

Replies to Bidder's Queries (Batch-1)
Project IDs: NG-BSD/Lot1-Dadu/2018

31-Oct-18

S.No	Queries	Document Ref:	USF Response
1	Is national roaming mandatory for data services only or voice service is also included?	SSA (Annex-6 of RFA)	National Roaming is not included in this project. Clause 2.05 (a1, c and d) of Draft SSA (Annex-6 of RFA) may be read as follows: "(a1) Not Applicable" "(c) In determining whether rates for infrastructure sharing are based on reasonable cost, or to assist in resolving any other dispute regarding the terms of facilities access, USFCo shall be entitled to disclose information obtained by it pursuant to Section 16.01 to the PTA. (d) The USF Service Provider shall also comply with any facilities sharing requirements set out in regulations, guidelines, decisions or orders issued by the PTA."
2	If there arises a scenario that 2G coverage is provided by one SP (Party-A) and 3G/4G services are provided by another SP (Party-B), is Party-B required to open the network for Voice (2G) also?	SSA (Annex-6 of RFA)	In given scenario, the SP will provision Broadband Services only. In cases where voice is not provided by any SP in areas identified in Schedule C, the SP will provisions both service. Note that National Roaming is not included in this project.
3	Is USF Service Provider not obliged to provide Roaming facility to requesting USF contributors, on first come first service basis in this project? Please clarify the scope of the project w.r.t. roaming services.	Clause 2.05(a1) of SSA (Annex-6 of RFA)	Please refer to Query no. 1 reply of this Query set.
4	Can a Bidder propose voice and/or data services (as per Schedule C) using any technology without restricting voice to 2G and Data to 3G/4G/LTE.	Clause 2(b) of SSA (Annex-6 of RFA)	USF is technology neutral and bidders are free to chose any technology for provision of USF voice and data services as per requirements of RFA.
5	If USFCo is not revising, deleting, modifying or adding to the technical requirements or targets before the 2nd Stage of Bidding Process (i.e. no change); then please confirm our understanding that the participation in Stage-2 will still be optional for Stage-1 Bidders without any kind of penalty (financial or other eligibility restrictions for future lots etc.)	Clause 41.2 (I) (d-e) of RFA	Please refer to clause 41.2 (I) (e) which states that: "The Applicants not willing to conform their respective bids to USF's technical requirements will be allowed to withdraw from the bidding without forfeiture of their bid security"
6	Bidders are required to submit the Bid Bond along with the cover letter in Stage-1. There is provision of withdrawal of proposals after Stage-1 without any forfeiture of bid security; therefore, we requests USFCO to get the Bid Bond in Stage-2.	42.1 (f) of RFA	Submission of Bid Bond in Stage-1 is a mandatory requirement.
7	The details of the mandatory Mauzas with "No Population" is shared for kind consideration and potential changes in "Schedule C" please.	Schedule C of SSA (Annex-6 of RFA)	As mentioned in disclaimer in Schedule C, The Lat,Long coordinates are intended to assist the bidders. It is upto the bidder to ascertain the correctness of the coordinates. The mauzas/Dehs may also have scattered population and there may be some mauzas without population as well. Bidders should plan their network keeping in view scattered nature of mauzas. Bidders are required to serve all the mandatory mauzas mentioned in Schedule C of the draft SSA. Updated Schedule C (Rev. A) has been issued and will be provided to registered bidders.
8	Clause 3 (f) of Annex-5: It is mentioned that only 2% of 60% papulation will require DL data rate of 512Kbps & UP data rate of 128Kbps. Clause 2(a) Schedule B: It is mentioned that DL data rate of 512Kbps & UP data rate of 128Kbps is a minimum requirement Clause 2(a) Schedule B: It is mentioned that internet services Need to comply with PTA requirements. PTA obligation for 3G is 256 Kbps .Please confirm that broadband services are required for how many subscriber and with which data rates DL\UL.	Clause 3 (f) of Annex-5 Clause 2(a) and 6 of Schedule B	512 Kbps Downlink and 128 Kbps uplink is minimum requirement. Broadband network coverage should be provided to 60% of the each mandatory mauzas and network should cater for 2% of 60% of total population of each Mandatory Mauza. PTA has specified minimum data rate requirements for different licenses, however there is no restriction to provide higher data rates in PTA licenses. USF is technology neutral and bidders are free to chose any technology to provide these data rates.
9	The Applicants not willing to proceed for commercial bidding in stage two, will be allowed to withdraw from the bidding without forfeiture of their bid security"	Clause 41.2 (I) (d-e) of RFA	Please refer to clause 41.2 (I) (e) which states that: "The Applicants not willing to conform their respective bids to USF's technical requirements will be allowed to withdraw from the bidding without forfeiture of their bid security"