



IXP Manager Sponsorship Program

Sponsors' Report

Year-End March 31st 2026

Barry O'Donovan on behalf of The IXP Manager Sponsorship Program



island bridge
networks

Diamond Patron



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Executive Summary

IXP Manager is now in its tenth year of the IXP Manager Sponsorship Program¹. You can read the past sponsorship reports on the website.

During periods when the project has not had a consistent full-time developer, we do not collate detailed annual sponsorship/project reports like this one. Rather, we rely on the published accountant's reports and our GitHub release announcements² as the primary evidence of our work.

As the project hired a new full-time developer who started on March 1st of this year, we are providing this detailed report for the year ending March 31st, 2026.

The sponsors and sponsorship funding received for 2025 are:

Name	Value
APNIC Foundation (US\$17,000)	€14,965
BCIX (Berlin Commercial Internet Exchange)	€10,000
NIX (Norwegian Internet Exchange)	€10,000
LONAP	€6,500
INX-ZA (Internet Service Providers' Association (ISPA) of South Africa)	€5,000
GRIX (GRNET)	€3,000
INTERLAN	€1,000
SLIX (XMission/Salt Lake IX) (\$US1,000)	€880
Total	€51,345

Full details of the program structure, project oversight, and project management are available on the project's website³. This document provides a summary of activities undertaken in the year ending March 2026, and shows full compliance with the program's objectives.

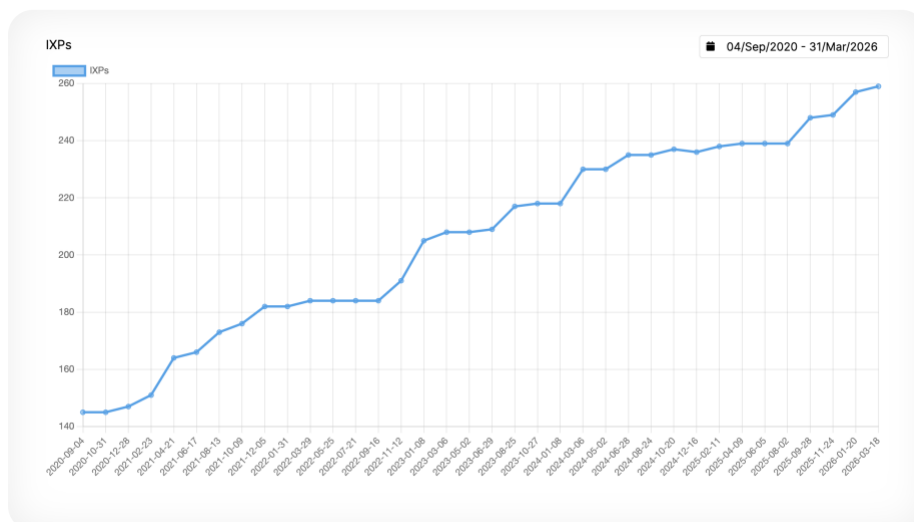
¹ <https://www.ixpmanager.org/sponsorship>

² <https://github.com/inex/IXP-Manager/releases>

³ <https://www.ixpmanager.org/sponsorship/terms>

We have met the following top-level milestones:

- The number of IXPs using IXP Manager has grown from 240 at the end of the previous year to 261 at the end of March 2026. Since the inception of the sponsorship program, this metric has increased tenfold. We feel that this is the best possible positive indicator from your sponsorship, and we are incredibly proud of this growth⁴:



- A full-time developer was hired by the program for the period from March 2024 to April 2025. Unfortunately, he had to leave for personal reasons.
- A new full-time developer was hired on March 1st, 2026, and he is already contributing to the project.
- A new major release, v7.0, in August 2025, which was the culmination of a lot of behind-the-scenes work, followed by a bugfix release, v7.0.1, in September.
- V7.1 was released in February 2026, focusing on security enhancements and reducing the potential attack surface by 72%.
- Continued additions to the official documentation at <http://docs.ixpmanager.org/>, as well as the introduction of versioning.
- A penetration test of the IXP Manager web application within the framework of the Cybersecurity Support Action Programme, coordinated by ENISA, with service support provider S2 Grupo Soluciones de Seguridad S.L., during February 2026.
- Continued outreach through presentations, workshops and mailing lists.
- Created additional tutorial videos for the installation and use of IXP Manager.
- Rewrite of the administrative section of <https://www.ixpmanager.org/>.

As part of our commitment to transparency and to fulfil the financial reporting requirements to our sponsors, we have an external chartered accountant prepare an independent report on the accounts each year. You can find these accountants' reports in the sponsorship section of the website⁵.

⁴ <https://www.ixpmanager.org/community/world-map>

⁵ <https://www.ixpmanager.org/sponsorship/reports>

Executive Summary – Project Statistics

The current statistics⁶ snapshot of the project (as at 28th March, 2026) is:



There are at least **260** IXPs Powering Peering using IXP Manager around the world to connect **14,012** networks of which **7,898** are unique. The edge peering capacity of these networks is **468 Tbps** over **20,398** connected ports. We aggregate traffic statistics from 153 IXP Manager platforms which show us that the peak traffic exchanged is **105.94 Tbps**.

Port Breakdown



To calculate these statistics, www.ixpmanager.org polls 168 of the 260 IXPs using their IX-F Member Export API and a further 84 IXPs using PeeringDB. As PeeringDB requires networks to assert that they peer at a specific IXP, that data source underestimates IXP Manager usage. The remaining 8 are not currently polled as we have not found either an IX-F or PeeringDB entry for them.

⁶ <https://www.ixpmanager.org/community/stats>

Financial Summary

The following sections provide a financial overview of the project.

Annual Budget

Previous budgets were predicated on hiring full-time junior PHP developers. While this proved effective, we believe that, given the project's current maturity and stability and the continuous integration frameworks we have developed, a senior PHP developer would be more appropriate. Such a developer would be more efficient and able to work with less continuous supervision, and therefore, the project will be able to iterate and release more quickly.

As such, the project's budget must increase as follows:

Expected Annual Budget for Y/E 31/03/2027	
Developer Costs (including employer taxes and redundancy contingency)	€81,000
Hardware (depreciation):	€2,500
Software Licences	€1,200
Travel (1 x Euro-IX)	€1,200
Rent (plus supplies and sundries)	€5,100
Accountant's Report	€500
Other Costs	€500
Contingency	€1,000
Total Annual Budgeted Expenditure	€91,800
Sponsorship Revenue	€(52,000)
Projected Shortfall for Y/E 31/03/2027	€39,800

The projected shortfall is based on current sponsorship levels, which also reflect a time when we were less proactive in advertising for and securing new sponsors and patrons. In particular, we are reluctant to approach new sponsors when the project lacks an in-situ developer. Given the new budgetary requirements and the new developer, we will make this a priority.

Additionally, the project is currently capitalised to cover this shortfall if necessary.

Change of Account Period and Revenue Recognition

The IXP Manager Sponsorship Program originally ran on a calendar year accounting period basis. However, Island Bridge Networks Ltd's ("IBN") accounting period ends on March 31st each year. This caused a number of unnecessary internal complexities, so the project changed its year-end date to align with IBN's to March 31st, 2025, and to March 31st annually thereafter.

As such, the three most recent accounting periods are:

- Full year ending 31st December, 2024 (*last period on calendar year-cycle*).
- Short year ending 31st March, 2025 (*short period to align with IBN's cycle*).
- Full year ending 31st March, 2026 (*first full year on new cycle*).

Sponsorship revenue will continue to be on a calendar-year cycle. Income received from January 1st, 2026, will be apportioned between accounting periods as appropriate. For example, a sponsor contributing €10,000 for the calendar year 2026, which is invoiced between January 1st and the completion of the year-end March 31st, 2026, accounts, will be handled as follows:

- €2,500 ($3/12 \times €10,000$) will be included as sponsorship revenue for the financial year-end March 31st, 2026.
- €7,500 ($9/12 \times €10,000$) will be treated as deferred revenue for the financial year-end March 31st, 2026 (i.e., revenue received for the following financial period), and revenue for the financial year-end March 31st, 2027.

A sponsor contributing €10,000 for 2026, invoiced after the year-end March 31st, 2026, accounts have been completed, will be treated as revenue for the financial year-end March 31st, 2027.

Financial Statements

While the accountant's reports are available on the IXP Manager website, the below provide a convenient overview of the past three accounting periods.

Statement of Profit and Loss - IXP Manager Sponsorship Project

	Y/E 31/03/2026	Y/E 31/03/2025	Y/E 31/12/2024
Sponsorship Income	€ 28,597	€ 29,000	€ 49,305
Expenses			
Wages and Allowances	€ 9,668	€ 15,750	€ 48,643
Redundancy Contingency	€ (1,800)	€ 450	€ 1,350
Employer's PRSI Contributions	€ 1,167	€ 1,673	€ 5,279
Rent	€ 1,286	€ 2,572	€ 3,858
Online Services & Software Licenses	€ 1,142	€ 448	€ 1,182
Conferences and Subscriptions	€ 45	€ -	€ -
Telephone/Broadband	€ -	€ -	€ -
Small Tools and Equipment	€ -	€ -	€ 73
Accountancy	€ 500	€ 500	€ 500
Advertising	€ -	€ -	€ -
Recruitment	€ 1,050	€ -	€ 766
Depreciation	€ 1,098	€ 275	€ 1,098
Loss/Gain on F/X Transactions	€ 337	€ -	€ 1,048
General Expenses	€ 6	€ 38	€ 26
	€ 14,500	€ 21,705	€ 63,824
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	€ 14,097	€ 7,295	€ (14,519)

Statement of Financial Position - IXP Manager Sponsorship Project

	31/03/2026	31/03/2025	31/12/2024
Fixed Assets	€ 824	€ 1,922	€ 2,197
Current Assets	€ 144,024	€ 93,079	€ 84,309
Creditors	€ (38,799)	€ (3,050)	€ (1,850)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	€ 106,048	€ 91,951	€ 84,656
Capital Account	€ 106,048	€ 91,951	€ 84,656

Security

IXP Manager is built with a security-first, secure-by-design approach. As a project that is twenty years old, we have had to regularly revisit past assumptions and best practices and update them to the prevailing best practices. One of the best ways of doing this is to have our work checked by independent third parties.

In 2022, ENISA, the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity, was tasked with establishing and rolling out the Cybersecurity Support Action Programme, a fund to provide cybersecurity services to Member States. In Ireland, the NCSC (the Irish National Cybersecurity Centre) was tasked with administering this initiative.

INEX applied to this program for a web application vulnerability assessment and was accepted. During February 2026, a team from S2 Grupo, a firm specialising in Cyber Intelligence and mission-critical systems operations, conducted a seven-day "grey box" penetration test on the latest release of IXP Manager (v7.0.1).

Not only was this an exercise that benefits INEX in Ireland, but it also benefits all EU member states, as there is at least one IXP in each country using IXP Manager, for a total of 60 IXPs in the EU and at least 260 worldwide.

S2 Grupo identified and categorised three medium-risk and one low-risk vulnerability. These have already been addressed in internal development branches and will be released shortly. Furthermore, these findings prompted a proactive internal audit by our development team, who utilised a new technique to identify and resolve several additional XSS-related issues.

INEX takes cybersecurity seriously, both as the primary IXP in Ireland and as the open-source steward of the IXP Manager project. We were pleased to participate in this funded assessment and are gratified that our secure coding methodology proved effective, with no High or Critical issues found.

We are proud that this collaboration between INEX, ENISA, S2 Grupo, and the NCSC contributes to the security of the global internet exchange community.

General Development Update

A complete list of releases and related features available on the project's GitHub page: <https://github.com/inex/IXP-Manager/releases>.

Recent highlights include the following.

V6.4.2 – November 2024

This is worthy of mention as it marked the sunsetting of the v6 release, with the underlying technologies (PHP 8.0 and Laravel v9) having reached end of life. We continued to support it for any security-related issues until March 1st, 2026.

V7.0.0 – August 2025

This was a major upgrade of IXP Manager and represented a significant amount of development time and effort. The underlying Laravel framework was upgraded and it introduced a new minimum PHP version of v8.4.

As part of this release, we also provided detailed upgrade instructions, with each step linked to a YouTube video demonstrating the steps being applied to a real-world installation of IXP Manager.

A summary of the most significant changes in IXP Manager v7.0.0 included:

- Underlying framework and third-party library updates as mentioned above.
- The introduction of static code analysis into our CI pipeline.
- A new *Diagnostics Suite* feature to significantly speed up troubleshooting member issues.
- P2P Graph Sorting.
- Various IRRDB Enhancements.
- Database logging of IRRDB updates.
- Configuration via a new frontend UI.
- Versioned documentation.
- Additional unit tests, including near-complete frontend coverage.
- A Vagrant development environment.

V7.1.0 – February 2026

This is primarily a security update that enables IXP administrators to protect access to administrative functions at the web server level, thereby reducing the potential attack surface by 72%.

Other elements of this release included:

- Router configuration improvements.
- AS112 templates for PowerDNS, and BIRD2 improvements.
- Route server/collector/AS112 template updates.
- Introduction of IPv6 max prefix settings.
- RPKI improvements.

Rewriting of www.ixpmanager.org

The www.ixpmanager.org website is our primary marketing, information and support site. As well as what visitors see on the site, there is a comprehensive administrative backend which includes:

- A daily job which polls all known IXPs using IXP Manager to generate the statistics pages shown previously in this report. We also record this information to create time series graphs.
- Content management system for registering, approving and listing IXPs using IXP Manager.
- Content management system for news items, talks, presentations, sponsors and tutorial videos.
- New translation management system.

Our previous developer, Laszlo, overhauled the back of this site during 2024 to update it to a modern Laravel application stack.

L10N / Translations

We have completed significant work on providing translation functionality for the member/customer area login, including a translation management system for volunteers in the administrative section of www.ixpmanager.org.

Versions in Use

One excellent metric of active use and maintenance of IXP Manager is the number of installs of each version. Our new website discussed above, *were possible*, also gathers this information during its daily polls:

Version	# Installs		
	Apr 2021	Oct 2022	Mar 2026
7.1.0			24
7.0.1			19
6.4.2			23
6.4.1			18
6.4.0			1
6.3.1			24
6.3.0			16
6.2.0		64	12
6.1.0		4	3
6.0.0		9	4
5.8.0		10	6
5.7.0	71	23	19
5.6.0	15	5	3
5.5.0	13	12	6
5.3.0	1	5	5
5.2.0	4	2	2
5.1.0	2	2	2

23% of IXPs have upgraded to a recent version. Unfortunately, there are another 23% who are stubbornly using out-of-date and out-of-support versions in the v5 release (and others using even older versions not listed above).

54% are still using v6, which is understandable, as it is trusted and stable. However, this is now officially unsupported. We hope to entice upgrades via:

- Comfort provided via the recent ENISA penetration test of IXP Manager.
- Our security focus in v7.1, and the upcoming v7.2.
- New features as we release them.
- Older versions of other key elements in the IXP Manager ecosystem, such as BIRD, are also of reaching end-of-life, and upgrading them will require new versions of IXP Manager.
- A continuous flow of new features and improvements.

Acknowledgments

László Kiss (@griphons) joined the IXP Manager core team from March 2024 to April 2025, making a significant contribution to IXP Manager v7. Moreover, some additional features he was working on were largely complete when he left, but not production-ready and have been held back for a future release.

Unfortunately László had to leave the project for personal reasons in April 2025. We thank László for his contributions.

Closing Remarks

A vision shared by many of those involved in IXP Manager, INEX, the core developers, and the contributors, is that as a technology it will enable the creation of IXPs wherever they are required, which in turn will create a stronger, open, more robust and better connected internet. And not only is it hoped that IXP Manager will help start these new IXPs, but that it will also enable these IXPs to launch from the best place possible: secure by default, proven configurations and designs, implementing best practices.

Our hope is also to gather and foster an 'IXP Manager community' - a place where the 260+ IXPs that use IXP Manager can come together to help each other, learn from one another, and share their stories.

Today, IXP Manager is in use by at least 260 IXPs around the world - with more being added every month. This gives immense pride to the entire team, our community sponsors, the developers, and the contributors. It is also quite sobering - it reminds us all to keep the community in mind when developing and prioritising new features. And it focuses our attention on maintaining the excellent reliability and security standards established over the past two decades.