



RESPONSE REPORT TO COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION PAPER

Universal Access and Service (UAS) Projects for
2021

Issued on 19th October 2020

1. INTRODUCTION

On 18th August 2020, NICTA commenced a public consultation seeking comments and suggestions from the industry and general public on the projects proposed for 2021 in the Discussion Paper entitled "Consultation Paper on Universal Access and Service Projects for 2021."

At the time of the consultation, NICTA also invited stakeholders to submit proposals for potential UAS Projects not covered in the list of proposed projects in the discussion paper for consideration.

The deadline for submissions was set as 15 September 2020, and then extended by 7 days in response to a request from Telikom PNG Limited.

NICTA received submissions from four (4) institutions as listed below in alphabetical order of organisation:

- Enova Foundation Inc. ("Enova")
- Huawei Technologies PNG ("Huawei")
- Klasinovel Limited ("Klasinovel")
- Telikom PNG Limited ("Telikom")

All written submissions with NICTA's Response Report can be obtained from the public register on the NICTA website (www.nicta.gov.pg).

This report provides a summary of the key comments and issues that were raised through these submissions and the NICTA's responses in each case.

NICTA also wishes to clarify that no final decision or reporting relating to 2021 UAS Projects had occurred at the time of the UAS 2021 Projects Discussion Paper. With that been said, a report will be prepared to the UAS Board for consideration on the proposed projects for 2021.

2. OVERVIEW OF PRIMARY COMMENTS RECEIVED AND NICTA'S CONSIDERATION OF AND RESPONSE TO THOSE COMMENTS

The table below summarizes the main points of each submission, together with the responses of NICTA staff. Where some specific points or language may not be directly addressed, all comments received were considered and have been taken into account.

No	Sub- mission	Reference or subject	Summary of comment	NICTA response
1	Huawei	Mobile Greenfield Project, Subsidy Amount	Huawei proposes that NICTA increase the project subsidy from the current figure to 1,100,000 PGK per site to include the 4G active equipment. Considering the site is not commercially viable for operators and is likely to incur high maintenance cost, NICTA should consider the passive and active part in its project costing for each site.	NICTA will consider the option of passive/active in the future project pending the outcome of the current approach of only funding the passive(tower). Alternatively, will consider full funding for the passive (tower) and invite operators to install their antennas. Prior to tower construction NICTA will advise license operators to have their views/consent on the proposed location.
2	Huawei	Emergency Telecommunications, Procurement	Huawei proposes NICTA commence the bidding process and procure the emergency telecommunications system in Q4 2020 or QI 2021 prior to any emergency. This is to ensure the equipments are available and ready to be deployed during an emergency considering the lengthy timeframe to procure the system subsequent to an emergency.	NICTA will use the existing service providers to provide emergency services as and when it is required. Such services will not require normal procurement. NICTA will assist any operators in case of any emergency. A separate emergency telecommunication system can be considered in the future in consultation with the National Emergency Department and other important stakeholders.
3	Huawei	Emergency Telecommunications, Budget	Huawei recommends the budget be increased to 6 Million PGK as the emergency system will use dedicated water proof handsets and systems which are higher in standards and have high maintenance cost. The proposed increased budget will also cater	NICTA will consider any new approach if the current approach (as noted above) is inefficient. Furthermore, NICTA will consult other responsible agencies for any alternate solution for emergencies.

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			for an emergency communication vehicle with a fully-fledged emergency system.	
4	Huawei	Mobile Greenfield Project, Tower Design	Huawei recommends that NICTA consider monopole base-stations in its greenfield project since it will be deployed in a rural village with a population of 1000-2000 to save cost. The Huawei RuralStar is a product of Huawei that runs on solar power and replaces the RDS tower with a mono-pole and a coverage radius of 8KM.	NICTA in consultation with the service providers will consider any technology that extends coverage in the rural areas. Any last mile solution will be deployed on a mutual agreement with existing service providers.
5	Huawei	Program 3, Budget Allocation	Huawei is proposing NICTA reduce the budget from 1 Million to 500,000 PGK. Infrastructure is still critical in the telecommunication development of PNG and should be considered the utmost priority.	Section 5 aims to address the demand side to help the take up of ICT services which is currently low. The budget is subject to change depending on further market analysis.
6	Telikom PNG Ltd	Mobile Greenfield Project, Subsidy Amount	Telikom PNG disagrees with the subsidy amount per site proposed by NICTA for the greenfield project. Telikom proposes NICTA increase the subsidy to 1 million PGK per site.	NICTA notes and will consider the proposed increase of subsidy to K1million per tower subject to further analysis.
7	Telikom PNG Ltd	Mobile Greenfield Project, Sustainability	Telikom is proposing a Solar Power Solution be deployed for the greenfield mobile project at all sites for sustainability. The solution proposed would cost an additional K250,000 PGK.	NICTA will consider any innovative solution for the last mile especially in the rural areas where sustainability is a major concern.
8	Telikom PNG Ltd	Mobile Upgrade Project, Proposed Sites	The current proposed sites for the upgrade project by NICTA should be increased from 10 to 20 to benefit all regions and provinces according to Telikom. Telikom is also proposing to remove a number of sites proposed by NICTA with their proposed locations.	Project locations proposed by NICTA is based on current coverage data. All mobile operators are advised to provide updated coverage details such as number of BTS and location for NICTA to verify.

No	Sub-mission	Reference or subject	Summary of comment	NICTA response
9	Telikom PNG Ltd	Mobile Upgrade Project, Subsidy Amount	Telikom PNG proposes that NICTA increase the subsidy for the upgrade project from K50,000 to K120,000 per site.	NICTA will consider increase the project cost as proposed subject to further analysis and awareness. Telikom should also justify why the proposed project cost per site by NICTA is too low.
10	Telikom PNG Ltd	Mobile Upgrade Project, Import Tax Duty	Telikom is proposing that Import Tax Duty under this project be exempted.	NICTA will consider the import duty tax and advice accordingly or make amendments on the project documents.
11	Telikom PNG Ltd	Mobile Upgrade Project	Telikom suggests that NICTA increase the number of location selection for the Mobile Network Operators (MNO) but limit the number of sites allocated per bidder.	NICTA will increase project sites but considers limiting number of sites per bidder to be anti-competitive and not good for the sector. All service providers are given an equal opportunity to bid on the UAS levy funded projects.
12	Telikom PNG Ltd	Mobile Upgrade Project, Eligible Bidders	Telikom PNG is suggesting that only licensed Mobile Network Operators (MNO) bid for all Mobile project.	As it is, only the current licensees with appropriate licenses and available resources are eligible to bid.
13	Telikom PNG Ltd	Mobile Greenfield Project	Telikom PNG is also proposing to construct & commission seven (7) greenfield mobile sites in Hela, West Sepik, Manus, West New Britain and Bougainville.	Proposal falls under Program One (1) on mobile infrastructure. Project locations proposed by NICTA are based on coverage gap analysis around PNG. Telikom can provide GPS (lat/long) details for the proposed sites for NICTA to verify.
14	Enova Foundation Inc.	Program 3	The Enova Foundation Inc. is proposing to include their project proposal for 2021 UAS Projects to pilot a Community Media Platform at Keakalo Village in the Abau District of Central Province.	The proposal falls under program 3 of NICTA's strategic planning report. NICTA will further review the proposal for further recommendations and amendments.
15	Klasinovel Limited	Program 3	Klasinovel is proposing a Community ICT Learning Centre for the community at Laloki, a ward in the Vanapa-Brown LLG within Kairuku-Hiri District of	The proposal can be catered for under programs two (2) and three (3) of NICTA's strategic planning report with respect to phases one (1), three (3) and four (4)

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			<p>Central Province. The proposed project has a three (3) year timeline and comprises of five (5) phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) (a) Aerial Mapping of ILG Boundaries for land apportioning toward Laloki Ward 1 development plans and (b) social mapping; ii) Development of a Multipurpose Community Information and ICT Learning Center (CIC) from apportioned ILG land; iii) Implementation of a Wireless Broadband Internet Service for the CIC; iv) Delivery of a 12-Month ICT Skills Training program using the CIC facility; and v) Establishment and Operation of a Community Cooperative Business. 	<p>of the proposed project. NICTA will further review the proposal for consideration in the 2021 UAS Projects.</p>

3. CONCLUSION

NICTA thanks the organisations and other stakeholders that contributed to the consultation process for the 2021 UAS Projects. As a result of the valuable comments received NICTA has modified parts of the 2021 UAS Project Report to the UAS Board for its consideration.

NICTA will now proceed to complete the processes under the Act and implement its plans as expeditiously as possible.