National Examination Gateway
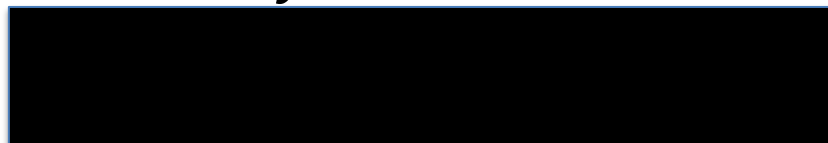
Empowering the minds, brightening the future

"NATIONAL EXAMINATION GATEWAY,

EMPOWERING THE MINDS, BRIGHTENING THE FUTURE"

For

The 2012 Rwanda International Conference on Technology

in Education (RICTE)

Submitted by:

August 20, 2012

1. **Introduction – General information about challenges in Education and the role to be served by National Examination Gateway towards the Vision 2020**

Rwanda is a country in the process of branding itself as the information and technology hub in Africa. Despite incredible progress towards this vision, many challenges still remain. One of challenges is the absence of a viable cyber educational infrastructure supporting students while preparing for National Exams. Students in the final year of primary school, secondary school ordinary level and advanced level still face numerous challenges while revising school material especially when preparing for national examinations. Another challenge is that although we have outstanding progress regarding the growth and the expansion of the ICT industry, Rwanda still has many miles to go to fully position ourselves in the region as the Silicon Valley of the East African Community. One of the crucial key indicators would be the number of Rwandan tech companies operating in the entire East African Community region, which is extremely deplorable. National Examination Gateway is a perfect fit in approaching both challenges by both creating a local solution and establishing an East African wide tech company. Our vision is not only to create a platform that will solve Rwandan problems in building a comprehensive national exams preparation platform using ICT, but also to implement a scalable platform that will be of use in the entire East African Community region as exam preparation is a challenge that we all share. The platform will house past exams, practice exams, education materials to assist students not only in the national exam preparation process, but also in their entire learning experience. Doing so will allow us to join hands with the government of Rwanda initiatives in improving the quality education, contributing in the achievement of our vision 2020 and establishing an ICT in education solution that will serve as one of the foundations as Rwanda becomes the Silicon Valley of the East African Community.

2. **Problem – Lack of a comprehensive educational preparation infrastructure**

In 2010, the republic of Rwanda introduced a 12 years basic education whereby every child in Rwanda must undergo a 12 years education program comprised of six years of primary school and six years of secondary education. During these 12 years mandatory education, students will undergo three national examinations, statewide standardized examinations administered by Rwanda Education Board, a government body under the ministry of education. The problem that many students currently face is the lack of appropriate preparation material which gives some

more advantages than others. Students are challenged in accessing past exams, practice exams, appropriate mentorship and many other preparation necessities.

3. Solution – National Examination Gateway and its products and services

National Examination Gateway came in place to assist students as they revise their educational material, but more importantly during the time when they prepare for national exams. The learning and practice material will be accessed both online and offline as we understand that many of the Rwandan students still have access to internet. The platform will house educational material, past exams and solutions, practice tests, and other learning and exam preparation resources. In addition, we will provide an infrastructure that connects learners and educators both online and offline.

4. Motivation/Philosophy – Empowering the minds, Brightening the future

A desire to make a difference, to use our talents and skills in solving problems and build a stronger educational support platform is what drives National Examination Gateway. We share a common belief that by empowering the people by equipping them with quality education, we will be contributing in making the future brighter hence national Examination Gateway motto: "empowering the minds, brightening the future". We are world citizens who believe that the future of our countries will depend on a better education for today's young generation.

5. Implementation – www.NationalExamination.com soon to be launched, other products and Services to follow soon.

As discussed above National Examination Gateway will be comprised of the online and offline product. The online products will consists on a web and mobile applications while the offline will include but not limited to offline software, CDs, books, independent student mentorship. Currently we are building www.NationalExamination.com, the domain has been purchased, its design can be found in the document attached, the current version is not uploaded; what is uploaded now is rather the earliest version of the site. The launch is planned in September. After the launch of www.NationalExamination.com , we will go on with the development of our other products. The plan is to have everything ready by the end of this year so that students who will sit for national examinations next year can take advantage of our platform.

Project Evaluation - Assessment of key project feasibility and successfulness indicators

i.   Originality

Although, they may be few other individual or collective initiatives, National Examination Gateway happens to be unique and different solution from what have been done before. Our goal is to provide a solution that has not been attempted our ways to a specific problem.

ii.   Creativity

National Examination Gateway will use information and technology to provide a comprehensive exam preparation framework. This will not only help in providing a solution to the problem, but it will also give a chance a chance to challenge ourselves, learn, change and improve our human resources capabilities. The key lies in improving the quality education, creating an East African wide tech company, and improving the quality tech workforce as this will be of a great importance as we become the hub of technology in East African Community.

iii.   Cost-Effectiveness

The first half year project implementation is estimated to $20,000. The cost includes product design and development, marketing, salary expenses, office rental and supplies. The low cost is due to the fact that many expenses have been already covered by generous volunteers and partners.

iv.   Sustainability

The sustainability of our products is of a greater importance. National examinations are administered every year, hence will make sure that we not only have products that works, but also products that can last and provide long term solutions.

v. Scalability

As noted earlier, our goal is to start from Rwanda expand throughout and why not the entire Africa. Education and especially national examination preparation is a problem that most African nations are still struggling with. National Examination has a vision to not only be a local solution but an international solution, and given the scalable design of our products, the process will be of a great ease.

vi. Relevance

National Examination Gateway is project addressing a local issue with a scalable relevant local solution using information and technology. More information will be found in the attached System documents and well as business plan.

vii. User friendly

It is not only providing a solution that is the priority; the user friendliness matters. We understand that the more the platform is user friendly the easier it will be for its users especially for students who naturally are resilient about studying.

viii. Quality

As much as user friendliness, quality is of a great importance. In order to position ourselves in the East African Community as the cornerstone and laying a carpet for other tech companies for Rwanda we will make sure that our products are not only functional but are of quality.

ix. Do-ability and implementability

As noted above, we are currently implementing the web platform which is housed at www.NationalExamination.com; its launch is planned in September. Other product and services are will be launched by the end of the year. More information about the web platform planning can be found in the attached document.

6. Conclusion

National Examination Gateway is a project that seeks to empower students with a reliable learning and exam preparation platform starting from Rwanda expanding throughout East African Community. Our plan is to become one of the Rwandan Tech companies to operate internationally, starting from covering the entire East African Community, hence becoming the corner stone to other Rwandan tech companies to operate in the entire region, joining hands with the government in realizing our shared dream to become the hub of technology in the region.

Wellars R. Muhoza

Chief Executive Commissioner

National Examination Gateway

Phone:

Email: wellars.muhoza@nationalexamination.com

Student at Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma, USA