

# Open Networks Ecosystem Competition | Connecting Cambridgeshire

Connecting Cambridgeshire is the digital connectivity and smart technology programme led by Cambridgeshire County Council and working in conjunction with Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership (City Deal). The Connecting Cambridgeshire team has extensive experience of facilitating the deployment of commercial telecoms infrastructure, deploying and trialling smart technologies and developing funding bids to support the region in achieving its aspirations.

## What do we have to offer other consortium partners?

We have experienced bid writing and Project Management teams that can support the development of the bid proposal and project manage a successful bid. We have recently successfully led or partnered on a number of funding bids including:

- CCAV3 & CCAV5 - including 5G testbeds (lead)
- FRANCO (partner)
- Opening Transport Data (lead)

Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for managing and maintaining our local highway assets, we can therefore provide access to these assets to support deployment as part of this trial particularly in High Demand Density (HDD) locations such as the Market Square (approx. 20k per day), Kings Parade (approx. 15k per day), Station Square (approx. 10k per day of which >6k users of the train station) where there are significant levels of footfall at peak times.

Our events team works closely with event organisers and/or landowners and we can put you in contact with a number of these including major events such as: Cambridge Half Marathon (15k), Cambridge Beer Festival (45k over 5 days), Strawberry Fair (30k), Midsummer Fair, Cambridge Folk Festival (12k daily for 4 days), Cambridge 10k run (15k). A number of these are hosted at Midsummer Common/Jesus Green as an outdoor venue.

We have links with the University of Cambridge, Cambridge BID (Cambridge City Council) and Peterborough City Council and can engage with a number of indoor and sporting venues.

The variety of locations for which we can support deployment covers a range of user types including leisure, tourism, sporting, business, educational and commuters that can provide a wide array of use cases.

## What are we looking for?

We are looking to partner with a technical authority that can advise on and bring on-board hardware and software providers to deliver an Open RAN network to HDD location(s) in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. They will also be able to provide the technical analysis of the testing of the network.

Ideally, we are looking for an MNO(s) to join the consortium to test the infrastructure in areas where there are already known capacity issues. We are particularly interested in a neutral host approach due to the issues of deploying in some of the conservation locations in the area.

We are able to lead on the funding bid and provide project management utilising both internal and external technical expertise. We are also happy to work as a partner to provide the HDD location/venue and support the deployment of the infrastructure utilising Cambridgeshire County Council owned assets.

## Our preferred role: lead or partner in a consortium

If you are interested in forming a consortium with us, please contact us for an initial discussion. Send us an email and one of the project team will be back in touch: [connecting.cambridgeshire@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:connecting.cambridgeshire@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Full information about the Open Networks Ecosystem Competition can be [found on the government website](#) along with details about how to apply.