

**Replies to Bidder's Queries (Batch-1)**  
**Tender ID: USF/SP/OPTICFIBER/2024-25/02**

**27-May-25**

S. No.	Queries	Document Ref:	USF Response
1	Please confirm whether the total financial BOQs listed in Annex 5 must align with the total CAPEX for OFC indicated in Schedule D.	Annex 5 to RFA	Yes, the Total Capex demanded in the bid must match the total financial BoQs, excluding the opex payment schedule
2	What is the maximum percentage of the total project cost that can be claimed as a subsidy from USF?	Annex 1 of RFA	Please refer to Part III, Clause 33 – “Selection of Successful Applicant” (RFA) document for detailed information.
3	If the service provider completes the deployment associated with Milestone 1, but USF does not release the corresponding payment within the agreed timeframe, would it be acceptable to USF if the service provider pauses/halt further deployment (e.g., the next milestone) until the outstanding payment is received?	Schedule D of SSA	USFCo releases payments upon successful completion of the specified milestones as outlined in both the RFA and Schedule D of the (Service & Subsidy Agreement) SSA. All the terms & conditions must be governed by the SSA (part of bidding document). Importantly, no provision in the SSA or related documents explicitly provides the USF Service Provider the right to pause or halt services due to non-release of payments however the same would be deemed as contractual breach.
4	In the event of a force majeure causing delays in project deployment, which results in increased costs due to inflation, would USF consider a request from the service provider to revise the originally approved subsidy amount ?	Schedule D of SSA	No subsidy enhancement is allowed under any circumstances
5	Regarding BTS subsidy, USF provides support on a per-BTS connectivity basis. For example, it was estimated that connecting 239 BTS sites would require 100 km of OFC. However, due to lack of interest from certain telecom operators to connect their networks, the actual number of BTS connections is lower. Nonetheless, we are still required to deploy the full 100 km of OFC to serve the remaining, more remote BTS locations. Under these circumstances, how will USF determine the subsidy amount, considering that the full 100 km of OFC has already been deployed as originally planned for 239 BTS sites?	Schedule D of SSA	As per Schedule D clause 2, the payment of 5th milestone will be made as follows: “Demonstration that 100% of target BTS Towers have been directly connected with USF Optic Fiber Network. Payment against the milestone will be made according to the value of the BoQ installed”.
6	Also please confirm from USF whether Service Provider can repositioned the node within the same UC boundary to optimize the length of the proposed OFC.	Schedule C of SSA	Yes, the Service Provider is permitted to reposition the node within the same Union Council (UC) boundary. The node placement can be adjusted in accordance with the Service Provider’s network design to optimize the length and efficiency of the proposed Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) route.