# Welcoming Creative Responses to SHARE Technical Project Manager Position Posting

SHARE is seeking applications for a technical project manager and hopes to receive applications from interested individuals. At the same time SHARE will also entertain creative responses to this job posting. In particular, if an existing team with the requisite project management and development skills wants to put forward a proposal that supplies both the technical project manager and the forthcoming developer positions, we would consider the offer.

We anticipate that the development of the notification service will require a small core team of two developers in addition to the technical project manager. We expect this team to work with community contributors to the project and in close consultation with our part-time technical director.

If you are interested in submitting a creative response to our posting, make sure your response is submitted to share-project-manager@arl.org by **23 April 2014**. Please address at least the following questions:

- Who would be part of the development team you propose, and how is that team managed?
- What will your services cost? Please provide at least an overall estimate based on the SHARE Notification System Project Plan.
- What in-kind contributions and resources can you provide to the project?
- How do you expect to interface with the SHARE working groups and communication effort?
- What expectations would you have of SHARE management and product ownership to facilitate successful development of the notification service?
- Who could we contact for references with regard to your experience and capability for agile software development?

## Resources for developing a proposal

General information about SHARE: http://arl.org/share

SHARE Technical Project Manager posting:
http://www.arl.org/news/arl-news/3178-arl-seeks-share-technical-project-manager

SHARE Notification System Project Plan:
http://www.arl.org/storage/documents/publications/share-notification-system-project-plan.pdf

SHARE Notification Service Architectural Overview: http://goo.gl/L4ogmB

SHARE working groups:
http://www.arl.org/focus-areas/public-access-policies/shared-access-research-ecosystem-share/3038-share-working-groups

SHARE Knowledge Base: https://sharewg.atlassian.net/wiki/display/ShareKB

Questions? Please feel free to address questions to share-project-manager@arl.org. The questions below have been asked by those considering a creative proposal, we include the answers here in case they can help others.

### Is SHARE looking for a body shop or an architect?

We believe we need mostly help designing and building the technology to support our notification service. Eric Celeste and our working groups have designed a broad architecture for the service, but we remain open to your suggestions about what we need. If you believe that we need more effort on architecting our solution, then by all means feel free to propose that.

### What are the characteristics of the ideal creative partner for SHARE?

A partner who can manage the coding and scrums in close consultation with our team. This requires technical and organizational skill.

A partner who understands the requirements for openness in our project (open code, open data) and can invite others to participate in the development process. A partner who will not claim intellectual property rights over the results of the project.

### Would the team be free to use our own Agile tools or would we be expected to use a set of tools that ARL already uses?

We have no predefined toolset in mind, though we do have access to JIRA and Confluence. But do be as specific as you can be about the toolset you would like to use. If your team has special expertise in one or another management or coding platform, please let us know about that as

well.

### Will there be a primary point of contact with SHARE that can help us get in contact with any ARL staff or other stakeholders who can help us with requirements refinement and any other questions we may need answered?

The primary points of contact will be Eric Celeste, SHARE's technical director. Eric will be available 20% time as a liaison between the development team and the working groups. Rather than have to heed the diversity of voices in our working and steering groups, the dev team will get this input through Eric, and the team will also be able to count on him to provide guidance and make decision that he will carry to these groups.

In addition to Eric, the development team will have access to Judy Ruttenberg and Greg Tananbaum who also help SHARE manage the working groups and stakeholder interactions.

While we would be willing to have development team members on our working groups, we thought it more likely that the team would want some insulation from those pressures.

### To what extent have stakeholders been engaged to date? Was this for the purposes of requirements gathering?

The working groups have been "meeting" since December 2013. The working groups also do help SHARE with requirements gathering. We have not developed more detailed requirements yet, as this awaits the development team's input. However, we have prepared an architectural overview of the notification service which is now available.

SHARE has presented at the most recent two CNI meetings and a number of other settings to engage stakeholders. Calls with potential partners are underway, though we want to include the development team on these as soon as possible. We are working hard to improve our outreach to funding agencies.

### Is the development team expected to manage the working groups in any way?

No, the development team is not expected to manage the working groups, though those groups are available to the development team as a resource. The working groups represent a diverse set of stakeholders and can provide the development team with a ready set of testers and early feedback at any stage of the project.

### Is the timeline in the project plan on track? Are we coming in mid-project to be handed requirements and just told "go"?

The project is on target to date, but note that development is not intended to get underway until some time in May. In terms of the notification service, we are still at the very early stages of this project. The development team will be helping us define requirements.

### Our team sees parallels between this effort others we have worked on. Is this background something we should include in the response?

Yes! This kind of experience sounds very pertinent to our work and we would like to consider it as part of what you offer the project.

### What is the cost?

We were hoping you could tell us what it would cost for your team to do this work. We have a budget defined by our grant which we believe would cover a technical project manager and two to three developers for 18 months. This is the budget we would use to hire a team, whether it be direct hires or your team brought on as a whole via your creative response to our posting.

### When would we hear back from you?

We are aiming to make a recommendation to the SHARE steering group on 5/8. If we are interested in pursuing your proposal we will likely want to have a conversation with your team during the week following our 4/23 deadline for proposals.

### Is the initial code work going to be open to the community (via sources like GitHub) to allow open source development, or is this something that comes after initial development?

We expect all code for the SHARE Notification Service to be open source and made available via a platform like GitHub or equivalent.

### In what way(s) are the users of the SHARE system going to be notified? For example, are there certain specifications such as e-mail, text message or RSS?

Email is a possibility for subscriptions, but unlikely. A better metaphor is Twitter, with the notifications being like tweets and subscriptions being like following. However, the details of transport have not been worked out and could, indeed, be more like RSS. We are not sure yet and would look to the development team to help us sort out the possibilities.

### How is the system to be maintained after it's built?

This has not yet been determined. We can assume there will be some kind of technical staff capable of running the system, but we do not know where this will be hosted or what the source of ongoing funding will be yet.

### Are there any accessibility requirements in terms of end user impairment such as blind or deaf communities?

To the degree that the service presents a user interface, yes, accessibility should be considered important. However, for the most part the notification service is a piece of infrastructure presenting an API to the world and documenting certain protocols for interaction. For this infrastructure, accessibility is not an issue.

### What are the minimum technical requirements for the systems? For example, should Internet Explorer 6 be supported and what bandwidth limits should be the minimum for such a system.

Again, the notification system is mostly infrastructure, so minimum browser requirements are really not an issue. Once we get around to designing a dashboard or subscription interface we can discuss requirements. We have not considered them to date.

### We may not have a pre-built technical team addressing the challenges at great depth, though we might. How important is a pre-built team to a proposal?

We expect that the creative proposals will describe how the team would accomplish the development of the notification service. If you would need to assemble your team, just describe the process you would use in your proposal. The challenge will be time. Assembling a team will take some time and our timeline is quite aggressive, so you will have to make clear how you propose to both bring a team together and get the work done in a timely way.