

Building the openMIS community of developers for the next phase of growth

Two-Sentence Overview

The goal of this project is to strengthen and grow the developers community for openMIS. In line with the open source vision for the tool, Bluesquare is looking to support current and new partners to continue developing the new platform in line with the established architecture.

Executive Summary

The openMIS community is looking to prepare for its next phase of growth, modularisation and maturity. This response will focus primarily on the workstream A and B - the modular migration of Core openMIS and the Nepal Feature Request. Bluesquare will provide the required coordination, development and technical expertise to realise the next phase of the modular development and feature extension. With this guarantee of support, we expect the proposed, existing and new, partners to feel comfortable playing an active role in developing features and modules independently.

Through this project, we hope to ensure continuity in the community and continue development in line with the agreed upon roadmap. In the spirit of the open source community, we wish to open development work to additional teams which we believe will be key to bring openMIS to scale. It will help ensure the tool is more sustainable and help absorb and share the workload when it is needed.

Thanks to our central role in developing the architecture we have a very clear understanding of the current status of the tool, and we are used to working with and coaching other technical partners towards a common goal. In an attempt to share our knowledge of the opportunities and associated challenges Bluesquare proposes to support interested potential partners who are looking to contribute to the further development of the tool in the next phase. We also provide in annex an overview of our current sense of the scope required by module and item requested in this call for concept notes.

Consortium Team

Bluesquare is a Belgian data company founded in 2012, focused on digital health in emerging economies around the globe. We have proven experience in designing and leading IT products in use in the UHC sector. Currently Bluesquare manages the architecture development of the openMIS tool and would bring this experience to bear for the next phase of development. Thanks to our multidisciplinary team including developers, product managers, public health experts and data scientists we are also able to contribute to the broader community discussions.

For this project Bluesquare proposes to take a leadership role to support the next phase of development, serving as a resource for other teams and partners towards successful development.

OpenMIS community: Bluesquare is open to continuing to work with the current partners in the openMIS community since the collaboration is positive.

Additional developers: Bluesquare is hoping to additional developers interested to contribute to this tool.

Others: Bluesquare has also reached out to potential **partners in Tanzania and Nepal** to ensure that local issues continue to remain a priority in the issues mapping and allocation.

In addition, to support the work with the OpenCRVS community Jembi has confirmed its interest. We will use the time in the next phase of the application process to identify the necessary resources for a more

formal commitment. Jembi is an African non-profit company specialising in digital health and open source software development and implementation. They are currently supporting the development of a productised OpenCRVS system for implementation in Bangladesh (as a pilot site).

Project Description

Background or problem statement:

The openIMIS tool and community is the midst of a major transformation from a monolithic to a modular structure that allows individual countries to tailor it to meet their needs. We provide a detailed description of the current status of the development work in the analysis document in annex.

To move towards this next phase, there are a number of critical decisions that will need to be made in the first weeks of the project on the development objectives if we wish to keep the tool usable by the current implementers while creating the modules that are required to effectively expand its use in other countries and regions.

Balancing these differing needs will require timely decision making and additional development resources from the broader community.

Objectives:

Bluesquare proposes to support the openIMIS community by leveraging our experience in the current architectural rework to help bring direction and support all teams of developers to help accelerate the development. Bluesquare would ensure alignment to the general vision and the community agreed upon needs for the development work to be completed.

We would manage this in an agile way, supporting with our own software development capabilities and building a stronger community of developers for openIMIS. In addition, and in response to the potential work that will be awarded for workstream C we would support the dialogue required with the current instances thanks to the help of local partners (both current openIMIS community members and new local teams that we are already beginning to identify).

To monitor results we propose to continue to work with weekly developers calls and monthly community sessions to discuss and monitor progress, re-evaluate priorities and keep each other informed of major developments between work streams. Since this process currently works well we see no reason to change the functioning.

Deliverables & Schedule:

Each element will require different timings to provide outputs. We propose the use of an agile approach with iterative delivery of the results on an ongoing basis during the course of the project.

As the project stipulates a 6 month project timeline we would propose the following timeline:

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
Analysis/Roadmap Confirmation						
Analysis Workshop						
Iterations						
Iteration 1 - <i>each iteration provides more details to the full loop of the new modules/ systems</i>						

Iteration 2						
Iteration 3						
Iteration 4						
Iteration 5						
Iteration 6						
Closing Analysis						
Project closing report - <i>with suggestions and guidance for the next phase of growth</i>						

Since the deliverables will depend on additional analysis and input from the community, these will be defined during the next proposal phase and will remain open to changes until the actual project analysis takes place. The final deliverables will be provided within 1 month of the initial start of the project for general approval by the community.

Risk Mitigation:

One of the greatest risks of operating in an open source community is the lack of final decision makers to move things forward quickly on the module to be developed or to select the right space for the next investment. Bluesquare proposes help facilitate this by providing a supportive perspective on the architecture roadmap.

We also identify a number of technical risks on the architectural direction that will be required for the next phase. For these we refer you to the analysis document in annex.

Digital Health Atlas: <https://digitalhealthatlas.org/en/-/projects/775/published>

Geographic reach: Nepal, Tanzania

Source code: <https://github.com/openimis>