

Pre-Bid Queries - Tender No. USOF/TENDER/Aspirational Districts/1/2021 dated 07/12/2021

Provision of 4G based Mobile Services in identified uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in the states of ANDHRA PRADESH, CHHATTISGARH, JHARKHAND, MAHARASHTRA & ODISHA

S.N.	Clause No.	Brief Description of the Clause	Query / Clarification sought for	Remarks from USOF/DOT
1.	1.2	<p>..... The satellite bandwidth charges shall be separately provided quarterly to the USP over and above EQS for 8 Mbps per site, for maximum 5% sites in each package for maximum up to 2 years, based on actual deployment of VSAT media at the rate of Rs. 2.11 Lakh per Mbps per annum or actual rate on which payment is made by USP, whichever is lower.....</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No of sites on VSAT should not be capped at 5%, it has to be based on the actual site survey/feasibility study done by the USP. Request to remove the cap on 5% on VSAT. 2. The actual bandwidth cost is much higher and varies for different options available. Therefore, the reimbursement of cost should be revised to actuals from the current benchmark of Rs. 2.11 lakh. 3. The satellite Subsidy for the entire tenure to be provided for those sites that may not be feasible on Microwave and fiber in the near future. 4. Further in case the USP is not able to arrange the bandwidth same may be facilitated by USOF from ISRO. For example in Odisha and Chhattisgarh, beam of GSAT 11 is with BBNL. 5. USOF to coordinate with ISRO for the launch of GSAT 20 HTS satellite and reserve bandwidth for the DOT/USOF projects. 6. Considering remote nature of sites, a very large number of sites might require VSAT backhaul. Preliminary estimates suggest that up to 1500 to 2000 sites might require VSAT backhaul and actual number will be decided after 	As per tender.

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			survey only. In such a situation there should not be a cap on number of sites having VSAT backhaul. If a cap on number of sites has to be prescribed then it should be 40% of scope of the RFP.	
2.	1.6	Installation of tower and associated infrastructure in an uncovered village is not required if it is already covered from any type of technology i.e. 2G or 3G or 4G or through a combination thereof through any TSP. The same should be duly justified and certified by the USP.	<p>The definition of existing coverage is ambiguous. USOF has already clarified the criteria for existing coverage for other ongoing projects.</p> <p>It is requested that the criteria for existing coverage may be clarified for this RFP also.</p>	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 2
3.	1.8.1	Successful Bidder has to comply with the DPIIT Order No. P-45021/2/2017-B.E.-II dated 15.06.2017 and subsequent amendments and relevant references .Public Procurement guideline issued by as per gazette notification dated 29th August 2018 issued by the Department of Telecommunications, titled “Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order -2017- Notification of Telecom Products, Services or Works”, shall be applicable for this tender along with subsequent modifications and relevant references. Successful Bidder has to produce an undertaking as per Form-1(Annexure 19) of Policy order in this regard.	Clause 9 of DOT PPP-MII Order regarding list item wise LC compliance and certification/approval to TEC GR should be mandated .	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 4

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4.	1.8.2	'Fundamental principles of public buying' guidelines as mentioned in Rule 144 (xi) of the General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2017, notified by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide O.M. No. 6/18/2019-PPD dated 23rd July 2020 shall be applicable to this tender along with relevant references. The bidder has to produce a certificate in this regard (Annexure20).	All components to be installed on site under this project should conform to this clause. Kindly clarify? And also how this will be complied in varifiable manner.	As per tender.
5.	3.2.2 (ii)	In line with the provisions related to Green Telecom in NDCP – 18 Policy, the Scheme is designed with alternate power source of Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) or Diesel Generator.	The NDCP 2018 does not mention Diesel Generator. Why provision of DG is allowed when it contributes to higher carbon emission, affects air quality and noise pollution from operation of diesel gensets.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 7.
6.	3.2.3(i)	Deliverables of the Scheme shall be provision of mobile coverage in specified hitherto uncovered villages in the bidding unit(s), as per the terms and conditions of the USOF Tender. It shall include, inter alia, commissioning of infrastructure and continued provision of 4G based mobile services in inhabited areas of specified uncovered villages in compliance with DoT Licenses and TRAI Regulations, as applicable.	<p>1. We had asked in previous tenders also to remove the condition of having tower in the village removed because this condition interferes with finding the best solution for maximizing the RF coverage.</p> <p>2. While the RFP does not specifically mention setting up of tower within the village in this clause and at most other places in RFP, however in some places it still continues (3.2.3 (ii) (b), 4.2.1 (vii), 5.3.3). These need to be removed to avoid ambiguity.</p> <p>3. There is need to clearly specify that in case the coverage of village requires more than one tower, due</p>	As per tender.

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			to village being spread beyond coverage capacity of a single tower then subsidy for additional towers would be paid, subject to such additional towers having been approved by the USOF.	
7.	3.2.3 (ii) (c)	Provision of Electrical connection (where Grid-power available), battery and DG Set/ Renewable Energy of adequate capacity;	Option for DG Set should be deleted in line with Green Telecom Implementation guidelines	As per tender.
8.	3.2.3 (ii) – (i)	Continued Operation and Maintenance of the Tower and infrastructure created and provision of 4G based mobile services compliant with the terms and conditions of the License Agreement signed with DoT, for a period of 18 months (rollout period) + Ten years from the date of effect of the agreement with USOF.	Administration should be revise the Roll out timelines from 18 months to 24 months.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 8.
9.	3.2.3(iii) (a)	A Survey report covering assessment of exact location for installation of towers and detailed information on number of towers to be installed at each site considering the variation allowed in tender document in consultation with authorized agency to be appointed by Administrator, USOF, for consideration of USOF.	Existing practice of survey approval from USOF on direct submissions of USP may be continued and this clause be suitably modified.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 9.

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10.	3.5.8	The indicative locations (Latitude, Longitude) for villages are given at Appendix-1 in the Tender document. The successful bidder, based on field survey, shall determine the location for each site to ensure coverage of maximum population in the area, and finalize implementation plan in consultation with USOF.	No formal approval should be required for variation in tower coordinates if it is being installed in the agreement village itself. This would save a lot of time and efforts while executing the project, enabling timely roll-out.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 11.
11.	3.5.10	Installation of tower and associated infrastructure in an uncovered village is not required if it is already covered from any type of technology i.e. 2G or 3G or 4G or a combination thereof through any TSP. The same should be duly justified and certified by the USP	The definition of existing coverage is ambiguous. USOF has already clarified the criteria for existing coverage for other ongoing projects. It is requested that the criteria for existing coverage may be clarified for this RFP also.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 12.
12.	3.6.	RIGHT TO VARY NUMBER OF INFRASTRUCTURE SITES AND TYPE OF eNode-B: The Administrator will have the right to decrease for the sites already covered in number of infrastructure/ eNode-B as specified in the Annexure-2 in a bidding unit based on the suitable justification provided by successful bidder after carrying out the survey of infrastructure sites without any change in the Representative Rates so arrived at after the bidding process, or other terms and conditions at the time of signing of Agreement.	If the number of sites gets decreased by a significant number- 1. Higher subsidy to the tune of higher cost per site should be provided by USOF or 2. Certain far end sites should be allowed to be dropped to avoid the high backhaul cost.	As per tender.
13.	3.11.1 (ii)	Copy of Page 1 to 5 of the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access	Only first 5 pages of the Telecom license	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No 13.

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		Services License (UASL)/ Unified License (UL) Agreement along with subsequent amendments, if any, for the Licensed Service Area for the scheme.	for each LSA should be required for submission.	
14.	3.11.2 (iv)	Copy of the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Services License (UASL)/ Unified License (UL) Agreement along with subsequent amendments, if any, for the Licensed Service Area applicable for the scheme.	Only first 5 pages of the Telecom license for each LSA should be required for submission.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No 16.
15.	4.2.1(i)	Acquisition of site of dimensions as specified in Section-V: Technical Conditions of the Tender Document on lease basis/ outright purchase from any agency in the specified villages/ areas. In case, the land is taken on lease basis, the lease Agreement should be signed for a minimum period up to validity of agreement.	Leave & license arrangement in lieu of lease agreements should also be permitted to ensure that site is available with USP during full tenure of the USOF agreement. This would also be in consonance with Clause 5.1.4 about abiding with existing land laws.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 19.
16.	4.2.1(iii)	Arrange Electrical power connection as specified in Section-V: Technical Conditions from the concerned State Electricity Boards/ Corporations.	It should be modified to “...Arrange Electrical power connection (where available)...” to be same as that in clause 3.2.3(ii)(c) to avoid ambiguity. Further application for electricity connection should be sufficient and proof for non-availability of grid power should not be sought from the USP.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No 26.

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17.	4.2.8	DoT/USOF will consider to refer issues such as security and protection for sites etc. to State Governments, where their intervention is required. However, Roll-out period, imposition of LD and other penalty conditions will not be relaxed, due to delay/inaction on the part of State Government or any other concerned agency.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instead of out-rightly denying any relaxation, the genuine cases of delay should be given due consideration and LD exempted. 2. Provision should be made where-in the land is being provided by the respective State Governments which will immensely help in timely roll out of the project. 	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 38.
18.	4.5	The Agreement shall be valid for a period of 18 months (rollout period) +Ten years from the effective date unless revoked earlier for reasons as specified elsewhere in the document. The subsidy support period and subsidy claim and disbursement schedule is as per Section VII: Financial Conditions of this document. Successful bidders shall be responsible for operation and maintenance of the created infrastructure and provision of specified services for a period of 18 months (rollout period) + Ten years from the effective date of the agreement and also after the expiry of Agreement period, as the telecom service providers under the license conditions are bound to provide services under the license terms.	Administration should be revise the Roll out timelines from 18 months to 24 months.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 22.
19.	4.13	FORCE- MAJEURE	Satellite used in the case of a VSAT link and associated Transponder may fail leading to a site outage. Since, this will be out of control of USP, USOF should include events such as Satellite failure as a Force Majeure condition.	As per tender.

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20.	5.1.6	USP/successful bidder shall be solely responsible to set up, operate and maintain the 4G based mobile services in identified areas by installing the following Components:-	For backup only RET should be permitted. No other power alternates should be allowed except EB.	As per Tender.
21.	5.3.1	The minimum requirements of Mobile Towers and eNode-B configurations are given in Table 5.1. USP may deploy the equipment of enhanced capacity/capability as per traffic requirement.	TEC has formulated GR for eNodeB vide GR no. TEC/GR/WS/ENB-001/01/MAR-19, where Category-II is specifically made for Rural deployment. As the objective of the tender is to provide 4G based Mobile Services in identified uncovered villages, compliance to TEC GR for eNodeB Category-2 should be mandated	As the tender.
22.	5.3.1 - Table 5.1	Serial Number 5 Minimum Radial Coverage 4 Kilometer	Clause should include the above conditionality for achieving the desired objective. This may be specified at a radius of 2 Km instead of Cell Boundary.	As per tender.
23.	5.3.3	Towers shall be located in the villages as specified in Appendix-1 of the Tender Document to provide 4G based mobile services in those areas.	USP should be allowed to install towers even outside the agreement village, at the approved location covering the agreement village. USOF tender itself has provisioned for coverage to multiple villages (clusters) through a single installation and hence the tower location is not at all important but the provision of the coverage to the agreement village should be the primary objective.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 11.

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24.	5.3.5	The USPs are advised to verify non-availability of the coverage in the villages as specified in Clause 3.5.10, as on survey approval date, for which it intends to claim support from Universal Service Obligation Fund. No claims shall be admissible for cases of duplicate/ redundant infrastructure sites/ towers.	The survey approval date is an indeterminate date and has no relation with actual survey findings on the date of survey. Hence the record date for determining the existing coverage should be the date of survey itself, to avoid multiple surveys for each site.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 24.
25.	5.3.7	SACFA Clearance shall be the responsibility of bidder	1. Clarification needed for those villages whose AMSL is itself above permissible limits prescribed by the AAI/SACFA. USOF may clarify installation in such villages. 2. Asides, obtaining SACFA is a time-consuming process, we request USOF support for prompt WPC clearances to speed up the roll-out of the site.	As per tender.
26.	5.3.10	The USP shall maintain on site detailed calculations, standards of materials and specification data on the deflection limit of towers and the safety factor used in tower erection, as well as detailed drawings.	On site availability of any kind of data or maintenance spares should not be mandated	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 25.
27.	5.5.1	Grid Power connectivity is to be provided for all the sites.	Clause be amended as Grid power connectivity is to be provided where ever it is available.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 26.
28.	5.5.2	For the purpose of backup power calculation, 1 day of battery autonomy has been taken in each site. Following combination of power source is to be provided for all sites	1. The battery autonomy should be 3 days instead of 1 day. The table should be amended to bring clarity on compliance to TEC GR.	As per tender.

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			<p>2. Requirement of one day battery autonomy should be removed since during testing phase proof of this is demanded for all sites which is complex and time consuming and delays the testing.</p> <p>Since battery capacity is already provided and in combination of DG/solar the actual power autonomy is much higher than 24 hours, this requirement may kindly be dispensed with to avoid long and complex testing for all towers.</p>	
29.	5.5.3	<p>The USP shall comply to the minimum power arrangement and battery autonomy</p> <p>as per above, however, if required, USP shall install additional power source to meet the uptime requirement as per TRAI guideline. However, there shall be no extra financial support from USOF.</p>	<p>The requirement of battery autonomy for 24 hours should be removed in view of our comments on Clause 5.5.2 above.</p>	As per tender.
30.	5.5.9	<p>Complete drawings for power plant and battery and information regarding inter-connecting arrangements and layout shall be made available on site. Maintenance spares including spares for control panel and spare fuses should also be provided at the site.</p>	<p>On site availability of any kind of data or maintenance spares should not be mandated</p>	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No 27.

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31.	5.6.1	The eNode-B shall be based on LTE Technology	Additional Spec to be added:- Local switching of Data is required in case of break in backhaul. Because the sites will be operational in far flung / difficult areas & the services should not be impacted to end-user.	As per tender.
32.	5.6.1	Data communication services: Minimum 512 Kbps at cell boundary at 4KM and for VSAT site data rate may be proportionately available as per backhaul of 8Mbps.	Clause should be modified to radius of 2 Km instead of Cell Boundary or 4 KM.	As per tender.
33.	5.6.5	The Outdoor eNode-B shall be suitable for operation without air-conditioning. Outdoor BTS with proper protection with respect to dust, rust and other environmental degrading factors shall be provided. Minimum standard should be IP 66.	The provisioning of air conditioning should be left to the operators as some equipment may require it.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 28.
34.	5.7.1	BACKHAUL CONNECTIVITY- Backhaul Technology may be Microwave or Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) or VSAT.	1) GSAT-11 Satellite Capacity to be provided by DoT/USOF to the USP from ISRO as all the capacity are reserved for DOT. 2) USP should be given flexibility to share the existing BSNL/BBNL Satellite Communication Baseband equipment or to install USP identified different OEM Baseband. 3) Charges payable to WPC/NOCC for use of Satellite Capacity: Since this project is being undertaken under the aegis of USOF which aims to extend connectivity to uncovered areas, there should not be any	As per tender.

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			Royalty/Monitoring charges payable by USP to WPC/ NOCC towards the Satellite Capacity.	
35.	5.7.2	The satellite bandwidth charges shall be separately provided quarterly to the USP over and above EQS for 8 Mbps bandwidth per site, for maximum 5% sites for maximum up to 2 years, based on actual deployment of VSAT media, at the rate Rs. 2.11 Lakh per Mbps per annum or the actual rate on which payment is made by USP, whichever is lower. Therefore, USP may convert these VSAT sites on microwave/OFC backhaul before 2 years from the date of commissioning.	The actual bandwidth cost is much higher and varies for different options available. Therefore, the reimbursement of cost should be revised to actuals from the current benchmark of Rs. 2.11 lakh. Satellite Bandwidth Charges subsidy has to be provided for actual No. of VSAT Sites. USOF should provide the Satellite Bandwidth Charges to USP till the site is migrated to OFC/MW backhaul.	As per Tender
36.	5.7.4	Backhaul as an alternative to Microwave. If ISM band is used, USP shall ensure secured and interference-free communication and data services meeting QOS requirements specified in this document.	There exists a TEC GR for Radio Modem in ISM band (TEC/GR/ISM-MOD-001/04.MAR.2016) which defines the specifications ensuring secured and interference-free communication and data services meeting QOS requirements. Therefore, compliance to TEC GR should be mandated.	As per tender.
37.	5.7.5	The backhaul equipment installed shall work without the need for Air-conditioning.	The provisioning of air conditioning should be left to the operators as some equipment may require it.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 29.
38.	5.11.6	External Alarms shall be extended to OMC-R.	This may please be deleted as it is no longer relevant as these are integrated in the system.	As per tender.

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39.	5.13.2	The Proof of Concept shall be conducted in accordance with standard test schedule, to be issued by USOF. For other tests such as drive test etc., latest TSTPs issued by DoT will be applicable.	Since many USPs have already offered POC sites for many circles for earlier 4G connectivity projects. Therefore, in case a USP has already got the POC done for an earlier 4G project then POC may be limited to revised specs in the present RFP as compared to Project for which POC was conducted.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No 32.
40.	5.13.4	Physical verification for all sites in each bidding unit under the scheme shall be conducted by an Agency to be authorised by the Administrator, USOF, as per Annexure-10. In case of sites in difficult terrain/ weather conditions where physical inspection is not feasible and causing delay, video check through call may be carried out.	In current USOF projects subsidy payments are getting delayed by more than a year due to lack of Physical Verification (PV). These payment delays make the project unviable due to opportunity cost of delayed payments. Therefore a time limit of one month should be prescribed for conducting PV and FLS portion of subsidy should be released after one month if PV is not conducted in one month time.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 34.
41.	6.2.3	Online access to Network Operations Centre(NOC)/Network Management System (NMS) shall be provided to USOF representatives authorised by the Administrator. Web based access to NOC/NMS is desirable.	Online remote access to NOC and NMS is not possible in view of security of national NOC and NMS of the USPs. USOF authorized representative visit to our NOC location would be possible. The provision should be restricted to Online access to web-based portal reporting Weekly / Monthly Network Availability and Network Voice/data traffic parameters.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 35.

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42.	6.3	<p>PROVISIONING OF 4G BASED MOBILE SERVICES</p> <p>The USP shall ensure that the mobile connections as mentioned in the monthly report have actually been provided in the area being served by the eNode-B installed with the subsidy support from USO Fund. A certificate to this effect is to be provided by the USP in the monthly report in the prescribed proforma, Annexure-12.</p>	<p>The clause be amended to: 6.3 The USP shall ensure that the peak latched customers to the BTS mobile connections as mentioned in the monthly report have actually been provided mobile service in the area being served by the eNode-B installed with the subsidy support from USO Fund.</p>	<p>Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 36.</p>
43.	6.5.2	<p>The successful bidder (USP) shall complete the field survey for at least 30% of sites in the bidding unit in three months from the date of signing of the agreement, at least another 30% of sites in six months from the date of signing of the agreement and the remaining sites in nine months from the date of signing of the agreement to finalize location for each site. The successful bidder (USP) shall commission and provide 4G based mobile services from all the sites in a Bidding Unit within a period of 18 months from the date of signing of the Agreement.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey approval format should be prescribed as part of RFP as finalization of same takes lot of time and impacts on survey completion timelines. 2. Survey approval should be a time bound process as further activities cannot be taken up until survey is approved. Any time taken beyond 10 days should be added in survey completion timeline and project completion timeline. 3. Extra time period for rollout needs to be provided for obtaining Forest/ROW permissions which may take more than a year due to long gestation periods for such approvals. Time taken beyond 2 months for such approvals should be added in the rollout period for the impacted sites to provide for reasonable time for actual execution after receipt of such approvals. 	<p>Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 37 & 38.</p>

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44.	6.5.3	The Rollout period may be extended by the Administrator by Six months without LD charges, if reasons for delay submitted by the implementing USP in a bidding unit are justified.	Any extension given due to Force-Majeure events should not be counted in the six month extension permitted under this Clause because Force-Majeure extensions are given since no activities are possible during the force-Majeure event and those cannot be termed as normal extension under Clause 6.5.3	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No 38.
45.	6.6.2	For any shortfall in providing the required number of infrastructure sites and providing the 4G based mobile services (commissioning of eNode-B) after thirty days of the expiry of the Roll-out period as per 6.5, the Administrator shall be entitled to impose and recover Liquidated Damages at the rate of 2% of the Category-specific Representative Rate per site, as specified in the tender, for those Infrastructure sites for each calendar month of delay or part thereof, subject to maximum of five months delay i.e., max LD shall be 10% of the Category specific Representative Rate for each site, beyond a grace of one month as per 6.6.1.	Genuine cases of delay should be given due consideration and exempted from LD.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 38.
46.	7.1.4	The satellite bandwidth charges shall be separately provided quarterly to the USP over and above EQS for 8 Mbps per site, for maximum 5% sites in each package for maximum up to 2 years, based on actual deployment of VSAT media at the rate of Rs. 2.11 Lakh per Mbps per annum or actual rate on which payment is made by USP, whichever is lower.	USOF should provide free Satellite Capacity to USP, where the Satellite Bandwidth is @ Rs. 3.68 Lakh per Mbps per annum or the actual rate on which payment is made by USP, whichever is lower VSAT should be allowed for the tenure of the project. 30% percent of the subsidy be paid as advance, 30% as FLS and the rest payable as EQS.	As per tender.

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47.	7.1.5	<p>The Administrator, USOF shall appoint Third Party Agency (TPA) as per departmental procedure to whom maximum 1% of the Representative rate of subsidy emerging from the bidding process will be paid directly. Further, Equated Quarterly Instalment shall be released after verification by a Third-Party Agency (TPA), unless specified otherwise by Administrator.</p>	<p>1. As LSA performs the role of TPA, therefore withholding of 1% the Representative Rate for TPA should not be applicable and thus USOF should release the same to the USP.</p> <p>2. Subsidies (both FLS & EQS) should be released as when they become due and not linked to physical verification of the sites.</p> <p>3. Firm timelines should be prescribed for carrying out the physical verification. TPA should complete the physical verification within one month from the date the site has been offered for verification.</p>	<p>Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 1 & 40.</p>
48.	7.1.7	<p>USOF subsidy will be paid only in respect of the sites where mobile tower with backhaul and associated equipment is installed, commissioned and provision of mobile services (4G) has been made, as per the terms & conditions of the Agreement duly verified by Agency authorized by Administrator, USOF</p>	<p>There has to be a time limit under which this verification has to be conducted.</p> <p>In absence of time limits, these verifications and consequently subsidy payments have been delayed for more than a year for many sites of earlier USOF project costing substantial monetary losses.</p> <p>A time limit of one month should be prescribed for the verification from the date the site has been radiated and offered for the verification.</p> <p>It may also be noted that clause 7.2.8 provides for any adjustment of excess payment of subsidy as ascertained on</p>	<p>As per Tender.</p>

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			basis of Physical inspection. Thus in view of the provision, there is no need to hold release of FLS till Physical Verification.	
49.	7.2.7	Penalty for interruption: Deduction in subsidy (EQS) shall be made from USP on pro-rata basis, if there is interruption in services for more than 43.2 hours (cumulatively) in a quarter; and the entire EQS shall not be payable for that particular site, if there is interruption in services for 45 days or more in a quarter. The USP shall furnish the details of interruption/ down time of the services along with the payment statement as per the pro forma attached at Annexure-13. In addition, the USP, as Licensed Access Service Provider shall be bound by and shall comply with the relevant regulations of TRAI for QoS.	<p>1. USOF should consider an interruption allowance of up to 7 days (cumulative) in a quarter (Clause 7.2.7). This is reasonable considering the remoteness of the sites and the difficult terrains that are going to be served under this USOF project.</p> <p>2. Interruptions in services due to Force-Majeure events would not be counted in the service period for calculation of EQS as given here.</p>	Please refer to Addendum 1, S.No. 47.
50.	7.2.13	No interest shall be payable for any short/late payment made to the USP by the paying authority.	In the interest of fairness and equality of terms for the USOF and bidders, interest should be allowed to the successful bidder for delayed payments at the same rate at which it would be charged to the successful bidder in terms of Clause 7.2.12. 1. Firm timelines should be provisioned in the agreement for making the subsidy payments to the USP 2. Delay in subsidy beyond 90 days from the date of claim submission should be paid with an interest @ PLR of SBI in line with 7.2.12	As per Tender.

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51.	ANNEXURE-12	Monthly Statement: No. of Mobile Connections provided	This be replaced with "No. of Mobile Connections Served (Peak Latched customers)" accordingly.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 36.
52.	Annexure-6	ANNEXURE-6: Proforma for Earnest Money Deposit Bank Guarantee	It be clarified that Annexure-6 provided in the Tender document is not applicable for this tender and only Annexure -18 (Bid Security) is required in respect of 3.10.2. Moreover, Annexure-16 (EMD) has not been mentioned as a requirement at any other place in the tender document. Bid Security is required in form of declaration and there is no separate requirement of EMD.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 48.
53.	3 A(iv) Annex-10	Whether on lease basis/ outright purchase:	Leave & License arrangement should also be included in view of our comments for Clause 4.2.1(i) above.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 19.
54.	3 C(vi) Annex-10	Type of BTS(A or B)	There is only one type of BTS.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 50.
55.	3 D Annex-10	Electrical Connection	Should also mention wherever available, as mentioned in our comments earlier on clause 4.2.1(iii), to avoid ambiguity in interpretation of electrical connection requirement even where it is infeasible.	Please refer to Addendum 1, S. No. 26.
56.	Table Annex-13	Additional columns in table needed	Please refer to our comments for Clause 7.2.7 earlier. The table should also include columns for outage hours due to Force-Majeure events which need to be deducted from gross outage hours to arrive at the figures of outage hours due to non-	As per tender.

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			Force-Majeure events.	
57.	N.A.	Use of Unlicensed Band Radio (UBR) for backhaul	We understand that Unlicensed Band Radio (UBR) is now allowed for backhaul. Please clarify	As per tender.
58.	N.A.	Allowing reuse of IP Radio based MW equipment	<p>As towers are getting progressively fiberized, all USPs are having de-installed MW equipment available for re-use.</p> <p>If USOF permits reuse of IP Radio based MW equipment, it will result in reduce backhaul cost with no loss in robustness/quality of backhaul.</p> <p>This will also provide savings to USOF as bidders will factor in cost savings due to reuse of backhaul IP Radio based MW equipments.</p>	As per tender.