

Replies to Bidder's Queries (Batch-4)
Tender ID: USF/SP/OPTICFIBER/2025-26/01

19-August-25

S. No.	Queries	Document Ref:	USF Response
1	In case if ON NET is to be offered, how much pair requirements we have to fulfill? As of RFP, the requirement is of 24 pairs with obligation to reserve pair for Defense as well. If we are offering ON NET, how can we comply to the aforementioned obligation of 1 pair reservation for Defense	Schedule A (Part-1) of SSA	For all cable routes proposed for USF network the cable shall be minimum of 48 Fibers (24 Pairs). Allocation of one dedicated dark fiber pair for Defense Services, free of cost, with industry standard operational SLA and five (05) fiber pairs reserved for Dark Fiber/IRU basis only, to any prospective buyer such as Telcos, Corporate Customers, Govt. etc. Tariff as defined in RFA shall apply. Compliance is required.
2	Regarding the deployment, if no redundant path is available due to unavailability of proper roads, can we manage the redundancy through opposite side of the road?	Schedule A (Part-1) of SSA	No, redundancy cannot be managed through the same road/route. As per industry practice, redundancy requires geographically diverse paths with independent ducting. Using the same corridor, even on the opposite side, does not meet standard redundancy criteria.
3	Regarding the equipment, as per understanding, one node from each cluster to be engaged in Ring topology with backhaul of 50G. For remaining nodes of the cluster, do we need to connect them in ring as well or they can be offered in linear ?	Schedule A (Part-1) of SSA	Please refer to Clause 1(d) of Schedule A (Part-1) of SSA, reproduced here again: "All Clusters of OFC Networks as defined in Schedule-C must be connected in ring topology for redundancy. For this purpose, any suitable active node of each Cluster may be used to form the OFC Ring. Based on their network and redundancy ring plan to maximize uptime, the Service Provider may also choose any other appropriate node of Schedule C to be made part of the ring after upgrading to active node, if required. However, the number of ring nodes shall be equal to/greater than the number of clusters as per Schedule-C. Also, every Schedule C cluster of nodes must have at least one active node."
4	Do we need to consider adding IP equipment for 50G capable DWDM nodes as well (i.e. the ones from each cluster forming a big ring?)	Schedule A (Part-I & Part-II) of SSA	Please refer to Clause 1(f) of Schedule A (Part-1) of SSA which is reproduce here again: "The network nodes must support Carrier Grade IP network with features as defined in Schedule-A Part-II of SSA."