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AR/VR Sandbox Program Pilot
Request for Quote (RFQ)

Opportunity

eCampusOntario is seeking quotes from AR/VR technology providers with whom to partner and pilot AR/VR learning and development platforms at Ontario colleges and universities through our Educational Technologies Sandbox.

Background

The Educational Technologies Sandbox aims to test new tools and build capacity in emergent learning technologies. AR/VR as a learning tool was identified as one of the top areas of interest by our member institutions through a shared educational technology survey that we organized at the end of 2018. We have also explored applications of virtual simulations and AR/VR for several years through an initiative with Labster.com, a vendor offering simulations primarily in Science and Allied Health programs. The next challenge is tied to enabling educators to build AR/VR experiences to support curricula across several disciplines, not simply use experiences built by a vendor.

To this end, we have been exploring technologies and frameworks that support the creation of assets with an easy-to-use interface allowing educators to quickly be productive. We want to select an optimal solution and initiate testing, training, and dissemination throughout Ontario by identifying interested institutions to pilot the selected tool/s.

Service Description

The successful provider will provide the following support and services:

- Full access to a proven AR/VR learning and development platform for faculty and students at selected Ontario post-secondary institutions. The platform should provide existing simulations, assets, or 3D models as well as an easy-to-use interface (desktop and mobile) through which to build or customize AR/VR experiences.
- Support in integrating the AR/VR learning and development platform into various learning management systems, as necessary.
- Onboarding workshops and materials for eCampusOntario and selected institutions, covering an introduction to the technology and samples of use in course curricula.
- Continued customer service support for eCampusOntario and selected institutions for the duration of the pilot, which may include troubleshooting, course integration support, and other needs as they arise.

Timeline

- **August 30, 2019**: Deadline for applications
- **September 20, 2019**: Evaluation of applications, selection of vendor(s) and contract award

- **Week of October 7, 2019**: Kick-off meeting(s) with selected vendor(s)
- **October 2019 - March 2020**: Vendor support for duration of pilot

Applications

AR/VR vendors should submit a written response (fewer than 5 pages) to this request for quote, detailing the capabilities of their AR/VR learning and development platform, strategies for providing support and services to eCampusOntario and selected Ontario post-secondary institutions for the duration of the pilot, and a complete quote for all technology and service costs.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate the following:
- Ability to provide eCampusOntario and selected Ontario post-secondary institutions with full access to an AR/VR platform that allows for consumption and development of educational AR/VR experiences.
- Evidence of the AR/VR platform being used to support higher education curricula.
- Commitment to onboard and provide continued technical and customer support to eCampusOntario and faculty/students at selected institutions for duration of the pilot.

Evaluation Criteria

Quotes will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- Clear evidence of an AR/VR platform that allows users to both consume and build/customize AR/VR experiences.
- Technology must be compliant with appropriate standards for openness and interoperability e.g. W3C, OSI, IMS-Global, ADL to support adoption and adaptation across multiple platforms.
- Demonstrated experience supporting the consumption and development of AR/VR experiences in higher education settings.
- Proposed methods of onboarding and providing continued technical/customer support are clear and appropriate given the timeline and needs of the Educational Technologies Sandbox.
- Detailed analysis of proposal costs, including a breakdown of all support and services.

Please note: all applicants must provide one point of contact for contract and payment.

NOTES:

Multiple contracts may be awarded to meet the needs of this pilot project.

Agreements with successful vendors will require all instructional models, resources, reports created to be made freely and openly available online under a Creative Commons license.

Please submit applications to procurement@ecampusontario.ca by August 30, 2019