

INVITATION TO REGISTER INTEREST AND SUBMIT A DRAFT UNIVERSAL SERVICE PLAN AS A UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVIDER UNDER THE COMMUNICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA (UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION) REGULATIONS 2002 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF NETWORK FACILITIES AND DEPLOYMENT OF NETWORK SERVICE FOR THE PROVISIONING OF PUBLIC CELLULAR SERVICES AT THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE TARGETS UNDER THE JALINAN DIGITAL NEGARA (JENDELA) PHASE 1 INITIATIVE

Questions & Answers

No.	Questions	Answers
1	Do all the major telcos allowed to participate in this tender?	Please refer to subparagraph 4.1(b) of the RFP to understand the eligibility criteria specified by the Commission.
2	If we do not currently own any part of the 900MHz spectrum, can we participate?	No, 900MHz spectrum holder is the main eligibility criteria as specified in the RFP. Please refer to clause 3.7(4) of the RFP to see how non radio spectrum assignment holders can indirectly participate.
3	Is the 900MHz spectrum going to be made available for the Designated-USP?	No, there will be no reassignment of the 900MHz band. The RFP says 'existing' radio spectrum assignment holders of the 900MHz band. Please refer to clause 3.7(4) of the RFP to see how non radio spectrum assignment holders can indirectly participate.

No.	Questions	Answers
4	How is interconnectivity with other telcos. Do MCMC going to facilitate/assist/enforce?	The Commission will not intervene with the interconnection arrangement or negotiations between the DUSP and the other parties. As specified in subparagraph 3.14 of the RFP, the DUSP is required to enter into partnership agreements with other established public cellular service providers. This will include the interconnectivity portion as well.
5	For the latitude & longitude provided, are sites already existing at those locations?	No, there are no existing towers at the identified locations as it is green field areas. However, there could be a scenario where there is another existing tower nearby the identified locations, but the coverage for the end-users is 'insufficient'.
6	The tender is asking for 2G and 4G network infrastructure. How about 3G?	Under the JENDELA initiative, the 3G networks are scheduled to be discontinued by the end of 2021. Please refer to https://myjendela.my/ for further details.
7	Does each site need to have both 2G and 4G? Can they have standalone 2G or standalone 4G?	Please refer to subparagraph 1.5 of the RFP. If the areas have been sufficiently covered with 2G service, the interested licensee is only required to submit a draft plan for 4G service.
8	What band is allocated for 2G?	It is up to the interested licensees to decide this based on the optimum configuration or design that would serve the populations within the target objective.
9	Do we need to integrate to core network of existing telcos?	Yes, please refer to subparagraph 3.7(9) of the RFP where it is clearly explained that the commissioning of the entire network shall encompass the radio equipment at the tower up to the core network. Subsequently, the core network must interconnect with all other established public cellular service providers.

No.	Questions	Answers
10	Who will own the core network?	Please refer to subparagraph 3.24 – 3.26 of the RFP where it explains clearly the vestation of the ownership of the network facilities and network service equipment under this project.
11	Does Designated USP need to have its own core network?	Yes, this understanding is correct.
12	Does current service operators in Malaysia support MOCN? Does their MOCN support 2G and 4G?	Yes, the current public cellular service providers support MOCN sharing solution for 2G and 4G.
13	How about the handover to other/existing operators? Do MCMC going to facilitate/enforce the other telcos to work with us?	The Commission will not intervene in any such arrangements or negotiations between the Designated Universal Service Provider (DUSP) and the other parties. As specified in subparagraph 3.14 of the RFP, the DUSP is required to enter into partnership agreements with other established public cellular service providers. This will include the interconnectivity portion as well.
14	What going to be the 'brand' of the services provisioned? Is it going to use the existing telcos branding (Maxis, Celcom, DiGi, TM), or Designated USP own service brand?	The services provided are public cellular services and mobile broadband services which must be of the specified speed of an average of 35Mbps per user). The Commission's interest is in the applications service provided to end-users.
15	Are Designated USP going to provide the service directly to public (mobile subscribers), or via existing telcos?	It will be through the public cellular service providers who hold the assignment of 900MHz band from the Commission.
16	Do Designated USP have own subscribers?	This question is not relevant to the RFP from the Commission's view, as all public cellular service providers in Malaysia have their own subscribers. Please read the eligibility criteria stated in the RFP where a commercial track record is pertinent.

No.	Questions	Answers
17	Does transmission backhaul via fiber mandatory? Is microwave acceptable for backhaul and backbone?	Yes, it is acceptable for microwave as backhaul transmission, however priority is given for the fiberisation of towers where possible. The use of microwave is only limited to a single hop as mentioned under subparagraph 3.14(c) in the RFP.
18	If the sites are deep in rural areas, and cannot be serve by single hop microwave and fiber is not viable (or too costly), can the backhaul form with more than one microwave hop?	Yes, it is acceptable. Please submit a clear and comprehensive draft plan(s) for the Commission's assessment i.e. number of repeater site(s) in this case.
19	If backhaul is via VSAT, do we still need to provide 35Mbps average speed to each user?	Due to the inherent limitation and expense factors in the usage of VSAT it is understandable that the speed will not be an average of 35Mbps. However, the latency must be not more than 480ms, 90% of the time.
20	Page 12, "Support specifications, protocols, and relevant services currently being used and offered by cellular mobile service providers". Do we need to provide similar throughput?	Yes, you can submit the throughput information in the draft plans. Please read and provide comprehensive draft plans with all required information as specified in subparagraph 3.6 of the RFP.
21	Who are the 4 mobile network operators mentioned in the invitation document?	The RFP states that the network design must be capable to support four (4) cellular mobile service providers, which shall be on a "first come, first served" basis.
22	Any penalty for system downtime?	Yes, the penalty or action to be taken will be specified in the Notification of Approval (Letter of Award) issued to the successful DUSP. This is also exemplified in Regulation 11 and Regulation 16 of the USP Regulations 2002. The penalties range from fines and/or imprisonment, the imposition of liquidated damages and the revocation of the designation.

No.	Questions	Answers
23	What equipment is listed in "Approved Universal Service Plan"?	The type of equipment will depend on your proposed network design in the draft plan(s) submitted to the Commission. Your draft plan will be accepted with or without amendments as the "Approved Universal Service Plan" if you are selected as the successful Designated Universal Service Provider in this project.
24	How long is the warranty period?	Please refer to subparagraph 3.18 of the RFP where the warranty period is explained.
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 18 months implementation period, is that for the whole cluster? • The stated 18 months timeline is it applies for both microwave and fiber backhaul? 	Yes, that is correct.
26	Who is eligible to be NFP?	Please contact the Licensing Department of the Commission for further advise.
27	How to get NFP(I) and NSP(I) licenses? Can new applicant participate in this tender?	Interested licensees must comply with the requirements stipulated in subparagraph 4.14 (a) and (b) of the RFP to participate.
28	Can the performance bond be reduced from 20% to 5%?	No, it will not be possible. As provided under sub-regulation 5(2)(h) of the Communications and Multimedia (Universal Service Provision) Regulations 2002, the Commission may impose any criteria or conditions necessary for the implementation of a project. The percentage required is decided by the Commission to ensure proper management of the legal risks the Commission is exposed to in a project that has a high element of public interest. This is a non-negotiable issue.

No.	Questions	Answers
29	Is JV consortium with existing with 900MHz spectrum holder allowed?	No, this is not allowed. Please refer to clause 3.7(4) of the RFP to see how non radio spectrum assignment holders can indirectly participate. The RFP is a legally binding document.
30	Is JV with foreign company allowed?	No, this is not allowed. Please refer to clause 3.7(4) of the RFP to see how non radio spectrum assignment holders can indirectly participate. The RFP is a legally binding document.
31	<p>We would like to clarify on item 3.6c in the RFP invitation.</p> <p><i>3.6 (c) To provide a clear proposal and costing for the deployment of fixed links and cables (fiberisation of towers) at all sites. The usage of microwave links via the deployment of radiocommunications transmitters and links, shall be limited to one (1) hop per site only;</i></p> <p>From the statement is it compulsory for the interested licensee to make one hop to fiber minimum to all the sites?</p> <p>Meaning if we have more than 1 hop to fiber, example 2 microwave hops, it will be not allowed even the cost of providing the microwave is much cheaper and can serve the throughput required? Need clarification on the clause.</p>	<p>The requirement for one (1) hop is applicable for the fiberisation of towers only. If you can evidentially substantiate otherwise, please state this clearly and explain your proposition to the Commission.</p>
32	<p>Reference is made to the RFP Invitation clause 3.6b as below:</p> <p><i>“To provide a clear proposal and costing for the deployment of fixed links and cables (fiberisation of towers) at all sites. The usage of microwave links via the deployment of radiocommunications transmitters and links, shall be limited to one (1) hop per site only;”</i></p>	

No.	Questions	Answers
	<p>We wish to seek clarity on the one hop (1) per site requirement as we foresee that certain exemptions may be required for some sites in particular clusters for the scenarios given below: Sites cannot be fiberized due to land, terrain condition, etc; Sites can be fiberized but cannot meet tender implementation timeline of 18 months.</p>	
33	<p><i>The Interested Licensee shall provide a detailed design of a RAN sharing solution system that shall include, but is not limited to the following:</i></p> <p><i>Proposed a MOCN RAN sharing solution that is capable of providing 2G and 4G services with an average speed of 35Mbps per user, utilising the 900MHz band for 4G coverage, and is capable of supporting four (4) cellular mobile service providers for the provisioning of public cellular services;</i></p> <p>Limitation to support 4-way MOCN sharing whereby the Vendor states that 2G GSM can only support up to 3 Operators. What is MCMC response?</p>	<p>The Commission disagrees, from its understanding and findings, 4-way 2G MOCN is possible, as there are equipment vendors that are able to support such requirements.</p>
34	<p>3.6 (d)</p> <p><i>In the event that the usage of earth stations (commonly understood to mean VSAT in this context) for satellite based backhaul services are necessary, the Interested Licensee(s) shall provide the necessary justification and evidential substantiation for this usage;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding VSAT solution, what is the minimum backhaul capacity required for each site? 	<p>MCMC does not specify any specific requirement for the minimum backhaul capacity at each site. The backhaul capacity will depend on the proposed network solution proffered by the interested licensee, by taking into consideration the population coverage and distribution at all locations, to fulfill the requirement of an average speed of 35Mbps per user.</p>

No.	Questions	Answers
35	What are the selection criteria for the transport backhaul? Cheaper vs permanent solution	The backhaul solution will depend on the proposed network infrastructure by the interested licensee in terms of cost efficiency, competitiveness of the price bid, technology to be implemented, and environmentally sustainable solutions in the long run. This is necessary to improve the investments made via the USP Fund for this project, and ensure uninterrupted and reliable public cellular services provisioning for the rakyat.
36	Requests for MCMC to allow Operator to use 7GHz/8GHz spectrum at remote and island areas.	Interested licensees should refer to the existing SRSP for this matter. Provided is the link to the relevant documents: https://www.mcmc.gov.my/en/spectrum/standard-radio-system-plan-resources