

The Orbs Ecosystem Grant Program

Second Call for Grants

Overview

The Orbs project, together with our community, is building a public and permissionless ecosystem. Orbs was born as an open source project and the Orbs team continues to strongly believe in the immense potential of open source collaboration and are always looking to work with others. Since the Orbs Network's launch in March 2019, the project has been able to hit some major milestones. Last year, we celebrated the development and launch of Orbs V2.5: The Age of Guardians. After this accomplishment, the Orbs team announced that it was initiating a process of exploration of the ways that the Orbs Network can serve and interact with the world of DeFi and that it was offering grants to teams interested in joining this exploration, under the newly launched Orbs Ecosystem Grant Program (OEGP).

The first call for grants focused on DeFi infrastructure, and resulted in the creation of the first liquidity pools for ORBS tokens on a variety of DeFi platforms, largely through the efforts of the Paradigm team - the first grant winner.

In addition, since last year there has been a major expansion of the Orbs ecosystem, with a large focus on integrations with DeFi ecosystems. The Orbs ecosystem has expanded beyond Ethereum to include integration with Binance Smart Chain and the Polygon blockchain, and the integration of the Orbs ecosystem with DeFi platforms such as UniSwap, SushiSwap, Balancer, PancakeSwap, AnySwap, Kyber Networks, lInch, Alpaca Finance, Beefy Finance and more.

The Orbs project is now launching a new call for grants under the OEGP. For this round, the focus will be on applications that will draw on the power of the Orbs Universe, with its Guardians and Delegators, using their ability to arrive at consensus through the Orbs protocol incentive layer powered by the ORBS token.

The Orbs Ecosystem

The Orbs platform is a decentralized serverless cloud allowing developers to build backend services (applications) that are then deployed to be executed by the Orbs Guardians (Network Validators). These Guardians are selected from a public and permissionless pool using Orbs Proof-of-Stake, promising a fair and decentralized ecosystem where anyone can participate. The main offering of the platform includes decentralized computing under consensus (ie. execution of "smart contracts"). We are looking for proposals that utilize the Orbs decentralized network of nodes and leverage Orbs elected validators to gain a competitive advantage.

The Orbs ecosystem is reliant on the ORBS token. First and foremost, the ORBS token powers Orbs Proof-of-Stake incentives and contributes to the security of the network. By delegating their ORBS tokens, every participant in the Orbs ecosystem can help elect honest Guardians that follow the Orbs protocol and avoid byzantine behavior. Secondly, the ORBS token is used as the primary means of fee payment for infrastructure services provided by Orbs Guardians (ie. executing applications). We are looking for proposals that utilize the ORBS token and contribute to a healthy and sustainable network tokenomics.



With its unique hybrid architecture, the Orbs project is designed for interoperability primarily with EVM (Ethereum Virtual Machine)-compatible blockchains such as Ethereum mainnet, Binance Smart Chain and Polygon. The EVM-compatible ecosystem is the most prolific in terms of asset liquidity and user engagement, particularly in the DeFi and NFT fields. Orbs Proof-of-Stake is implemented as a set of EVM contracts and ORBS is an ERC20 token, allowing for seamless integration between EVM chains and the Orbs ecosystem. We are looking for proposals that leverage this interface and build on top of the liquidity available on popular EVM chains.

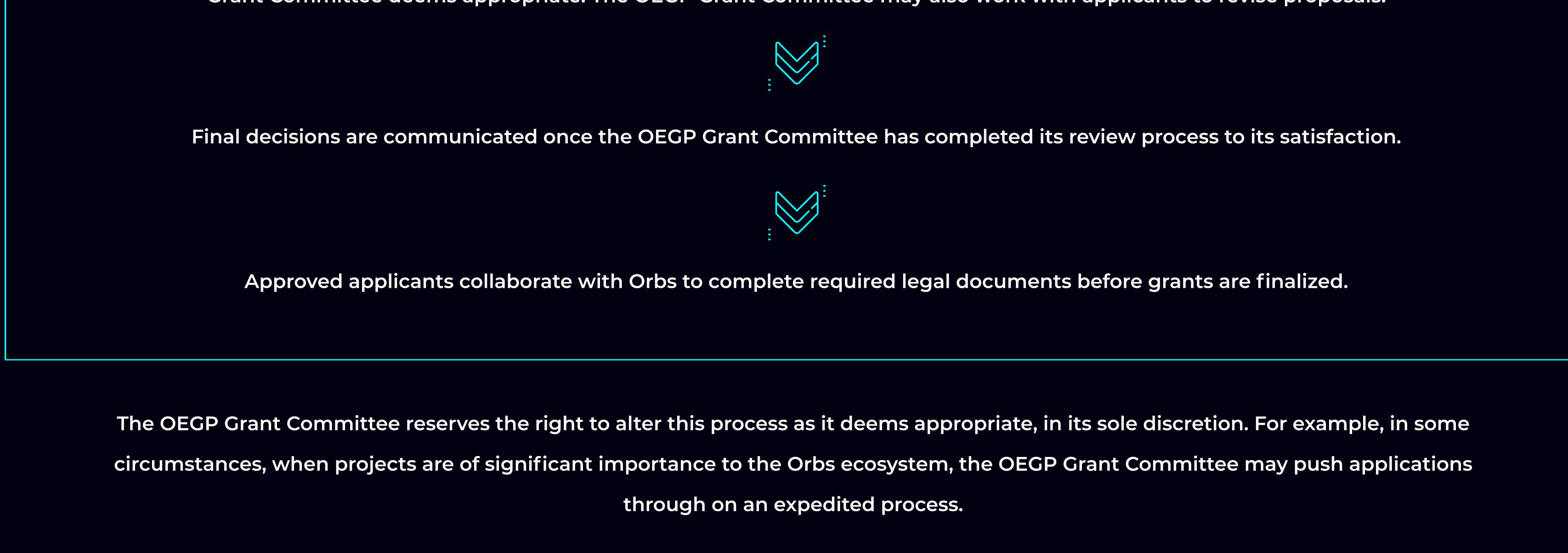
Traction As Primary KPI

We measure growth of the Orbs ecosystem by looking at three traction related Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). The first is user activity, such as the amount of transactions and API calls performed by end-users. The second is the number of integrations with leading industry platforms and popular projects. The third is Total Value Locked (TVL) that engages with Orbs ecosystem products. We are looking for proposals that will contribute to ecosystem growth via any of these three KPI's.

The two most successful industries for decentralized applications we see around us are DeFi (Decentralized Finance) and NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens). In recent years, these two fields of apps have proven to be the most mature in terms of decentralization and carry the most user activity. We are primarily looking for proposals that operate within these fields or build infrastructure to support applications in these fields.

Grant Opportunities

The following list contains examples for areas where we see opportunity for innovation in the Orbs ecosystem. These ideas can direct you towards what sort of proposals we are looking to see. The common thread in these examples is areas where we feel the Orbs network has a unique competitive advantage that can be leveraged towards meeting the KPI's discussed above.



These areas and examples are not exhaustive, we'd love to hear if you have ideas for projects that go beyond the above.

Proposals

If you and your team have an idea for a grant proposal, please provide us with a proposal with detailed information about your project.

Proposals should include the following:

Executive Summary: High-level description of main proposed elements, such as problem addressed, scope, methods, timeline, expected benefits to the Orbs Ecosystem.	Basic Applicant Information: Where you are located/ incorporated, what type of entity you are, address and contact information.	Core Team: Team member names, affiliation, position, email, country of residence, short biographies, web profiles (LinkedIn, Github).	Problem Description: General problem addressed by the proposal, motivation and relevance to the Orbs ecosystem and technology.
Solution Approach: Goals and scope of solution, main ideas and mechanisms of your technical approach, vision for future expansions.	Technical Plan: Define tasks required to achieve your goals, subtasks for complex tasks, deliverables, evaluation criteria, identify team members who are responsible for different tasks, milestones, metrics of evaluation and schedule for completion of different tasks.	Budget and Financial Request: Detail your proposed budget, including equipment and resources, administration, team compensation, travel, other expenses.	Reporting Obligations: Tell us how you plan to keep us posted on your progress, including progress reports and reports on use of grant funds.

Selection Criteria

All criteria are indicative rather than determinative — that is to say, they will make us more or less likely to make an award, but none will guarantee a particular outcome.

1. What is the value of the project to the Orbs ecosystem and participants?	2. Is the project creating new opportunities for Orbs that are not covered by the existing roadmap?	3. How likely is the project to gain traction and engagement in the ecosystem?
4. How innovative is the project? Is it doing something different?	5. Is the project leveraging new possibilities that manifested in the crypto ecosystem as a whole?	6. Will the grant make a significant impact on the proposed project?
7. Is the level of funding appropriate for the task to be accomplished?	8. Does the person (or group) who will receive the grant have a track record of delivering? Are they already active in the Orbs ecosystem?	

Evaluation Process

Once a proposal has been submitted, the Orbs team will undertake the following process:

Initial vetting process to make sure they fulfill the basic requirements.
Detailed review process by the OEGP Grant Committee for due diligence and evaluation of the project. This process may include team interview and pitch opportunities, requests for documentation or other review elements that the OEGP Grant Committee deems appropriate. The OEGP Grant Committee may also work with applicants to revise proposals.

Final decisions are communicated once the OEGP Grant Committee has completed its review process to its satisfaction.

Approved applicants collaborate with Orbs to complete required legal documents before grants are finalized.

The OEGP Grant Committee reserves the right to alter this process as it deems appropriate, in its sole discretion. For example, in some circumstances, when projects are of significant importance to the Orbs ecosystem, the OEGP Grant Committee may push applications through on an expedited process.
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Grant Delivery

Grants may be paid out in multiple installments and may be made in either fiat, cryptocurrency such as BTC and ETH or by delivery of Orbs Tokens. Such installments are subject to a payment schedule to ensure that predefined milestones are achieved. The OEGP Grant Committee controls payments and assesses milestone reports from grantees prior to follow-on payments. Orbs may not distribute follow-on payments for projects that do not hit their deliverables.
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Disclaimer
This page describes the general proposed framework for participation in the OEGP and does not constitute an undertaking by or create any obligation of Orbs Ltd. to provide any grant, in general or to a specific person or entity. Orbs reserves the right to determine whether to award any grant and to determine any actual awarded amounts at its sole discretion. Orbs reserves the right to cancel, change or suspend the OEGP and its terms for any reason. Any granted award is subject to accepting the terms and conditions of the OEGP available here, and/or execution of a grant letter in the form provided by Orbs Ltd.