



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, 1inch, 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.

21
Nodes / Guardians
Orbs nodes and active guardians

3
chains
ethereum BINAANCE SMART CHAIN polygon

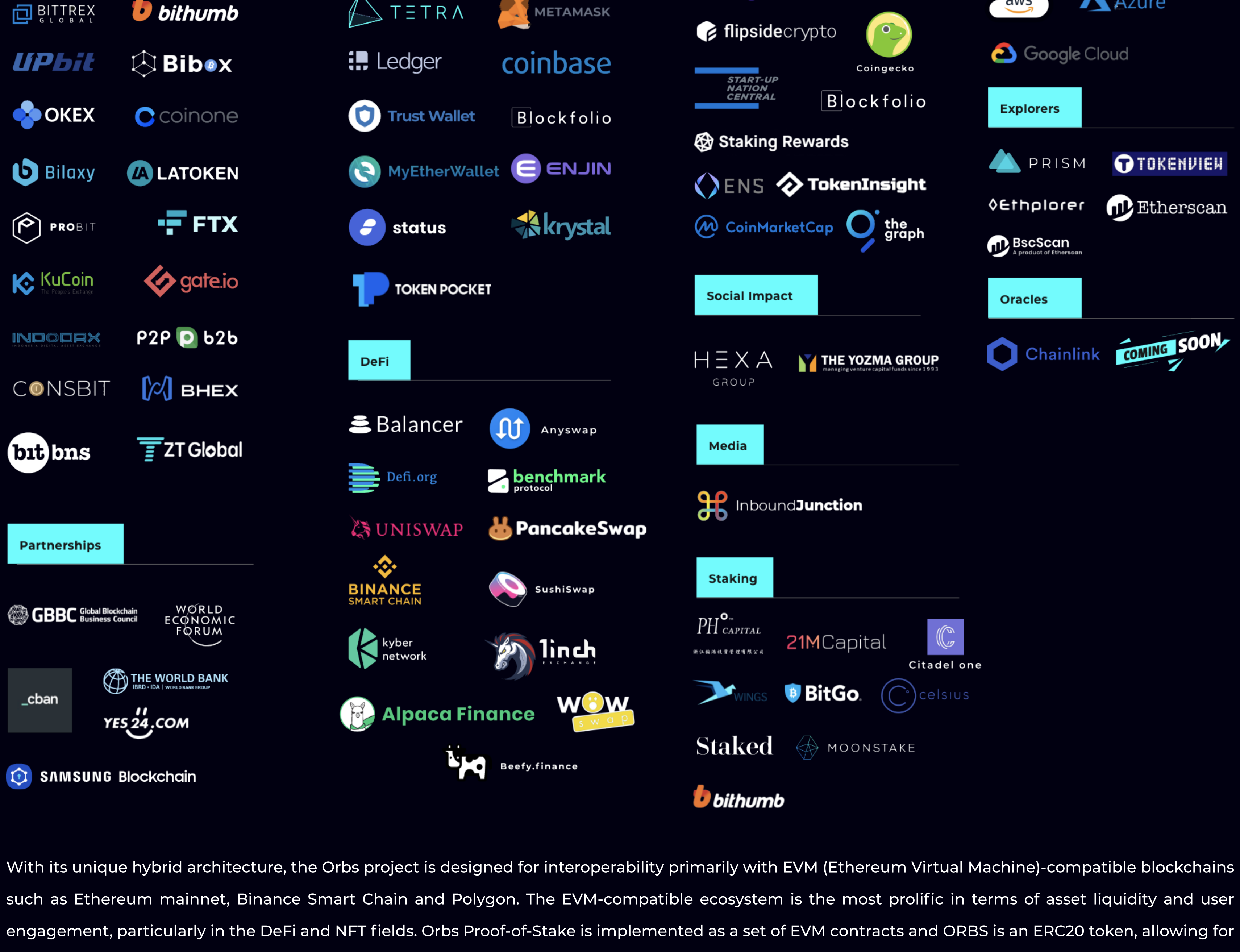
17
DeFi Protocols integrations

>\$200M
Total Value Locked (USD)

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 (i.e. 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 (i.e. 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.

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| <p>Data Indexing and Analysis Infrastructure</p> <p>DeFi is different from traditional finance in the aspect that all data is transparently available. Transparency and auditability are primary values of blockchain technology - the fact that every participant has access and can audit the entire blockchain ledger and the entire activity of all decentralized applications (smart contracts) built on top. The main challenge is that these amounts of data are massive and are very difficult to analyze at scale, fast enough to make real time decisions. This wealth of information changes the way financial products are being built because harvesting this data and using it becomes a significant competitive advantage. This means that there's strong demand for abilities to analyze on-chain data and extract business intelligence from it.</p> | <p>Notification and Monitoring Infrastructure</p> <p>Since DeFi and NFTs are two fields that touch valuable assets directly, various conditions require participants to adjust their positions to changing conditions or risk financial losses. The ability to react in real time to these conditions becomes a technological advantage. One example is liquidation in decentralized lending platforms. When a user takes a loan and places a collateral, the value of the collateral must be constantly monitored and if market prices change, the loan must be immediately adjusted.</p> |
| <p>Bridging and Cross Protocol Infrastructure</p> <p>In blockchain in general and DeFi and NFTs specifically, anyone can create a new protocol. This inherent inclusion creates a wealth of various alternatives for every problem but makes interoperability difficult. There are business advantages for allowing users to move their assets seamlessly between protocols.</p> | <p>Algo Trading Technologies and Infrastructure</p> <p>The primary generation of business value in DeFi is by managing assets. For example, a user with available funds can deposit their funds in various protocols and by participating in these platforms generate yield. Since all DeFi platforms are implemented as smart contracts - code running on blockchain, this management and optimization of positions always happens by integrating with this code.</p> |
| <p>Enriching EVM Contract Capabilities</p> <p>The Ethereum Virtual Machine provides strong security guarantees, but it is very limited in its computational capability. EVM opcodes provide access to a small subset of information available on-chain, for example there's no way to query past transactions from a contract or past state. EVM is also confined to data available on the specific chain, known as the oracle problem. Furthermore, EVM contracts are gas-hungry and limited in computation power and available storage. These capabilities can be enriched by providing oracle based APIs to EVM contracts for multiple use-cases, such as smarter DeFi strategies in vaults.</p> | <p>Consumer Dashboards and Calculators</p> <p>DeFi.org is a consumer-oriented portal that makes complex DeFi data accessible to anyone in a simple easy to understand UI. This information is used by individuals and organizations that follow DeFi closely and helps the industry analyze interesting trends and discover new emerging protocols.</p> |
| <p>DeFi and NFT applications oriented at retail</p> <p>Orbs is primarily an infrastructure layer catering to applications and most of Orbs infrastructure products are directed towards the developers of these applications. Since user engagement ultimately comes from popular product-driven applications that cater to end-users directly, Orbs is interested in such applications that will choose to rely on infrastructure offerings of the network. A good example of such is developing an exciting new NFT game reliant on Orbs infrastructure.</p> | <p>Integrating existing Orbs Apps to new projects</p> <p>Decentralized Orbs Apps such as Orbs DeFi Notifications cater to multiple DeFi projects on EVM chains - such as Aave and Sushi. In order for notifications to be operational, the community is required to implement a software integration under the notifications protocol. Performing these integrations to popular projects brings value to the Orbs ecosystem and exposes its existing products to more potential users.</p> |

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:

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

Proposals can be sent to grants@orbs.com

Selection Criteria

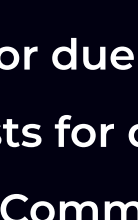
All criteria are indicative rather than determinative — that is to say, they will make us more or less likely to make an award, but none will guarantee a particular outcome.

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 manifesting 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:

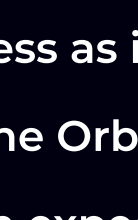
Initial vetting process to make sure they fulfill the basic requirements.



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 and 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.

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.

Disclaimer

This paper 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.