

No. 30-174-7/2015-USOF-BB (Vol. IX) Dated 24.04.2020

**Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
Universal Service Obligation Fund,
Sanchar Bhawan,
20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001**

Subject: Provision of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity between Mainland (Chennai) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (CANI Project) - reg.

This is to intimate that the national project of Provision of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable connectivity between Mainland (Chennai) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (CANI Project) is nearing completion.

2. The main features of the project:
 - i. The CANI project entails connectivity from Mainland (Chennai) to Port Blair and seven other Islands namely Swaraj Deep (Havelock), Long Island, Rangat, Hutbay (Little Andaman), Kamorta, Car Nicobar & Campbell Bay (Great Nicobar).
 - ii. The ownership of the assets created under the project is with USOF.
 - iii. As per the agreement signed between USOF & BSNL, operation & maintenance of CANI project has been entrusted to BSNL for five (5) years after commissioning.
 - iv. Access to additional bandwidth using OFC infrastructure created under this project would be provided to all DoT licensees on non-discriminatory basis at applicable tariff rates.
3. The tariff of bandwidth created under CANI Project in Andaman & Nicobar Islands is under finalization in USOF/DoT and will be applicable to all users. The tariff may include bandwidth charges for each segment along with space/co-location charges.
4. In this regard the Section-1 (Chennai - Port Blair) and Section -6 (Port Blair - Swaraj Dweep (Havelock) segments are already ready for operationalization. As regards readiness in remaining segments, submarine cable laying have been completed and equipment installation, testing & validation is under progress.
5. Hence in view of above, all DoT Licensees are requested;
 - i. To make suitable arrangements for CANI bandwidth utilization at the earliest including the already commissioned segments to provide appropriate bandwidth and Telecom connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The licensees may visit the Cable Landing Stations (CLS) for accessing the bandwidth connectivity.
 - ii. To project the requirement i.r.o. space (for housing equipment) and power in Cable Landing Station (CLS) at Chennai, Port Blair, Swaraj Deep (Havelock), Long Island, Rangat, Hutbay (Little Andaman), Kamorta, Car Nicobar & Campbell Bay (Great Nicobar) for its equipment.

- iii. It would be appreciated if the tentative bandwidth requirement along with space requirement for equipment is provided for each Island (as per above list) to Chief General Manager (Southern Telecom Project), BSNL Chennai with a copy to Pr. Controller of Communication Accounts, DoT, Tamil Nadu & Administrator USOF, New Delhi.

This is issued with the approval of Administrator, USOF.

Burde
24/04/20

(Vilas Burde)
Director (VSB) USOF

To,

All DoT Licensees

Copy for information to:

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary (Telecom) – for information
2. Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Port Blair - for information
3. Sr. PPS to Administrator, USOF
4. CMD, BSNL – for making necessary provision
5. CGM (STP), BSNL, Chennai
6. Pr. CCA, Chennai, Tamil Nadu