Consultation Paper on UAS Projects for 2021

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1   Background

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 as to its 2021 Projects Report, NICTA and the UAS Board consult with stakeholders and interested parties.

2 Introduction

This consultation paper seeks comments and suggestions from stakeholders on the proposed UAS projects for 2021.

To assist NICTA and the UAS Board to carry out their respective functions under Part VI of the Act, the UAS Board following public consultation approved 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. It should be noted that Strategic Planning Report is not binding and serves as a guide and for informational purposes. The Strategic Planning Report is available on NICTA/UAS website (*www.nicta.gov.pg*).

NICTA is inviting stakeholders, licensed operators and the general public to submit Universal Access Projects for consideration to be implemented in 2021. In this connection NICTA has also prepared the draft proposals aimed at promoting discussion and consideration.

This document has been prepared for the purpose of facilitating industry and wider public discussion on the UAS projects for 2021. The document contains projects NICTA considers as critical for implementation and invites comments and inputs from the public and interested parties.

Following consultation, NICTA will finalise the Report for submission to the UAS Board for consideration. The UAS Board will prepare a UAS Project report for submission to the Minister for Communications for consideration.

In developing the projects proposal for 2021, NICTA has taken into account the Government's Vision 2050 Strategy, the Medium Term Development Strategy (2018-2022), Development Strategic Plan 2020 to 2030 and the UAS Strategic Planning Report.

Submissions should be submitted via email to consultation.submission@nicta.gov.pg and must be received by close of business on Tuesday 15th September 2020.

3 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 systems). The 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 three types of Projects included in this Program:

- New BTS sites in areas currently with no mobile service; and
- Upgrades to existing 2G BTS sites to 4G.
- Provision of Backhaul for Mobile

3.1 Greenfield Proposed Projects

#	Proposed Project	Location	Cost	Population
1.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Oriomo Bitura Rural LLG, South Fly District, Western Province	K800,000	8,001
2.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Morehead Rural LLG, South Fly District, Western Province	K800,000	10,196
3.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Yapsie Rural LLG, Telefomin District, West Sepik Province	K800,000	9,146
4.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Green River Rural LLG, Vanimo-Green River District, West Sepik Province	K800,000	12,718
5.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Hulia Rural LLG, Komo/Magarima District, Hela Province	K800,000	22,486
6.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Nissan Rural LLG, North Bougainville District, AROB Province	K800,000	6,810
7.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Buin Rural LLG, South Bougainville	K800,000	3,891

#	Proposed Project	Location	Cost	Population
		District, AROB Province		
8.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Gloucester Rural LLG, Kandrian/Gloucester District, West New Britain Province	K800,000	9,118
9.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Kove Kaliai Rural LLG, Kandrian/Gloucester District, West New Britain Province	K800,000	10,720
10.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Pilikambi Rural LLG, Lagaip/Porgera District, Enga Province	K800,000	29,981
11.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Paiela/Hewa Rural LLG, Lagaip/Porgera District, Enga Province	K800,000	19,701
12.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Aua Wuvulu Rural LLG, Manus District, Manus Province	K800,000	1,459
13.	Infrastructure – Greenfield	Nigoherm Rural LLG, Manus District, Manus Province	K800,000	1,930
		TOTAL	K10.4 Million	146,157

3.2 Upgrade Proposed Projects

#	Proposed Project	Location	Cost	Population
1.	Infrastructure –Upgrade	West Pomio LLG, Pomio District, East New Britain Province	K50,000	8,325
2.	Infrastructure –Upgrade	Central Inland LLG, Pomio District, East New Britain Province	K50,000	7,496
3.	Infrastructure –Upgrade	Melkoi LLG, Pomio District, East New Britain Province	K50,000	8,040
4.	Infrastructure - Upgrade	Yagaria Rural LLG, Lufa District, Eastern Highlands Province	K50,000	28,312
5.	Infrastructure – Upgrade	Hube Rural LLG, Finschafen District, Morobe Province	K50,000	8,952

#		Location	Cost	Population
6.	Infrastructure – Upgrade	Yawar Rural LLG, Bogia District, Madang Province	K50,000	33,940
7.	Infrastructure – Upgrade	Bumbita/Muhian Rural LLG, Maprik District, East Sepik Province	K50,000	18,530
8.	Infrastructure – Upgrade	Karimui Rural LLG, Karimui/Nomane District, Chimbu Province	K50,000	20,953
9.	Infrastructure – Upgrade	Maip Muritaka Rural LLG, Lagaip/Pogera District, Enga Province	K50,000	18,623
10.	Infrastructure - Upgrade	Goodenough Rural LLG, Kiriwina Goodenough District, Milne Bay Province	K50,000	17,211
		Total	K500,000	170,382

The proposed upgrade locations are tentative and may change following consultations with the operators and communities. The total cost to implement all proposed projects both greenfield and upgrade under this program is **K10.9** Million.

4 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; and
- Community ICT Centres (CICs)

4.1 Proposed Projects

#	Proposed Project	Location	Cost	Population
1.	**Computer Laboratory with Broadband Connectivity for Tertiary Institutions, Secondary Schools and Technical	Nationwide	K2 Million	

	Vocational Education and Training Schools		
2.	**Broadband Connectivity for Health Centres	Nationwide	K1.2 Million
3.	**Broadband Connectivity for Agriculture Centres	Nationwide	K1 Million
		Total	**K4.2 Million**

**All Tertiary, Secondary and TVET schools will be determined following consultation with the Department of Education (DoE) and the Department of Higher Education Research Science & Technology (DHERST). Health and Agriculture Centres will be determined after consultation with the National Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock respectively.

The total cost to implement the proposed projects is **K4.2** Million. NICTA also clarifies that NOT all projects proposed under this program may be implemented within the period.

5 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 (2) main components to this program, which can be implemented through independent UAS Projects or in combination with other Fund Programs.

- ICT Applications and Content; and
- Digital Literacy

#	Proposed Project	Location	Cost	Population
1.	Content Development and e-Applications	PNG Wide	K500,000	
2.	ICT Apps Development	PNG wide	K500,000	
		Total	**K1 Million**	

The total cost for the proposed projects under this program is **K1** Million.

6 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; and
- Television Broadcasting

#	Proposed Project	Location	Cost	Population
1.	Improve Radio and Television Broadcasting Coverage	Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province	K1 Million	103,396
		Pomio, East New Britain Province		71,836
		Total	K1 Million	175,232

The proposed project under this program will cost a total of **K1** Million.

7 Other Projects

7.1 Development Partnership Projects

All projects proposed by development partners including International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and other interested

parties may be considered under this category. **K1** Million will be appropriated for this project.

7.2 Emergency Telecommunications

NICTA also proposes to appropriate funds for Emergency Telecommunications response to support emergency operations for State of Emergencies related to natural disasters and pandemic disease outbreaks. NICTA also clarifies that this project will only be implemented in the event a State of Emergency has been declared with the need for an Emergency Telecommunications response. An amount of **K5** Million has been earmarked for this project.

A total of **K6** Million will be allocated for all projects under the Other Projects program.

8 Budget

The total indicative budget for the proposed projects in all Programs as well as other Projects is set at **K23.1** million. 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.

8.1 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 2021 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 2021 implemented in early 2021.

9 Consultation

NICTA hereby invites stakeholders, licensed operators and the general public to submit comments on the proposed UAS Projects for 2021. Further, NICTA also invites proposals for potential UAS Projects not covered in the list of proposed projects for consideration to be implemented in 2021. In this connection NICTA has also prepared the proposal form which is available on the NICTA website at *www.nicta.gov.pg*.

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.

10 Contact

If you have any enquiries relating to this consultation please address them to the following email in the first instance; *wsuti@nicta.gov.pg*