CONSULTATION PAPER

2019 UAS Projects

Issued on 3 August 2018

Contents

1. Introduction

The National Information and Communications Technology Act 2009 (the Act) mandates the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) to establish a Universal Access and Service Fund (UAS Fund) to promote and extend ICT services in PNG. The Act also provides for the establishment of a Universal Access and Service Board (UAS Board) and Secretariat within NICTA to implement the government's universal access and service policy and administer the UAS Fund.

Pursuant to s.108 of the Act, the UAS Board is required to engage NICTA through the UAS Secretariat to prepare a Universal Access and Service Projects Report. The report should summarize the UAS Projects under consideration for the subject year, their respective indicative costs, their proposed ranking (and the reasons) and the proposed aggregate budget.

Prior to any decision by NICTA as to its 2019 Projects Report, NICTA and the UAS Board are consulting with stakeholders generally, and soliciting their suggestions or proposals for 2019 UAS Projects. This Consultation document also sets out possible UAS Projects for 2019 on which comments are sought.

2. UAS Strategic Planning Report 2018-2022

To assist NICTA and the UAS Board to carry out their respective functions in Part VI of the Act, particularly relating to the implementation of UAS Projects, the UAS Board through NICTA, in consultation with the operator licensees, relevant government agencies and other industry stakeholders, has developed the UAS Strategic Planning Report 2018-2022 (the Strategic Planning Report). The Strategic Planning Report provides a useful context, delineating the UAS objectives, and planning framework to assist the annual process of UAS Project identification and ranking. Comments or updates also are sought on this document, which is not binding and for informational purposes only.

The Strategic Planning Report takes into account factors relevant to the selection, costing and ranking of possible UAS Projects and identifies four (4) strategic Programs that could form part of UAS implementation for 2019.

2.1 Programs

2.1.1 Program 1: Mobile Broadband Network Upgrade and Expansion

The purpose of this program is to extend the coverage of advanced broadband wireless mobile communications services (at least 3G/HSPA+, 4G/LTE, or other advanced systemsThe goal is to deliver reliable, high quality access to Internet and "smart" mobile applications and capabilities to as many PNG citizens as possible, where access to such services is not adequately available, and where existing licensed operators are unwilling or unable to expand their networks, due to commercial or other constraints.

There are two types of Projects included in this Program:

- New BTS sites in areas currently with no mobile service

- Upgrades to existing 2G BTS sites.

2.1.2 Program 2: Community and Institutional Broadband Networks

The purpose of this program is to help deliver high-speed, full-service fixed broadband Internet connections to selected communities, with services and capacity widely available to public institutions as well as local businesses and households, on an affordable basis throughout each designated local service area. To achieve these outcomes, the Community Broadband Program will support comprehensive implementation projects in a limited number of designated locations, which will consist of three integrated components:

- Broadband Network Access and Service
- Institutional Connectivity
- Community ICT Centres (CICs)

2.1.3 Program 3: ICT Platform for Future Growth

This program focuses on the demand side of ICT development objectives, to ensure that citizens and communities are able to gain the most benefits from the installation and availability of advanced broadband ICT networks and services. Different groups of users will find value in different types of ICT applications, functions, devices, and services, but there will in all cases be a wide scope of potential uses for individuals, families, small businesses, and others to improve their livelihood through the use of advanced ICTs.

The purpose of this program is therefore to help develop a platform for the future, long-term development of ICT utilization and opportunities across Papua New Guinea society. Projects in this area will support the development of creative, innovative, and high value ICT activities within communities across PNG, which will tap into the resources and knowledge of the local populations. In turn, NICTA is confident that such Projects will encourage further investment in and development of innovative ICT networks and services throughout the country.

There are two main components to this program, which can be implemented through independent UAS Projects or in combination with other Fund Programs.

- ICT Applications and Content
- Digital Literacy projects

2.1.4 Program 4: Expansion of Broadcasting Network Coverage

This program addresses the objective of extending coverage of radio and television broadcasting to all citizens and communities in PNG. The UAS Board and NICTA aim to support growth of the broadcasting sector through targeted use of UAS Fund resources to close gaps and assist low income consumers where the broadcasting market may not reach. This activity would focus on support for infrastructure expansion, primarily through enhancement or installation of broadcast antennae on existing or new towers, in close coordination with the rollout of mobile telecommunications infrastructure under Program 1, as well as potential assistance for low-income households with the costs of the digital broadcasting transition, via discounts on set-top boxes.

This program could be implemented through projects extending coverage for:

- Radio Broadcasting
- Television Broadcasting

3. UAS Projects for 2019

3.1 Proposed UAS Projects for 2019

The proposed UAS Projects for 2019 are summarised below in Table 1. The projects are described with greater detail in the UAS Strategic Planning Report (2018-2022) which forms "Attachment B" to this Consultation Paper.

Program	Project	Indicative Budget (Kina)	
		Per Project	*Total*
1. Mobile Broadband Network Upgrade and Expansion	3G Greenfield Mobile Broadband	15.0 million	20.0 million
	3G Upgrade Mobile Broadband	5.0 million	
2. Community and Institutional Broadband Networks	Connect the Schools	3.0 Million	3.0 million
3. ICT Platform for Future Growth	Content/Applications Development	0.5 million	2.0 million
	Digital Literacy	1.5 million	
4. Expansion of Broadcasting Network Coverage	Broadcasting Infrastructure Expansion		2.0 million
		Total	**27.0 million**

Table 1: Proposed UAS Projects for 2019

3.2 Budget

The total indicative budget for the proposed projects in all Programs is set at K27 million as indicated in the Strategic Plan. The total indicative budget and allocations for specific UAS Projects under each Program are estimates for initial planning purposes and subject to ongoing review and updating by the UAS Board and NICTA.

3.3   Implementation Schedule

Following this consultation, NICTA will finalise the report for the proposed projects for submission to the UAS Board for consideration. The UAS Board will then prepare the UAS Projects Report for 2019 for submission to the Minister for Information and Communications Technology for consideration.

Subject to obtaining timely approvals required in the Act, NICTA aims to have the UAS Projects for 2019 implemented in early 2019.

4. Consultation

NICTA hereby invites stakeholders, licensed operators and the general public to submit comments on the proposed UAS Projects for 2019. Further, NICTA also invites proposals for potential UAS Projects not covered in the list of proposed projects for consideration to be implemented in 2019. In this connection NICTA has also prepared the proposal form which is attached as Attachment A.

Copies of all submissions received will be published on NICTA's Public Register. Additional procedural information is set out in the Guidelines on the submission of written comments to public consultations and public inquiries, which are available on NICTA's Public Register.

5. Contact

If you have any enquiries relating to this consultation please address them to the following emails in the first instance; kgulovui@nicta.gov.pg or viru@nicta.gov.pg

6. Attachments

Attachment 'A': Project Proposal Form

ATTACHMENT A

Project Proposal Form

Project Proposal Form

2019

Introduction

One of the key objectives of the National ICT Policy is to ensure equitable access to Information and Communication Technology Services. The policy objective is founded on the premise that ICT is seen as necessary tool for economic growth and social development. The Universal Access Board within NICTA is mandated to give effect to this policy by identifying and developing projects aimed at bridging the telecommunications and ICT gap that limits the opportunities available to ordinary citizens.

Within this context, the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) is inviting stakeholders including the general public, ICT operators and service providers to propose or suggest any projects or programs that you think are consistent with the overarching goals within the ICT sector and that NICTA should consider in its current or future programs. Proposals that are accepted will be considered by the UAS Board for potential inclusion in the 2019 UAS programs.

Scope of Proposals

All stakeholders including the general public, ICT operators and service providers are invited to propose or suggest any project for NICTA's consideration. The submitted proposals should seek to promote the long-term economic and social development of Papua New Guinea through projects that will among other things, encourage the development of ICT infrastructure and improve the availability of ICT services within the country including under-served communities and geographic areas.

Proponents are advised to note that submitting proposals does not secure funding/assistance from NICTA in any form or guarantee inclusion in the UAS programs. Submitted proposals will only be received as project concepts for NICTA's consideration.

Submission of Proposals

Proposals must be submitted in the proposed format in Attachment 1. Proposals can be submitted by hard copies or electronically to:

> Acting Director UAS Secretariat
> NICTA
> PO Box 8227
> Boroko 111
> National Capital District
>
> Email: uas@nicta.gov.pg

Deadline

The deadline for submission of proposals is **7 September 2019**. Late proposals will not be accepted.

Attachment 1: Project Proposal Submission Form

Section A

Title of Project   Click here to enter text.

Summary of Project

Section B

1.0   Objective and Outcomes of Proposed Project

Proposals must state the objectives of the project, its proposed outcomes taking into consideration the objectives of the Universal Access and Service Fund and national development goals from the perspective of ICTs.

2.0   Benefits of Proposed Project

Proposals must include the beneficiaries of the project such as number of women, men youth, and organizations and how will they benefit whether it be social, economic, environmental benefits, employment, business opportunities.

3.0   Technical Aspects

If the proposals include setting up of networks, technical specifications and schematic of the network must be provided. Any technical issues should also be highlighted.

4.0   Cost

All proposals must include a project costing and high-level breakdown of the costs.

5.0   Sustainability

Proposals must identify suitable ways in which the project can be sustained financially beyond the life of the project and whether or not it can be scaled up nationally.

6.0   Cross-cutting Issues

If necessary, proposals should also include issues relating to addressing environmental aspects or issues on addressing the needs of minority groups such as gender equity, people with disabilities.

7.0   Monitoring and Evaluation

Proposals should clearly show how the project can be monitored and evaluated over a 12 - month period. The proposals should clearly provide measurable indicators to assess the impact of the project.