental platforms needed e.g. direct and relevant links for the benefit of the evaluators; if they are linked to current NSF grants, please highlight this with details, as this could be used to obtain supplemental funds from the NSF;
 - Applicants background in NGI related fields and previous work in NGI-related topics should be explained, **include short CVs of participants in EU and US;**

What we are doing differently based on lessons learned from OC1 + OC2

- Some lessons learned from review process (continued)
 - Clear and quantified KPIs needed especially of the experiments you will be carrying out;
 - The impacts of the experiments needs to be elaborated, taking into consideration the impacts expected from ICT-31-2020
 - **Impact 1:** Enhanced EU – US cooperation in Next Generation Internet, including policy cooperation.
 - **Impact 2:** Reinforced collaboration and increased synergies between the **EU's Next Generation Internet initiative** and the **USA's Internet related programmes**.
 - **Impact 3:** Developing interoperable solutions and joint demonstrators, contributions to standards.
 - **Impact 4:** An EU - US ecosystem of top researchers, hi-tech start-ups / SMEs and Internet-related communities collaborating on the evolution of the Internet
 - Follow FAQs and guidelines and remember to observe the 4 criteria scoring scheme carefully, this is what the evaluators will use.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who can apply to the Open calls as an EU – US “Twin Team” and what is the Team size envisaged?

- A. An EU – US “Twin Team” must consist of at least one private or public organisation (not individual researchers), located within the EU Member States (plus UK) or Associated Countries, twinned with a US counterpart for execution of the work programme proposed.
- B. Please note that the NGI initiative typically funds smaller “teams”; in our case, this would be typically 1 partner from EU and 1 partner from US up to a max. of 2 with justification, and not consortia.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who makes the application and who receives the funding?

- A. The application will be made by the lead EU team partner, and funding will be limited to coverage of the work to be carried out by the EU partner, as per the EU – US agreement.
- B. If you require more than one team partner, this is possible but please justify this in your application. The lead EU partner will receive the funding from the NGIatlantic.eu project, and will be responsible for making the payments to the other EU team partner, and have a Consortium agreement with their partner.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can the EU – US “Twin Team” be affiliated to each other?

A. No, if there is only 1 EU member and 1 US member and they are affiliated to each other administratively, in any way, we don't feel that this would be in the spirit of cooperation envisaged in our EU – US Open calls.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can you elaborate on the types of travel envisaged?

- A. In normal times, we would recommend for LT type projects (6 month duration) to plan at least 3 travels planned for a. kick-off with the US project team and getting set up on the exp. platform, b. mid-term prototype experiments, and c. final experiments and workshop. Accordingly, for ST type projects (3 month duration), we recommend at least 2 travels.
- B. As we are still dealing with the COVID-19 crisis and a block on travel from a large number of EU Member States to the USA is still in effect, the applicants should consult with their institutions and local policy makers in relation to policies on travel restrictions in the envisaged period of the project, if successful, and reflect this accordingly in your application.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. If my EU – US proposal idea doesn't precisely match the proposal call text but it encompasses most of it and is still well related to NGI and the key enabling technologies of NGI, can I submit to the open call?

A. We are advising proposers that if their proposal has many of the elements of the call text, but even doesn't precisely match, as long as it is with a US based partner and accentuating the Internet of Humans concepts, pillars, and challenges being addressed by NGI, you should still consider to submit. You can also make direct contact with us at contact@ngiatlantic.eu and we can advise you on whether it fits the call, or whether there might be a better fit elsewhere in the NGI initiative.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Where can the U.S. part of the Team receive funding?

A. The funding would be the responsibility of the U.S. team member(s) and they would be aware of the typical funding source(s) that they could tap into. This is dependent on the team member type of their organisation. Some thoughts on what we have been encountering, so far:

1. In some cases, the U.S. team members have existing funds already for EU collaborations as part of their ongoing work;
2. A number of organisations interested in teaming up with EU partners have signed up in the Twinning Lab at <https://www.ngiatlantic.eu/twinning-lab>;
3. See the information in the previous slides on all the other NSF calls, including the new dedicated *Dear Colleague Letter for existing NSF grant holders* specifically for NGIatlantic.eu US – EU twinning;
4. If requested, as part of our coaching activities, we are willing to help US partners make a pitch to their current or future funding source(s) by explaining our project and goals, if that would help, but they would need to identify their funding sources as they are better placed to do so.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What cost types are eligible for funding?

- A. Direct costs: Personnel and Travel costs;
- B. Indirect costs: Flat rate overhead on direct costs not to exceed 25%.

Q. Can I include equipment costs?

No. The only admissible costs are personnel and travel and subsistence, and flat rate overhead on direct costs not to exceed 25%.

Q. Can I include project management costs?

Yes, please include under personnel costs, but this must be commensurate with the project size and follow the usual H2020 guidelines of no greater than 5-7% of overall personnel costs budget.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What if my proposal requires some research and innovation (R&I) in addition to running experiments? Is this permissible?

A. Yes, but we recommend that there is a good balance between R&I and Experiments in the proposed project plan. For example, you can carry out the necessary R&I and plan some interim experiments during the project plan, e.g. mid – term and end of project. Please keep in mind that the NGI initiative, in general, is geared towards getting your NGI solutions up and running quickly, and that is why there is a focus on experiments in our open calls.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can we apply to another NGI RIA's open call at the same time?

- A. Yes, but the NGI initiative is monitoring the situation in terms of potential double funding and operational capacity issues;
- B. Therefore, you must advise us whether you have past applications in other NGI projects (past or present), or EU H2020 projects or previous NGI applications submitted, as this information is being collected and coordinated by NGI for statistical purposes;
- C. In addition, we would advise that you make contact with us at contact@ngiatlantic.eu to find out which would be your best fit.
- D. In summary, the NGI RIAs are coordinating together about their results, to find if there is/are any overlapping activities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the situation regarding the ownership of the foreground Intellectual Property rights resulting from the experiments that will be conducted in the open call projects?

- A. Generated IPRs will remain at organization level, in this case 3rd party project members accepted in the open call. This will be clarified in the 3rd party contracts.
- B. Since there is at least 2 partners in an EU – US “Twin Team”, one from EU and one from US, you will have to have a consortium agreement between yourselves on this matter.
- C. We can help you with this aspect as part of our mentoring and coaching programme and our winning projects will also be receiving direct assistance from our sister project, NGI TETRA, who are involved with the Technology Transfer and Harvesting of results of the NGI Open Call projects.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Will the COVID-19 crisis affect the project start dates?

A. We are still expecting the start dates of the funded projects to occur within one month of the contract signature; however, we are monitoring the ongoing situation closely and as the NGI initiative is known for its agility, we will work with the winning teams on viable start dates, and also will allow no cost extensions, if needed, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please visit <https://www.ngiatlantic.eu/faq> for many more questions and answers.

If you still have questions, please send it to us at contact@ngiatlantic.eu and we will answer and if there is still time, we can have a one to one coaching call with you to answer the queries.

Reminder of Next calls

Open call	Opening Date	Closing Date	Proposal Type	Duration
Open Call #4	03/05/2021	30/06/2021**	LT ST	Max 6 months Max 3 months
Open Call #5	01/09/2021	29/10/2021	LT ST	Max 6 months Max 3 months

** note: there might be a slight change in these dates due to operational reasons.

Thank you!

Any questions?



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NEWSLETTER

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