Announcement of 『K-Lab Laos Cooperation & Support Project』 in 2021

The Ministry of Science, ICT and ICT and the National IT Industry Promotion Agency will promote the 「K-Lab Laos Cooperation & Support Project」 to support the training of young makers in developing countries and strengthen digital manufacturing capabilities, and to increase the effectiveness of development cooperation between the two countries. In this regard, we announce the project, and ask for the participation of many companies with interest.

March 29, 2021
Director of National IT Industry Promotion Agency

1	Project Overview

□ Purpose

○ To nurture makers suitable for the local situation in developing countries with weak manufacturing business, discover start-up ideas and support commercialization, discover new economic opportunities and strengthen international development cooperation by reinforcing ICT innovation capabilities through the installation and operation of K-Lab* in developing countries

  * K-Lab (Korea Fabrication-Laboratory) is a digital fabrication infrastructure that is a Korean Fab Lab

□ Main contents

○ (Creation of K-Lab infrastructure) Establishment of an ICT-based digital manufacturing capability support system for installing and utilizing digital manufacturing equipment (3D printers, laser cutters, etc.) in consideration of developing countries' willingness to cooperate and local demands and support

for strengthening digital innovation capabilities

o (Operation of K-Lab facilities) Operation of fabrication space for program planning and spread of start-up culture such as technical training for equipment utilization, maker mentoring for discovering and implementing imagination and ideas, and start-up consulting for discovering prospective entrepreneurs

o (K-Lab network cooperation) Discovery of opportunities for domestic companies and products to advance into partner countries by expanding cooperation such as exchange of K-Lab-based ICT technology, companies, and human resources, analysis and provision of local industry information, and establishment of cooperation projects and networks between the two countries

□ Amount of support: A total of 600 million won (government subsidy), one executing organization (free contest)

o Qualifications for application: Companies or organizations that can realize the project purpose of supporting digital competency innovation in developing countries and expanding digital cooperation between the two countries

* Companies (small and medium-sized companies, etc.) and for-profit/ non-profit organizations are allowed, consortiums can be formed

** Executing organizations participating in the project must pay private contributions (cash + in-kind) for expenses excluding government subsidies out of the total project cost. (government subsidies for less than 90% of total project cost)

*** Executing organizations shall annually organize equipment introduction costs according to the characteristics of the project and annual plan

**** The total support period is up to 5 years (3+2), but whether to make an agreement is determined through the annual evaluation of operational performance

- (K-Lab installation and operation - Target country and place) National University of Vientiane, Laos
  * A new space is provided by National University of Laos

☐ Application period: Date of signing of the agreement ~ December 31, 2021

| 2 | **Plan for Selection** |

☐ Schedule (draft)

○ Announcement of support projects and receipt: March to April

○ Evaluation (conformity review and announcement) and selection: April to May

○ Conclusion of agreement: June

○ Project performance (facility creation, operation, cooperation): June to December

    * The above project schedule is subject to change.

☐ Evaluation procedure

○ Final confirmation through conformity review and evaluation of project plan presentation (evaluation committee)

Step	Main contents	Remarks
Conformity review	○ Review of the conformity such as documents submitted, qualification for application and disqualification including project plan, confirmation letter, etc.	NIPA
Evaluation of presentation	○ Comprehensive evaluation of project plans through evaluation of presentation -Evaluation of project understanding, promotion system and strategy, competency of executing organization, project promotion capacity and conditions * During the evaluation of presentation, the project manager (PM) must make a presentation.	Evaluation Committee

3   **Application and Receipt**

☐ Application period: 15:00, 2021. 3. 29 (Mon) ~ 2021. 4. 28 (Wed) (Upon completion of computer registration)

  * Application by mail or in person is not allowed, and online application must be completed through the system before the deadline

☐ How to apply: Online application through the National IT Industry Promotion Agency's website and NIPA Project Performance Management System (SMART)

  * NIPA website (https://www..nipa.kr) / Project performance management system (https://smart.nipa.kr)

  ** After downloading the 'Project Plan (Form)' from the project announcement column, apply online along with the relevant documents

☐ Contact us

  ○ Inquiries related to project: Global Cooperation Team, Deputy Director
    Ko Byung-sun (bsko@nipa.kr, ☎ 043-931-5532)

  ○ Inquiries related to the computer system: NIPA computer receipt system manager (smart@nipa.kr, ☎ 070-5151-8239)

  * For details, refer to the guide to contest for support projects