

Web 3.0. A speculative design process to explore: what's the potential for a "decentralised web" to address global challenges?

Frontier Technologies Hub

for applications:

23:59 UK time (BST), Wednesday 15th February

Budget:

Up to £60,000



What's the opportunity?

The Frontier Technologies Hub works with the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) at the intersection of tech, innovation, and international development. We work across three main areas:

⚡ Livestreaming explores the use of frontier technology by working with partners all over the world to test and scale tech with the potential for positive social impact.

⚡ Futures connects FCDO people with one another and the world of tech, equipping them to apply frontier technologies in their programmes.

⚡ Hub Research gathers & shares what we learn and dives deeper into areas where tech has the greatest potential for doing good.

The Frontier Technologies Hub is managed by three partners: Results for Development (R4D), IMC Worldwide, and Brink. It's funded by UK Aid from the UK Government. To find out more about the programme and its goals, visit our [Medium publication](#).

A core component of the Frontier Tech Hub's work is our Studies. The Studies are a deep dive into a specific technology area to expand our knowledge of emerging technologies, understand how they could add the most value to FCDO's work, and imagine potential use cases to pursue. Past studies have bolstered [FCDO's understanding of areas like Impact Bonds](#) and also [informed the design of a large programme on assistive technologies](#).

We are now searching for a partner to help FCDO understand and harness the potential of Web3.0 and related technology. The results of this work will feed directly into the design of FCDO programming, including upcoming funding opportunities, seminars and summits

Who are we looking for to join the team?

The World Wide Web was originally conceived as an open protocol, decentralised system with value shared amongst users. Since then, Web 2.0 has taken root, with a centralised system enabling economies of scale and commercialisation of tech assets, but restricting value creation and power into the hands of the few.

Now, the tech community is discussing, exploring and building “Web3.0” - a shift back to a decentralised, community-governed internet. We believe a decentralised web has the potential to open up opportunities on themes such as finance, governance, identity and power, with its advocates projecting that it could turn traditional models on their heads.

However, Web3.0 is an emergent concept, which remains hard to define and at times esoteric and moving so fast, it seems to change overnight. As such, traditional methods of “studying” won’t help us understand the potential of Web3.0 technologies for the global challenges we face.

The Frontier Technologies Hub is interested in engaging a research, design or creative partner to run a speculative design process to identify a series of use cases which hold high potential to address global challenges. The audience for this work would be FCDO internally, plus the audience for the FT Hub which is anyone interested in the positive impact potential of frontier technologies. We’ll look to cover elements of web3.0 including:

- Distributed finance (DeFi)
- Distributed Autonomous Organisations (DAO)
- Non-fungible Tokens (NFT)
- Cryptocurrencies
- Market making

Delivering the work and methodology

The FT Hub views this work as having an important role in helping FCDO make sense of a highly emergent, yet high potential, area of technology. This includes identifying new

opportunities, navigating risks, and exploring the impact it could have on FCDO as an organisation. It is also a broad area, so we’re looking for a partner to work collaboratively with us to prioritise the most important areas to tackle and help us make the most of this opportunity.

To that end, we are looking for proposals that demonstrate an approach that is:

- **Creative:** Pushing the boundaries of our thinking and exploring what could be possible, not just what exists and sharing those in an engaging and compelling format
- **Contextualised:** focussing specifically on what Web 3.0 means for FCDO’s geographic and technical portfolio, [priorities](#) and objectives
- **Consultative:** drawing on a range of expert opinion, including unusual suspects
- **Collaborative:** working with global stakeholders and FCDO advisors
- **Progressive approach and new methods:** research methodology going beyond desk research and/or interviews. The approach could include symposia, working sessions, crowdsourcing and other novel approaches

On timings, we are looking for a short sharp piece of work to begin on 1 March and complete by the end of May 2022. We are interested in creative suggestions for outputs but require:

- Kick off session and inception to refine the brief together
- An early output by 15th March 2022 to spark interest in the work and give an early idea of the topics we’re exploring
- Final outputs - use cases - by end of May 2022. Use cases can take any format but must include opportunities and some consideration of what ifs (e.g. unintended consequences, downsides, backfires)

Application Instructions

Please submit the following materials or questions regarding the tender to FTLenquiries@imcworldwide.com (with “FTL Web3.0 Tender” in the subject line):

- No more than four pages answering the below questions;
- Profiles of the team members who would work on this;
- A proposed budget
- An example of your work

Application questions

1. A ‘hot take’ utopian and dystopian example of how web3.0 might manifest for challenges faced by FCDO and other development organizations
2. What is your prior experience in working or speculative design, and why does this make you a good fit for this opportunity?
3. If selected, what would your approach be for delivering this work? Please include how you would hope to work with FCDO and the Frontier Tech Hub

We are interested in collaborating with a team with the right background and expertise, but we’re keen to learn about the approach you would propose.

Application process

- Application deadline – **15th February**
- Assessment of written applications – **16th - 18th February**
- 1-hour presentation to FT team and FCDO (20minute presentation by candidates, followed by Q&A) - **20th - 22nd February**
- Contracting and end- **End of February**