

Replies to Bidder's Queries (Batch-1)
Project ID: USF/SP/OpticFiber/2017/Khyber-Pakhtunkhawa

22nd May 2017

S.No	Queries	Document Ref:	USF Response
1	USF to confirm if 24 Fiber pairs are mandatory or lower nos. could be suggested for areas with lesser population density.	Schedule C of Draft SSA	24 Fiber (12 Pairs) is a mandatory requirement
2	From the interfaces it is unclear what type of Services are to be extended.	Clause 6 & 14 of RFA	Please refer to Clause 6 of RFA, Schedule A1, A2, B and C of draft SSA for USF OFC service requirements. Further please refer to clause 14.2 which states "In addition to the USF OFC Services, a USF Service Provider may provide other services in the USF Areas, to the extent the USF Service Provider is authorized to provide such services under applicable Licence(s).
3	Why is legacy backbone and interfaces being extended while service providers have mostly modernized networks to IP interfaces? In any case, for the specified services TDM backbone should not be mandatory and MPLS/MPLS-TP backbone could be used to provide the same services. Please clarify.	Clause 20.2 of RFA	Clause 20.2 of RFA is stated as follow: "A USF Service Provider may utilise any appropriate Optic Fiber Transmission technology, subject to any limitation in its Licence, in the provision of the USF OFC Services that meet the USF Service requirements identified in the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement." Bidders can use MPLS/MPLS-TP, however legacy interfaces at endpoints are still used and thus proposed solution should meet USF service requirements required as per RFA.
4	USF being a govt organization can support in acquisition of ROW from the concerned authorities/TMAs. Furthermore, it could also help in subsidizing ROW charges for this purpose.	Clause 20.4 of RFA	Acquisition of Right of Ways (RoWs) will be the responsibility of service provider. Please refer to Clause 20.4 of RFA which States "Any permissions or authorizations required from authorities in the USF Areas, in connection with the installation/deployment of the USF Optic Fiber Network facilities and equipment shall be the responsibility of the USF Service Provider."
5	Are the locations (Lat, Long) arbitrary or accurate in terms of population density? Can PTCL choose more appropriate location for sites? If so, the length of OFC may vary. How will this be reflected on the subsidy in case of inevitable increase in route length?	Clause 20.1 of RFA	GPS coordintes are provided for reference. Bidders can propose more suitable locations in term of access and population density, based on their business model. However USF will only pay subsidy for the length of OFC as per Schedule C and additional length required will not be covered.
6	Is Outdoor site acceptable if it meets the requirements?	Clause 16 of RFA	The bidder can proposed outdoor/indoor solution, however bidder will be required to fullfill USF infrastructure sharing requirements as per clause 16 of RFA and Clause 2.05 of draft SSA.
7	Is Land acquisition necessary for provision of services?	Clause 20.1 of RFA	Please refer to Clause 20.1 of RFA "Subject to the terms of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement, a USF Service Provider will be authorized to construct or otherwise procure all telecommunications facilities required to provide the USF OFC Services."