

Universal Service Fund

(A company setup under Section 42 of the Companies Ordinance 1984)

“Every Pakistani has the right to modern telecommunication services and we strive to provide that.”

REGISTRATION FORM FOR USF PROJECT # _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Registered Address: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Contact Person for correspondence: _____

Person authorized for Registration:
(attach copy of authorization) _____

Nature of applicant’s License (copy attached): _____

Telecom services authorized under the License: _____

Date of Expiry of License: _____

Licensed territory: _____

Audited/Unaudited Report of USF Contributions as payable & paid todate:
(summarize and attach copy of full report) _____

Amount of any USF contributions outstanding to-date: _____

Proof of payment: _____

List of Consortium members, if registration is for consortium:

Applicant declared eligible by PTA & MoIT: Yes No
(Attach copies of eligibility letters from PTA & MoIT)

Attach copies of clearance letters from PTA & MoIT Yes No
(regarding payments of USF contribution and APC
for USF and other related licensed obligations):

Pay Order/DD of PKR 1,000 registration fee attached: Yes No

Certificate:

Certified that the information set out above is correct to the best of my information and belief, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

(Signature of Authorized Representative)

NIC: _____

Date: _____



Universal Service Fund

(A company setup under Section 42 of the Companies Ordinance 1984)

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
TO PROVIDE
UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

Project ID: NG-BSD/Lot56-Kalat/2023

Issued at Islamabad

4th December 2023

USFCo 3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad Pakistan	Tel: 051-9212308 & 9212309 Fax: 051-9214261
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USFCo
Request for Applications to provide
Universal Service Fund Telecommunications Services

Table of Contents

Part I Introduction.....	5
1. Purpose of the RFA Process.....	5
2. Source of Funds	5
3. Current Legal, Regulatory, and Market Regime	6
4. USF Policy	7
5. USF Coverage Requirements.....	8
6. USF Service Requirements	8
7. USF Contributors and Eligibility	8
8. Tentative Time Schedule.....	9
9. Project Administration and Correspondence.....	9
Part II Rights and Obligations of USF Service Provider	10
10. Exclusivity	10
11. Roll-out of USF Network and Supply of USF Services.....	10
12. USF Subsidy Payments	10
13. Service Availability and Quality Specifications	10
14. Scope of Service.....	11
15. Regulation of Operators	11
16. Interconnection and Facilities Sharing	11
17. Numbering and Electronic Addressing	11
18. Type Approval	12
19. Regulation of USF Service Charges.....	12
20. Authority to Construct and Use Facilities	12
21. Requirement to Procure and Manage the USF Network.....	13
22. Transfer or Change of Control	13
23. Access to Public and Private Lands	13
24. Force Majeure	13
25. Dispute Resolution	13
26. Technical Auditor.....	13
27. Compliance with Law	14
28. Term of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.....	14
29. Other Obligations under USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.....	14

30. Fees Payable by the USF Service Provider.....	14
31. Frequency Spectrum.....	14
Part III Instructions to Applicants	15
32. Selection of Successful Applicant.....	15
33. Pre-proposal Meeting	15
34. Qualification Criteria	15
35. Financing Capacity.....	16
36. Operational Experience	16
37. Applicant Eligibility.....	17
38. Consortium Applicant	17
39. Bid Bond	18
40. Responsiveness of Proposals.....	18
41. Content and Format of Proposals	19
42. Part 1 Structure Requirements –Qualifications and Service Proposal	19
43. Part 2 Subsidy Proposal	26
44. Compliance Checklist	27
45. Submission of the Proposal.....	27
46. Delivery of the Proposal.....	28
47. Opening of Proposals	28
48. Selection Process and Evaluation of Proposals	29
49. Fraud or Corruption.....	30
50. Period of Validity of Proposal.....	31
51. Grounds for Rejection of Proposal.....	31
52. Subsequent Disqualification and Ineligibility	32
53. Letter of Intent.....	32
54. Performance Bond.....	33
55. Information Provided by USFCo	33
56. Communications, Comments and Requests for Clarification	33
57. Confidentiality of Proposals.....	34
58. USFCo Use of Proposals.....	35
59. Cost of Proposal and Bidding	35
60. Reservation of Rights	35
61. Legal and Formal Requirements	35
Part IV Definitions.....	37
62. Definitions.....	37

Annexes

Annex 1 USF Subsidy Proposal Form

Annex 2 Bid Bond Form

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Annex 4 Form of Letter Regarding Compliance with Licence(s)

Annex 5 Compliance Checklist

Annex 6 Draft of Proposed USF Services and Subsidy Agreement

Annex 7 Dispute Resolution Terms

Annex 8 Tentative Time Schedule & Correspondence Contact

Part I

Introduction

1. Purpose of the RFA Process

- 1.1 All telecommunications licences issued by the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (“PTA”) subsequent to the De-Regulation Policy 2003 and the Mobile Cellular Policy 2004 provide for contribution by licensees to a Universal Service Fund (“USF”).
- 1.2 The purpose of this Request for Applications (“RFA”) is to invite holders of such licences (“USF Contributors”) to submit Proposals, either individually or as part of a consortium, for providing voice telephony and Broadband Internet services, including access networks (“USF Services”), to defined areas (“USF Areas”) in Pakistan pursuant to a 10 year USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.
- 1.3 This RFA is part of a universal service program initiated by the Government of Pakistan (“GoP”), which is aimed at increasing access to telecommunications networks and services in un-served and under-served areas of Pakistan in a manner consistent with fair competition, international best practices, and existing sector policies and GoP commitments.
- 1.4 GoP has created a not-for-profit federal Government owned and controlled Universal Service Fund Company (“USFCo”) to administer the USF, including the process initiated by this RFA (“RFA Process”). It is GoP’s intent that USFCo apply part of the USF toward payment of subsidy (the “USF Subsidy”) to be paid pursuant to the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement to assist in meeting the costs of constructing and operating the USF Network in the USF Areas.
- 1.5 Further information on the proposed USF Services, USF Network and USF Areas is set out in this RFA.
- 1.6 It is the intention of GoP to act quickly to implement its policy of extending access to telecommunications networks and services in un-served and under-served areas in Pakistan.

2. Source of Funds

- 2.1 Pursuant to Section 33A of the Act, the sources of funding USF shall consist of
 - (a) grants made by the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments;
 - (b) prescribed contribution by licensees;
 - (c) sale proceeds from the auction of the right to use radio spectrum;
 - (d) loans obtained from the Federal Government; and
 - (e) grants and endowments received from other agencies.

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3. Current Legal, Regulatory, and Market Regime

- 3.1 Before 1996, Pakistan's telecommunications markets were governed by the Telegraph Act, 1885 and Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1993. Most telecommunications services were provided by the GoP's Telegraph and Telephone Department. That Department was converted into a statutory corporation in 1990 as the Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation ("PTC") and later in 1996 it was converted into a public limited company Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited ("PTCL"). Competitive mobile telephone service was launched in 1991. Payphone service was launched in 1993. But of these competitors, only PTC and then PTCL had a formal duty to serve cities, towns, villages and Mauzas in all areas of Pakistan.
- 3.2 Additional mobile, Wireless Local Loop (WLL), fixed-line Local Loop ("LL") and Long Distance International ("LDI") licensing since 2004 has increased competition substantially. Use of telecommunications services has expanded rapidly in this increasingly competitive environment.
- 3.3 The Mobile Cellular Policy (2004) and Pakistan Telecommunications (Re-organisation) (Amendment) Act, 2006 require that PTCL and all mobile licensees provide significant geographic coverage. Yet, in rural areas, teledensity and Broadband Internet penetration is significantly lower than the urban areas. Making telecommunications services available country-wide is a GoP priority.
- 3.4 In a competitive sector, it is not appropriate to impose universal service obligations on a single operator. Accordingly, the De-Regulation Policy (2003) at section 5, the Mobile Cellular Policy (2004) at section 8, and the Pakistan Telecommunications (Re-organisation) Act, 1996 at section 33A require that PTCL and all subsequent fixed and mobile licensees pay into the USF.
- 3.5 Persons who enter into a USF Services and Subsidy Agreement as a result of the RFA Process ("USF Service Providers") will receive a subsidy payment from the USF to extend telecom services (Including broadband internet services) by using Renewable Energy Solutions as a source of power, to rural areas, increasing rural teledensity and broadband internet penetration. The amount of the USF subsidy payment will be established in accordance with sections 12 and 43 of this RFA. The subsidy payment will be made in one or more installments in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.
- 3.6 In addition to the Capex Subsidy, USF shall also provide "Opex Subsidy" for a maximum period of up to three years on a declining model basis (see 3.8 below). USF Opex Subsidy shall be payable on regular periodical basis starting from completion of each of the milestones as mentioned in Schedule D of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.
- 3.7 USF will only be looking for the lowest bidder overall Subsidy (Capex + Opex), and not breakup of USF OPEX Subsidy demanded.

- 3.8 All Applicants shall mention a lumpsum amount of Opex for three years (separately from the usual Capex Subsidy) in their Financial Proposal in appropriate field. This amount shall be equally split over three years to show “Yearly Opex” of the Applicant. Then the Applicant in adjacent column shall mention the “Yearly Opex Subsidy” for each of the three years making sure that for first year the asked subsidy amount cannot exceed 75% of the “Yearly Opex”, for second year the asked subsidy amount cannot exceed 50%, and for third year the asked subsidy amount cannot exceed 25% (See Annex 1: USF Subsidy Proposal Form with this RFA for elaboration).
- 3.9 USF OPEX Subsidy for each of the Years i.e. One, Two and Three shall be paid in quarterly installments based on the audited BTS sites in each Milestone. The quarterly installments shall start immediately after completion of each of the Milestones and issuance of Project Implementation Milestone Certification. The payment will be due after verification of Quarterly Reports submitted by SP in accordance with Section 9.01 of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement and in accordance of Schedule of the OPEX Payment Methodology in the following manner:
- (a) After completion of the First Milestone and issuance of Project Implementation Milestone Certification and verification of Quarterly Reports as per OPEX methodology, USF Service Provider shall be paid as quarterly installments of the First Year OPEX Subsidy for the number of audited BTS sites in the First Milestone. Second and Third year OPEX subsidy for the First Milestone shall be paid to the service provider in the same manner. Thus, over a period of three years (thirty-six (36) months), against First Milestone, USF Service Provider shall be paid twelve (12) quarterly installments in accordance with the number of BTS sites audited for the Milestone.
 - (b) Same process of payment of OPEX Subsidy shall be repeated for each subsequent Project Implementation Milestone, thus USF Service Provider shall get forty-eight (48) installments covering entire amount of OPEX Subsidy for the Project.

4. USF Policy

- 4.1 The Universal Service Fund Policy (“USF Policy”) is the policy framework guiding the RFA Process. It sets out goals, objectives, and guidelines for using USF funding to meet certain basic telecommunication and ICT services needs in areas of Pakistan which would otherwise remain un-served.
- 4.2 The USF Policy’s goals include making voice telephony and Internet access data services available and affordable to progressively greater proportions of Pakistan’s rural population.
- 4.3 USF Policy goal (as per Telecom Policy 2015) is “Available and affordable telephony and universal Broadband access to enable e/m services for covering under served and unserved population”. This RFA and similar USFCo initiatives are intended to meet these objectives by introducing service in defined USF Areas.
- 4.4 The USF Policy will guide the actions of USFCo in administering the Universal Service Fund. That administration includes the use of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement, with compliance monitoring and penalties for non-performance, including

forfeiture of bank guarantees. Technological features of the USF Policy include technological neutrality, an emphasis on shared access points, and mandatory infrastructure sharing to facilitate multiple operators in the same area. Economic features include capping USF service prices at nationally available retail prices, and a “negative auction” RFA Process to use bidding competition among licensees to minimize the amount of any particular USF Subsidy, and to maximize overall benefits from the fund. Together, these features establish a USF regime to extend telecommunications services (including Broadband Internet services) to rural locations in a sustainable manner consistent with fair competition.

5. USF Coverage Requirements

The geographic locations that are the subject of this RFA and related USF Subsidy (the “USF Areas”) are identified in detail in Schedule C of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement enclosed as Annex 6. Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed USF Networks and Services provide service coverage to all of the mandatory cities, towns, villages or mauzas as identified in Schedule C of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.

6. USF Service Requirements

The service requirements to be met by the successful Applicant selected pursuant to this RFA are identified in Schedules A and B of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement enclosed as Annex 6.

7. USF Contributors and Eligibility

7.1 Persons whose Local Loop (“LL”) Wireless Local Loop (“WLL”), Long Distance and International (“LDI”) or Telecommunication Infrastructure Provider (“TIP”) Licence was issued after adoption of the Deregulation Policy (2003), and persons whose mobile cellular licence was issued or renewed after adoption of the Mobile Cellular Policy (2004), (collectively, “USF Contributors”) have an obligation to contribute 1.5% of annual gross revenues to the Universal Service Fund, less inter-operator fees and related payments mandated by the PTA or Frequency Allocation Board (“FAB”).

7.2 Any other licensee who has had its licence issued, re-issued or amended to include Universal Service Fund contribution payment requirements will, on satisfaction of those requirements, be recognized as a USF Contributor as well.

7.3 Eligibility to participate in the RFA process is limited to USF Contributors under the Universal Service Fund Rules, 2006 (the “Rules”)¹.

7.4 Rule 24(12) sets out the following further restriction:

No single licensee may accumulate more than fifty per-cent of the total amount of USF subsidies awarded by the USF Company in multiple auctions. The period during which a licensee’s accumulation and proportion of USF subsidy

¹See Rule 24(12) of the USF Rules 2006 as amended.

amounts will be defined in guidelines or statements of auction procedures to be issued by the USF Company from time to time.

Detailed guidelines to Rule 24(12) are available at USF website www.usf.org.pk.

8. Tentative Time Schedule

8.1 The tentative timetable for the RFA events, beginning with publication of the pre-auction notice, is set out in Annex 8 of RFA.

9. Project Administration and Correspondence

9.1 Nominated Contact for all correspondence relating to this RFA is provided in Annex 8 of this RFA.

End of Part I

Part II

Rights and Obligations of USF Service Provider

10. Exclusivity

A USF Service Provider will not have any exclusive rights to provide USF Services in the USF Areas.

11. Roll-out of USF Network and Supply of USF Services

The USF Network shall be constructed and otherwise rolled out in accordance with the Project Implementation Milestones equipped with Renewable Energy Solutions, providing service coverage to all mandatory cities, towns, villages or Mauzas as identified in Schedule C of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement. Once the USF Network has been rolled out, the USF Services shall be supplied by the USF Service Provider in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.

12. USF Subsidy Payments

In order to promote GoP's policy of expanding telecommunications services and access in un-served areas, a USF Subsidy shall be paid to the USF Service Provider to help meet the capital costs of rolling out the USF Network and providing USF Services in the USF Areas. The USF Subsidy payments shall be made in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement enclosed as Annex 6.

13. Service Availability and Quality Specifications

- 13.1 Applicants must demonstrate that the USF Networks they propose will provide service coverage to all of the cities, towns, villages or Mauzas identified in Schedule C of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement as being mandatory for USF Network and USF Service coverage.
- 13.2 The USF Service Provider must roll-out and operate the USF Network substantially in accordance with the plans submitted and the technology described in its accepted Proposal.
- 13.3 The USF Service Provider must also roll-out and operate the USF Network so that the USF Services meet all applicable quality of service measures and requirements, including those set out in applicable Licence(s).
- 13.4 Quality of service reports for the USF Services shall be filed by the USF Service Provider with USFCo in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.
- 13.5 The USF Service Provider must use Renewable Energy Solutions as primary source for powering the new BTS sites deployed as part of USF Network. Secondary source of power must also be used as a backup to primary source of power for all of USF Network.
 - a) Service provider will ensure that at least two power sources (Primary & Secondary) are available at existing/upgraded BTS/Repeater sites. However use of alternate energy will not be mandatory for upgrade BTS/Repeater sites.

14. Scope of Service

- 14.1 USF Services – The USF Services, which include Voice Services and Broadband Internet Service, shall be provided in the USF Areas in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.
- 14.2 Optional Services – In addition to the USF Services, a USF Service Provider may provide other services in the USF Areas, to the extent that the USF Service Provider is authorized to provide such services under applicable licence(s). A USF Service Provider shall be free to apply for additional licences to provide other telecommunications services in accordance with PTA's then-current licensing practices and procedures.

15. Regulation of Operators

USF Service Providers will remain subject to all other regulatory requirements established from time to time by the PTA, including the terms of all previously granted licences.

16. Interconnection and Facilities Sharing

- 16.1 Interconnection between a USF Service Provider's network and other licensed telecommunications networks in Pakistan is governed by:
- (a) the Act;
 - (b) the Pakistan Telecommunication Rules, 2000;
 - (c) all applicable licences;
 - (d) the Interconnection Regulations; and
 - (e) the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.
- 16.2 A USF Service Provider's network must be technically compatible with all existing PSTN networks to ensure properly functioning interconnection. For interconnection purposes, technical compatibility includes, but is not limited to, compatible numbering, signaling, routing, synchronization and network interfaces.
- 16.3 USF Service Providers shall share infrastructure and essential facilities developed using USF Subsidy funding in accordance with the USF Rules and the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.

17. Numbering and Electronic Addressing

- 17.1 Any numbers or electronic addresses used in Pakistan by a USF Service Provider shall be in accordance with the Act and any applicable numbering or electronic addressing plans established by the PTA pursuant to the Act.

17.2 For the purposes of section 17.1, “electronic addressing” shall be interpreted as including ENUM, Distributed Universal Number Discovery (“DUNDi”) and other systems for mapping telephone numbers to IP addresses; but does not include domain name management related systems or functions.

18. Type Approval

18.1 Any telecommunications equipment or facilities used in Pakistan by a USF Service Provider shall be subject to the type approval requirements of the Act and any type approval processes established by the PTA pursuant to the Act.

18.2 USF Service Provider shall also be responsible to seek any type approval, permission or license for Renewable Energy Solution or any of its equipment, if required.

19. Regulation of USF Service Charges

19.1 The tariffs charged by a USF Service Provider for the USF Services are subject to requirements under the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement, including that those charges shall not exceed the USF Service Provider’s National or Regional tariffs for the same or equivalent services provided in urban locations that are not included in the USF Areas².

19.2 USF Service Providers remain subject to any other tariff regulation by the PTA pursuant to the Act.

20. Authority to Construct and Use Facilities

20.1 Subject to the terms of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement, a USF Service Provider will be authorized to construct or otherwise procure all telecommunications facilities required to provide the USF Services.

20.2 A USF Service Provider may utilise any appropriate wireless or wire line technologies, subject to any limitation in its Licence, in the provision of the USF Services that meet the USF Service requirements identified in the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.

20.3 All telecommunications facilities, equipment and Renewable Energy Solutions installed by a USF Service Provider as part of the USF Network shall be:

- (a) new when first installed;
- (b) field-proven (in accordance with section 42.7); and
- (c) compliant with internationally recognized standards.

20.4 Any permissions or authorizations required from authorities in the USF Areas, in connection with the installation of the USF Network facilities and equipment and Renewable Energy Solutions shall be the responsibility of the USF Service Provider.

²See section 2.06 of the Services & Subsidy Agreement.

21. Requirement to Procure and Manage the USF Network

A USF Service Provider shall be required to own and operate the USF Network in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.

22. Transfer or Change of Control

Transfers and changes in the ownership or control of a USF Network will be subject to fulfillment of Service Provider's PTA licence obligation on ownership and control reporting and/or approvals the USF Service Provider may require from other applicable Government agencies. However, after such change of control the obligations under the USF Service and Subsidy Agreement will remain intact till the term of the contract.

23. Access to Public and Private Lands

A USF Service Provider shall have access to public and private lands, including ongoing rights of inspection and entry, in accordance with the Act and all other applicable laws, regulations and rules.

24. Force Majeure

A USF Service Provider shall be excused, in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement, from certain failures to perform its obligations under the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement if an event of force majeure has prevented the performance of the obligations.

25. Dispute Resolution

The USF Services and Subsidy Agreement includes a number of mechanisms to facilitate resolution of disputes, including the appointment by USFCo of a disputes committee consisting of appropriately qualified persons. Where disputes cannot be resolved by application of these mechanisms, parties will continue to have recourse to arbitration and court processes in accordance with the laws of Pakistan.

26. Technical Auditor

A Technical Auditor shall be appointed by USFCo in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement and other applicable processes. The Technical Auditor may be an appropriately qualified employee of USFCo and/or expert consultant/firm, and will perform identified functions in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement including:

- (a) certification that Project Implementation Milestones have been achieved and that USF Subsidy payments are therefore due;
- (b) certification that events of force majeure have prevented the performance of certain obligations under the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement; and
- (c) proposing amendment of the USF Areas, and any related amendments to the agreement, upon the occurrence of a certified event of force majeure.

27. Compliance with Law

A USF Service Provider shall be required to comply with all laws of Pakistan applicable to its USF Services activities at all times, including the Act, all regulations, rules, orders, decisions and guidelines issued under the Act.

28. Term of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement

The USF Services and Subsidy Agreement shall have a term of ten (10) years and any other extended period due to Force Majeure or delay in Project.

29. Other Obligations under USF Services and Subsidy Agreement

The USF Services and Subsidy Agreement contains specific obligations of the USF Service Provider, including obligations regarding the roll-out of the USF Network and provision of the USF Services. The agreement also includes specific remedies for non-performance, including drawing on the Performance Bond or exercising the lien on USF Network assets, as well as insurance requirements, indemnification, and USF Service Provider representations and warranties.

30. Fees Payable by the USF Service Provider

A USF Service Provider will be responsible for paying any fees, taxes or charges otherwise applicable to the USF Service Provider till the term of the contract, in accordance with the Act and other laws of Pakistan and regulations made thereunder.

31. Frequency Spectrum

- 31.1 A USF Service Provider may use suitable wireless spectrum to provide USF Services in accordance with all legal and regulatory provisions governing spectrum authorizations.
- 31.2 Proposals shall provide details of the frequency spectrum (including spectrum used in backhaul systems or facilities) to be used by the USF Service Provider in providing the USF Services, including the frequency spectrum bands, numbers of channels, radio-communications equipment and anticipated type of use.
- 31.3 Applicants should note that the frequency spectrum bands currently available in Pakistan are described in the Spectrum Management Guidelines and other documents available on the PTA website.
- 31.4 It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that it has any frequency spectrum required for delivery of the USF Services.

End of Part II

Part III

Instructions to Applicants

32. Selection of Successful Applicant

USFCo plans to execute a USF Services and Subsidy Agreement with the Applicant whose Proposal meets the following selection criteria:

- (a) the Proposal demonstrates that the Applicant is a “Qualified Applicant”, meeting the requirements of sections 34, 35, 36 and 37 of this RFA;
- (b) the Proposal is “responsive”, meeting the requirements identified in section 40.1 of this RFA; and
- (c) the Applicant proposes the lowest USF Subsidy for the defined USF Areas.

33. Pre-proposal Meeting

- 33.1 USFCo may conduct a “pre-proposal meeting” at the office of USFCo unless otherwise directed. The purpose of the meeting will be for USFCo to provide answers to the written questions posed and comments made by potential Applicants (see sections 56.5 and 56.6 regarding the submission of questions and comments), and to otherwise clarify or amend the RFA Process and related documentation. All authorised representatives of potential Applicants shall be entitled to attend the meeting.
- 33.2 USFCo will keep a register of all those who are present at the pre-proposal meeting. All representatives from the Applicants and USFCo attending the meeting shall sign the register.
- 33.3 USFCo will prepare minutes of the pre-proposal meeting. The minutes, and the text of any written questions and answers from Applicants, will be published by USFCo on the USFCo website.
- 33.4 Responses to the written questions and results of the pre-proposal meeting shall not constitute an amendment to the RFA documents or the RFA Process unless USFCo re-issues the affected RFA documents with a specific identification of the resulting amendments.
- 33.5 Any amended RFA documents thus issued shall become the applicable statement of the RFA Process, and shall be communicated in writing to all Applicants. Applicants shall promptly acknowledge receipt of any amended documents by email to the USFCo project administrator identified in section 9.1.
- 33.6 USFCo may extend the deadline for submission of Proposals as required to give Applicants reasonable time in which to take account of any amended RFA documents.

34. Qualification Criteria

- 34.1 USFCo will determine whether an Applicant qualifies as a Qualified Applicant for the purposes of the award of a USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.

34.2 For the purpose of this RFA the qualification criteria are described in sections 35, 36, and 37.

35. Financing Capacity

35.1 The Applicant must satisfy USFCo that it has sufficient financing capacity for the investments required to construct the USF Network and to provide the USF Services. The criteria to determine whether an Applicant has sufficient financing capacity for a project of this size are:

- (a) A net worth of not less than PKR 300,000,000; or
- (b) Possession or access to a line of credit equal to PKR 300,000,000.

35.2 The net worth of any shareholder in the proposed USF Service Provider may be included in the calculation of the net worth of the proposed USF Service Provider for the purposes of sections 35.1 and 42.5 if:

- (a) the shareholder holds or will hold a minimum of 1/3 (one third) of the ownership interest (including all forms of ownership interest) in the USF Service Provider; and
- (b) the shareholder indicates that it is willing to guarantee the performance of the USF Service Provider and provides a written undertaking to this effect for inclusion in the Proposal.

36. Operational Experience

36.1 The Applicant must have operated a telecommunications network that meets all of the following requirements:

- (a) the network has a transmission backbone component for voice and data services (including facilities or services provided by other licencees under existing contracts);
- (b) the network includes access network, transmission network and may use any suitable technology to provide USF services, owned and operated by the USF Service Provider; and
- (c) the network has been operated by the USF Service Provider for a minimum of one (1) year.

36.2 In complying with section 36.1 above, the Applicant may rely on:

- (a) the operational experience of the USF Service Provider it proposes; or
- (b) the experience of any Person that is a member of the Applicant's bidding consortium, and that:

- (i) is licensed by the PTA; and
- (ii) is a shareholder in the proposed USF Service Provider, or
- (iii) has committed in a binding agreement to become a shareholder in the proposed USF Service Provider,

provided that the Person holds or will hold a minimum of 1/3 (one third) of the ownership interests (including all forms of ownership interests) in the USF Service Provider.

37. Applicant Eligibility

- 37.1 The Applicant must be an Active Tax Payer (verifiable through ATL) and have a valid NTN and Sales Tax registration. NTN and Sales Tax registration certificates are mandatory and must be provided within the technical proposal.
- 37.2 As indicated elsewhere in this RFA, the Applicant must be a USF Contributor. In the case of a Consortium Applicant, the Consortium Applicant leader must be a USF Contributor.
- 37.3 The Applicant must also not have any “conflict of interest”, this meaning any association with consultants or other advisors retained by USFCo or GoP to advise on the design or implementation of the RFA Process; or participating in more than one Proposal in this RFA Process.
- 37.4 The USF Service Provider proposed by the Applicant must be incorporated under the Companies Ordinance, 1984.
- 37.5 The Applicant must possess valid Licence(s) for the relevant region and telecommunication services, issued by PTA. The Applicant must satisfy USFCo that the proposed USF Service Provider is in substantial compliance with the conditions of its Licence(s). In complying with this requirement, the Applicant may rely on the Licence(s) of any shareholder in the USF Service Provider that meets the requirements of section 35.2.

38. Consortium Applicant

- 38.1 Any USF Contributor leading a consortium may bid for any USF Subsidy on behalf of that consortium (“Consortium Applicant”) under conditions similar to those set out for an individual USF Applicant, provided that the consortium’s composition and Proposal materials satisfy the consortium requirements identified below:
 - 38.1.1 There shall be no limit on the number of members of the consortium, except that:
 - (a) the consortium shall include at least one USF Contributor; and
 - (b) the consortium shall include at least one LL, WLL or Cellular Mobile licence holder; but shall include no more than one LL, WLL, Cellular Mobile or LDI licence holder.

38.1.2 One member of the consortium shall be identified as the consortium leader. The consortium leader shall be the USF Contributor member of the consortium. The consortium leader shall also enter into all contracts on behalf of the consortium and shall otherwise be responsible for consortium performance.

38.1.3 Notwithstanding section 38.1.2, all members of the consortium shall be jointly and severally liable to USFCo in respect to the performance of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.

39. Bid Bond

39.1 The Bid Bond shall be provided as per section 42.1 (f) and Annex 2 of this RFA. USFCo will not be obligated or liable to pay any accumulated interest on the Bid Bond.

39.2 The Bid Bond of all unsuccessful Applicants will be released not later than 30 days after the execution of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.

39.3 The successful Applicant's Bid Bond will be released not later than 30 days after: i) the execution of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement; and ii) furnishing of the Performance Bond pursuant to section 54.

39.4 Notwithstanding section 39.3, the Bid Bond shall be forfeited by an Applicant in any of the following cases:

- (a) the Applicant withdraws its Proposal prior to execution of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement;
- (b) where the successful Applicant has received from USFCo a Letter of Intent to execute the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement and the USF Service Provider proposed by the Applicant fails or refuses to submit the Performance Bond in accordance with sections 53 and 54 of this RFA;
- (c) if after the issuance of the Letter of Intent USFCo determines that Applicant is disqualified pursuant to section 51.1 of the RFA; and
- (d) the USF Service Provider proposed by the successful Applicant does not execute the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement within time period stipulated in LOI, or concluding final negotiations with USFCo, or otherwise fails to engage in final negotiation of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.

39.5 Consequent to clause 39.4 (a), the Applicant shall have to submit a bid bond of Rs. 20 million for participation in next USF project.

40. Responsiveness of Proposals

40.1 A Proposal will be considered responsive only if all of the following requirements are met:

- (a) The Proposal is submitted by an Applicant (or any company or other Person identified in the Proposal as a member or participant in a Consortium Applicant) that has registered with USFCo and purchased an official copy of the RFA in accordance with the Notice of Request for Applications document issued by USFCo.
- (b) The Proposal is complete and submitted in accordance with all the requirements of this RFA, including the content requirements identified in sections 41, 42 and 43 and the submission requirements identified in sections 45 and 46.
- (c) The Proposal is received before the closing date and time for submission identified in section 46.3.

40.2 Proposals that do not comply substantially with the above requirements will be rejected as non-responsive.

41. Content and Format of Proposals

41.1 Bid shall be well formatted starting with Table of Contents referring page numbers. Colored separators, tags or flags shall be used to identify different sections/items of Table of Contents stacked in to Box Files. All parts of the Proposal must be printed using indelible ink.

(a) Part 1 “Qualifications and Service Proposal”, setting out information about the Applicant, the USF Service Provider proposed by the Applicant, the USF Network and the USF Service proposal of the Applicant; and

(b) Part 2 - “USF Subsidy Proposal”, which shall set out the proposed USF Subsidy amount for the USF Areas.

41.2 The required content and form of each Part of the Proposal are outlined in more detail below.

42. Part 1 Structure Requirements –Qualifications and Service Proposal

Qualifications and Service Proposal shall include the following documents and information:

42.1 Cover Letter and Attachments

- (a) The cover letter and each page of the attached proposal materials must be signed by a person or persons duly authorized to act on behalf of the Applicant. Where the Applicant is a consortium, the cover letter and attachments must be signed by a person or persons duly authorized to act on behalf of each member of the consortium.

- (b) The cover letter must provide a summary description of the Applicant, including the members of any Consortium Applicant, and of the USF Service Provider proposed by the Applicant.
- (c) The cover letter must indicate a firm commitment to engage in final negotiation of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement promptly and in good faith.
- (d) The cover letter must confirm that the Proposal is open for acceptance by USFCo for 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the bid closing date identified in section 46.3 of this RFA.
- (e) Attached to the cover letter must be one or more Powers of Attorney or notarized certificates that clearly evidence the authority of the signatory (ies) of the cover letter and other documents submitted with the Proposal which require signature on behalf of the Applicant, a shareholder of the Applicant, the members of the Applicant consortium, if applicable, or the USF Service Provider proposed by the Applicant.
- (f) Also included with the cover letter, must be the Bid Bond in the form of Annex 2 to this RFA, in accordance with the following requirements:
 - (i) The Applicant shall furnish a Bid Bond in the minimum amount of PKR 10,000,000 in the form of Annex 2 to this RFA and issued by a reputable bank located in Pakistan with AAA rating that is acceptable to USFCo.
 - (ii) The Applicant shall submit the Bid Bond as specified in Annex 2.
 - (iii) The Bid Bond of a Consortium must be in the name of the lead member of the consortium, who shall be expressly authorized to submit the same under the consortium agreement.

42.2 Information and Documentation on the Applicant

- (a) The name, legal status, registered office address and a description of the business of the proposed USF Service Provider.
- (b) The name, legal status, registered office address and a description of the business of all shareholders in the proposed USF Service Provider.
- (c) The name, legal status and registered office address of any Person who Controls the proposed USF Service Provider.
- (d) The name, legal status and registered office address of all Persons who own, directly or indirectly, any ownership interest in a shareholder of the proposed USF Service Provider.
- (e) The name, country of citizenship and address of each Person who is a director of the proposed USF Service Provider.
- (f) A chart:

- (i) showing the ownership structure of the proposed USF Service Provider;
 - (ii) illustrating the relationship among all Persons having a direct or indirect ownership interest; and
 - (iii) specifying the nature and level of such ownership interest.
- (g) A description of the legal status of the proposed USF Service Provider, including:
- (i) a certified copy of its certificate of incorporation, Memorandum and Articles of Association;
 - (ii) a certified copy of a resolution of the Board of Directors of the USF Service Provider that authorizes the Applicant to submit the Proposal and propose the USF Service Provider for the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement; and
 - (iii) any shareholder agreement, joint venture agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, or other arrangement of any kind between the shareholders of the proposed USF Service Provider.
- (h) In the case of companies with shares listed on a stock exchange, the information regarding shareholders required in sections 42.2(b), 42.2(d) and 42.2(f) must be provided only to the best of the Applicant's knowledge and only in respect of shareholders owning more than 10% (ten percent) of the issued shares.

42.3 Information to be Submitted by a Consortium Applicant –

In the case of a Consortium Applicant, the Consortium Applicant's Proposal shall also include:

- (a) the name, legal status, registered office address and a description of the business of all Persons with a direct or indirect ownership interest of more than 10% (ten percent) in the Consortium Applicant or in any member of the consortium;
- (b) where a consortium member is an individual, identification and proof of citizenship for that individual;
- (c) specific details of the structure of the consortium, including identification of the lead member of the consortium; and
- (d) the agreement(s) establishing the consortium, specifying at least:
 - (i) a clear allocation of responsibilities and confirmation that all members of the consortium will be jointly and severally liable to USFCo in respect of performance of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement;
 - (ii) the duration of the consortium agreement;

- (iii) details of the ownership interests in the consortium and the financial contributions of each member; and
- (iv) arrangements governing managerial control by the consortium over the operation of the USF Service Provider.

42.4 Documentation on the Applicant's Licence(s)

To demonstrate substantial compliance with the conditions of existing Licence(s), the Applicant shall submit:

- (a) a copy of each Licence issued by the PTA to the proposed USF Service Provider, or to any shareholder of the USF Service Provider that meets the requirements of section 35.2;
- (b) a copy of the most recent renewal of any such Licence; and
- (c) a declaration in the form of Annex 4 to this RFA, representing that the Applicant is in compliance with all applicable licence conditions, and is otherwise in good standing with the PTA.

42.5 Documentation on Financial Resources of the Applicant

- (a) Financial statements of the proposed USF Service Provider for the preceding two years, including an income statement and balance sheet, prepared in accordance with internationally accepted accounting standards; or
- (b) If the proposed USF Service Provider has not existed, or has not received service revenues, for at least two years prior to the submission of the Proposal, the financial statements of any shareholder that meets the requirements of section 35.2 must be provided. The financial statements of said shareholder must be provided for the preceding two years and must be prepared in accordance with internationally accepted accounting standards.

42.6 Documentation on Operational Experience of the Applicant

- (a) Where the Applicant will rely on the experience of a Person identified in section 36.2, the Applicant must demonstrate that arrangements are in place to provide the proposed USF Service Provider with access to the technology, professional know-how and operational experience required to operate the USF Network and to provide the USF Services. Specifically, the Proposal must include:
 - (i) a statement that identifies the Person;
 - (ii) documentation that clearly demonstrates that the relationship between the proposed USF Service Provider and such Person meets the requirements of section 36.2(b);

- (iii) a written commitment from said Person to participate in the USF Service Provider's operations;
 - (iv) a description of such proposed participation, which must clearly demonstrate to USFCo's satisfaction that the Person will have a significant and continuing participation in running the operations of the USF Service Provider for the life of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement; and
 - (v) approval in writing by the Person's Board of Directors of the commitment and description of the Person's proposed participation.
- (b) The Proposal shall include specific information regarding the telecommunications markets in which the proposed USF Service Provider (or, if its experience is relied upon, the Person identified in section 36.2) has operated in the manner described. Details should be provided concerning:
- (i) the number of years of operation;
 - (ii) the telecommunications management experience of the proposed USF Service Provider;
 - (iii) the types of telecommunications services provided; and
 - (iv) the experience of the proposed USF Service Provider in rolling out a telecommunications network.
- (c) The operational experience listed in section 36.1 above shall constitute experience of only one Person and not the aggregate experience of two or more Persons.

42.7 Field Proven Equipment, Software and Solutions

- (a) All proposed equipment and software shall have been satisfactorily field-proven in actual service. To meet this requirement, the proposed suppliers shall have supplied equipment and software of the type described in the Proposal to at least two telecommunications network operators and the equipment and software shall have been in satisfactory service with those telecommunications network operators for a minimum period of one year prior to the date of submission of the Proposal.
- (b) The Applicant shall provide the technical specifications of the major types of equipment and software to be supplied, installed and operated in order to provide the USF Services, including the local access facilities, the backbone transmission facilities, the switching and routing facilities, applicable network interfaces and Renewable Energy Solutions.
- (c) The Applicant shall submit evidence that the proposed suppliers of the equipment, identified pursuant to sub-section (a) above, have been in the

business of manufacturing telecommunications equipment for at least three years before the date of the Proposal.

- (d) The Applicant shall submit the names, addresses, telephone numbers and fax numbers of the two network operators referred to in sub-section (a) above. The Applicant shall also submit letters from either the proposed equipment suppliers or the two network operators certifying satisfactory performance of the proposed equipment and software. USFCo reserves the right to verify the quality of the equipment and software and its satisfactory performance in actual service with the two network operators.
- (e) In view of the rapid technological development in communications technology, hardware and software, Applicants may propose that the USF Service Provider will install updated versions of the equipment and software in actual service. Applicants shall provide full details of the technological changes introduced in the proposed equipment and software.
- (f) All solutions and practices followed to provide telecommunication services shall be in accordance to the international standards defined by ITU-T. The solutions and practices must be well known and observed by the Industry.
- (g) As an alternative to meeting the requirements of sub-sections (a), (c) and (d) above, the Applicant must demonstrate satisfactory performance of the proposed equipment and software as part of the operations it has identified pursuant to section 36.1 of this RFA for a minimum period of one year prior to the date of submission of the Proposal.

42.8 Network Description

- (a) The Applicant must provide description of the planned network of the proposed USF Service Provider. The description must demonstrate that the proposed USF Network will meet the requirements specified in the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement, including, but not limited to, the USF Services specifications in Schedules A and B to that agreement. The network description provided by the Applicant must also clearly demonstrate that the USF Service Provider will:
 - (i) extend transmission and/or backhaul facilities into the USF Areas, with sufficient planned capacity to meet the requirements of the USF Services; and
 - (ii) provide service coverage to all cities, towns, villages or Mauzas identified in Schedule C of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement as being mandatory for USF Network and USF Service coverage.
- (b) The network description shall include:
 - (i) a description of the local access, transmission, switching, routing, primary and secondary source of power and interface technology to be employed, including applicable technical standards, and a network map

illustrating the intended network architecture and USF Network installations;

- (ii) a summary description of the roll-out and service coverage plans for the USF Network and USF Services, that meet or exceed the Project Implementation Milestones;
- (iii) the frequency spectrum to be used by the USF Service Provider (including the frequency spectrum bands, numbers of channels, radio-communications equipment, characteristics and anticipated type of use);
- (iv) the specific USF Network bandwidth capacity estimated by the Applicant as required to meet traffic requirements in the USF Areas over the first five years of commercial operations, and how that capacity will be provided by the USF Service Provider;
- (v) proposed interconnection points. The Applicant should specify how it intends to connect its voice traffic to the PSTN and its Internet traffic to the Internet. For voice, this should include the number and size of interconnection circuits and points of interconnection, including their location, required during the first five years of operation. For Internet, this should include the backhaul capacity per site, and plans for local or national peering. Backhaul, interconnection and peering arrangements should make maximum use of existing services and facilities available from other service providers in order to minimize subsidy requirements; and
- (vi) the Applicant shall also provide the information identified in the “Design Parameters” included in Annex 5.

42.9 Operations Description - The Proposal must include:

- (a) a general description of the intended operations of the USF Service Provider, including its general approach to implementation of the USF Network and provision of the USF Services; and
- (b) a brief description of any land or rights in land (i.e., rights of way) that must be acquired for the operations, the estimated cost of acquiring such land or rights in land and the impact acquiring such rights might have on the Applicant’s network roll-out plan.
- (c) A brief description of Renewable Energy Solution, amount of energy it can generate and whether that generation is sufficient for smooth running of the USF Networks, details of the vendor, after-sale service and availability of the spare-parts.

42.10 Quality of Service Description - The Proposal must include a summary of the methodology and processes that will be implemented by the proposed USF Service Provider to meet the service requirements and quality of service standards identified in

Schedules A and B to the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement, including performance monitoring, reporting and fault resolution processes.

42.11 Tariffs and Charges - The Proposal must include a statement by the Applicant confirming that its tariffs and service charges for the USF Services will meet the tariff requirements identified in the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement³.

42.12 Additional Information

- (a) The Applicant's comments on the draft USF Services and Subsidy Agreement or any other transaction documents or requirements, including particularly any terms or conditions that the Applicant cannot or will not comply with; and
- (b) Any information that does not specifically respond to this RFA, but that the Applicant thinks is relevant to the Proposal.

43. Part 2 Subsidy Proposal

Information to be submitted by the Applicant in Part 2 of its Proposal:

- (a) **Subsidy Proposal** – The Applicant must provide a completed USF Subsidy Proposal Form prepared in accordance with Annex 1 to this RFA. As indicated in Annex 1, the amount of the proposed USF Subsidy and total cost of the Project shall be set out in words and numbers and in the event of any discrepancy between the words and numbers, the amount set out in words shall govern, and the currency of the proposed USF Subsidy shall be stated in PKR.
- (b) **USF Areas** – The Applicant's USF Subsidy Proposal must state the proposed amount of USF Subsidy for implementation of the USF Network, delivery of the USF Services throughout the USF Areas and Opex Subsidy up to three years.
- (c) **Calculation of Subsidy** – The Proposal must include a concise financial analysis detailing the calculation of the proposed USF Subsidy amount. The information furnished in this regard will be kept strictly confidential by USFCo; however, and as indicated in section 47.2, USFCo shall be entitled to publicly announce the total amount of each Applicant's USF Subsidy Proposal. The financial analysis must clearly demonstrate the breakdown of projected USF Network costs and operational costs, itemized to show the costs of the USF Network components identified pursuant to section 42.8
- (d) **Projected Financial Statements** - The Applicant must provide projected financial statements for years one through five of the USF Service Provider, including an income statement, balance sheet and statements of sources and application of funds for the USF Service Provider prepared in accordance with internationally accepted accounting standards. For this purpose, the financial statements shall treat the USF Subsidy amount as if it were part of the debt,

³See Section 2.06 of the Agreement.

equity or deferred income of the USF Service Provider. The financial statements shall include projections of fee revenues from the USF Services and any Optional Services.

44. Compliance Checklist

- 44.1 A “Compliance Checklist” is attached as Annex 5 to this RFA. Applicants must include a completed Compliance Checklist in each copy of their Proposals
- 44.2 When completing the Compliance Checklist, Applicants must identify the specific parts and page numbers of their Proposals that correspond to the documents and information required by the RFA sections identified in the Compliance Checklist. Applicants must also specifically identify and comment on any of the identified RFA sections for which their Proposals are “Non-Compliant”.
- 44.3 Without derogating from the provisions of sections 44.1 and 44.2, above, in the event of any discrepancy between the Proposal requirements described in this RFA and the Compliance Checklist, the terms and requirements of this RFA shall prevail.

45. Submission of the Proposal

- 45.1 The Applicant shall prepare three copies of the Proposal, clearly marking the first copy “Original Proposal” and the 2nd & 3rd copies “Copy of Proposal”.
- 45.2 The Applicant shall also prepare one electronic copy of the Proposal (i.e., a USB containing copy of the Proposal that is in a format readable by Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat software).
- 45.3 All copies of the Proposal shall be clearly marked with the name of the Applicant.
- 45.4 In the event of any discrepancy between copies, the original shall govern.
- 45.5 As indicated in section 41, the Proposal consists of two separate parts: Part 1, the Qualification and Service Proposal; and Part 2, the USF Subsidy Proposal. Each part of the Proposal shall be separated into clearly labelled envelopes, with each envelope containing the three hard copies and the USB copies of the applicable part of the Proposal. The envelopes containing the separate parts of the Proposal shall be packaged together in a single box or other container. The container shall be sealed; that is securely packed and closed, so that it is not possible to open it without visual evidence thereof.
- 45.6 Each Proposal package shall be clearly marked with the following information:

Proposal to Provide USF Telecommunications Services
Name of Applicant:
Local Contact Name, Phone Number and E-Mail Address:

“DO NOT OPEN, EXCEPT IN PRESENCE OF USFCo EVALUATION COMMITTEE”

45.7 USFCo will provide a written receipt confirming the delivery of each Proposal received prior to the closing date and time.

45.8 The Bid Bond should be enclosed in a separately sealed envelope clearly marked with the name of the Applicant and the text “Bid Bond”. This envelope should be included in the container that includes all Proposal contents (see section 45.5), and delivered with the assembled Proposal package.

46. Delivery of the Proposal

46.1 The Proposal packages shall be delivered at the address identified in Annex 8 of RFA before the closing date and time mentioned in section 46.3.

46.2 If the Proposal container is not sealed and marked properly, USFCo will assume no responsibility for the Proposal or the disposition of its contents. Improperly marked or sealed packages may be rejected by USFCo.

46.3 Closing Date for Submission of the Proposal - The sealed Proposal package shall be delivered to USFCo at the address specified in section 46.1 no later than date and time identified in Annex 8 of this RFA.

46.4 Late Proposal - Proposals received after the closing date and time identified in section 46.3 will be returned to the Applicant(s).

47. Opening of Proposals

47.1 USFCo will publicly open the duly received Proposals, in the presence of authorised representatives of any Applicants who desire to attend, at least thirty minutes after the deadline for submission of bids identified in section 46.3, in the conference room of USFCo, 3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad. The opening will proceed whether one or more representatives of Applicants are present or absent. Following opening of the Proposals, USFCo will proceed with evaluation of the Proposals in accordance with section 48.

47.2 All Proposals shall be opened one at a time, with a representative of USFCo reading out the name of the Applicants and any other Applicant information that USFCo may consider appropriate. Only Proposals opened and read out at the proposal opening shall be considered for further evaluation, irrespective of the circumstances. No Proposals shall be rejected at Bid opening except for late Proposals or any Proposals that are not accompanied by a Bid Bond.

47.3 USFCo shall prepare a record of the initial Proposal opening that shall include, at a minimum, the name of the Applicant, the presence or absence of a Bid Bond and identification of any Proposals rejected for late submission. The Applicants’ representatives who are present shall be requested to sign an attendance sheet. A copy of the record shall be distributed to all Applicants.

48. Selection Process and Evaluation of Proposals

- 48.1 Subject to any request for clarification submitted by USFCo pursuant to section 56.7, the information submitted by Applicants in response to this RFA will be the sole basis for the selection of the USF Service Provider. Provided that the Proposal is substantially responsive, GoP and USFCo reserve the right to request Applicants to provide additional information and documents to assist them in evaluating the Proposals. However, neither the GoP nor USFCo, nor any other GoP body, will assist Applicants to supplement Proposals which are otherwise deficient or non-compliant. Failure to provide additional information within the identified timeframe may result in the Applicant's proposal being determined to be non-compliant.
- 48.2 USFCo will review each Applicant's "Qualifications and Service Proposal" (Part-1 of the proposal) to determine whether or not each Applicant is a Qualified Applicant within the meaning of section 34 of this RFA. Applicants that fail to satisfy the criteria identified in section 34 for becoming a Qualified Applicant will be rejected. USFCo will identify the grounds for rejection in a letter to each Applicant that fails to qualify as a Qualified Applicant.
- 48.3 USFCo will open and review each Qualified Applicant's "USF Subsidy Proposal" (Part 2 of the Proposal). USFCo will identify the date and time of opening of the USF Subsidy Proposals, and representatives of Qualified Applicants will be entitled to attend the opening of the USF Subsidy Proposals. The representatives of Qualified Applicants who are present at the opening shall be requested to sign an attendance sheet. A representative of USFCo shall read out or otherwise announce the amount of USF Subsidy proposed by each Qualified Applicant. USFCo will prepare minutes for the USF Subsidy Proposal opening meeting. The minutes will be sent to all Qualified Applicants and will be published by USFCo on its website.
- 48.4 Awarding USF Services and Subsidy Agreement – Subject to section 60, the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement will be awarded to the Qualified Applicant that proposes the lowest USF Subsidy for the USF Areas.
- 48.5 Ties - In the event that there is more than one Qualified Applicant bidding the lowest USF Subsidy for one or more USF Areas, USFCo shall proceed as follows:
- (a) The tied Qualified Applicants will receive written notice of the tie and instructions for submission of second round bids.
 - (b) The tied Qualified Applicants will proceed to a second round of bidding in which they will submit new USF Subsidy Proposals that comply with the requirements of section 43.
 - (c) The new USF Subsidy Proposal amount submitted by the tied Qualified Applicant must be smaller than or equal to the original USF Subsidy Proposal amount submitted by the Qualified Applicant.
 - (d) The new USF Subsidy Proposals shall be delivered in a sealed envelope, that is, securely closed so that it is not possible to open it without visual evidence thereof, to the address identified in section 46 and before the date and time

specified in the written notice referred to in section 48.5(a). New USF Subsidy Proposals will not be accepted after the date and time specified in the written notice referred to in section 48.5(a).

48.6 USFCo's determinations in the evaluation process shall be final and binding upon Applicants, subject to the laws of Pakistan.

49. Fraud or Corruption

The Bidders, his suppliers, contractors and their subcontractors shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of the contracts⁴. In pursuance of this policy, the RFA:

(a) defines, for the purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:

- (i) "corrupt practice" is the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party;
- (ii) "fraudulent practice" is any act or omission, including a misrepresentation, that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain a financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation;
- (iii) "collusive practice" is an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including to influence improperly the actions of another party;
- (iv) "coercive practice" is impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party;
- (v) "obstructive practice" is
 - a. deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering or concealing of evidence material to the investigation or making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede an investigation into allegations of a corrupt, fraudulent, coercive or collusive practice; and/or threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation, or
 - b. acts intended to materially impede the exercise of USF's inspection and audit rights.

(b) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the Bidder recommended for award has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent,

⁴ In this context, any action taken by a bidder, supplier, contractor, or a sub-contractor to influence the procurement process or contract execution for undue advantage is improper.

collusive, coercive or obstructive practices in competing for the contract in question;

- (c) will cancel the portion of the subsidy allocated to a contract if it determines at any time that representatives of the USF Service Provider who is beneficiary of the subsidy is engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, or coercive practices during the procurement or the execution of that contract, without the USF Service Provider having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to the USF to remedy the situation;
- (d) will sanction a firm or individual, including declaring them ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to be awarded a USF Subsidized contract if at any time USFCo determines that they have, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices in competing for, or in executing, a USF Subsidized contract; and
- (e) will have the right to require that a provision be included in bidding documents and in contracts subsidized by USF, requiring bidders, suppliers, contractors and consultants to permit USFCo to inspect their accounts and records and other documents relating to the Bid submission and contract performance and to have them audited by auditors appointed by USFCo.

50. Period of Validity of Proposal

The Proposal shall remain valid for 180 days from the closing date identified in section 46.3 of this RFA.

51. Grounds for Rejection of Proposal

51.1 USFCo shall reject Proposals and remove them from further consideration for any of the reasons set out below:

- (a) Failure to comply with any of the procedures or other requirements identified in sections 35, 36, 37, 40, 42, 43 and 45 of this RFA.
- (b) Failure to submit the Bid Bond amount specified in this RFA.
- (c) Serious inaccuracy or misrepresentation of any material facts in any part of the Proposal.
- (d) It is determined that the Applicant has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices (as defined in section 49) in competing for the contract in question.
- (e) The Applicant submitting the Proposal is determined by USFCo to have a conflict of interest (as that term is defined in section 37.3).

51.2 On the occurrence of any of the forfeiture events identified above in section 51.1, USFCo shall be entitled to select another Applicant. In such an event, USFCo may award the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement to the USF Service Provider proposed

by the Qualified Applicant that proposed the next lowest USF Subsidy for the USF Areas for which the first-selected Applicant proposed the lowest USF Subsidy.

52. Subsequent Disqualification and Ineligibility

52.1 If evidence of any of the activities referred to in sub-sections 51.1 (c) through (e) is disclosed after the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement has been executed, USFCo may terminate the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement without compensation. Disclosure of such evidence will also entitle USFCo to seek repayment of any part of the USF Subsidy that may have been paid. The provisions of this section are in addition to any criminal or civil legal action which may be available to or taken by any government or regulatory authority, including PTA and USFCo.

52.2 USFCo will declare an Applicant ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to be awarded a USFCo financed contract if it at any time it determines that the Applicant has engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices in applying for, or in performing, a USFCo financed contract.

53. Letter of Intent

53.1 USFCo will issue a Letter of Intent (“LOI”) to the successful Qualified Applicant to confirm USFCo’s intention to grant the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement to the USF Service Provider proposed by the Applicant. The LOI will also require the USF Service Provider proposed by a successful Applicant to submit the required Performance Bond within seven (07) working days from the date of issuance of the LOI.

53.2 If the USF Service Provider proposed by the Applicant to whom the LOI is directed does not submit the required Performance Bond within seven (07) working days from the date of issuance of LOI, USFCo may:

- (a) cause the Applicant to forfeit the Bid Bond pursuant to section 39.4 above.
- (b) disqualify the Applicant and the USF Service Provider proposed by the Applicant; and
- (c) issue another LOI to the Qualified Applicant that has submitted the next lowest USF Subsidy proposal for the USF Areas.

53.3 An Applicant to whom a LOI is directed must accept the LOI by notice in writing (the “Letter of Acceptance”) to USFCo within three (03) working days from the date of issuance of LOI.

53.4 It is the intention of USFCo that the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement (the “Contract”) will be finally negotiated and signed within three (03) working days from the date of receipt of the Performance Bond. In the event that USFCo and the recipient of the Performance Bond are unable to finalize the terms of the Contract within three (03) working day period, USFCo shall be entitled to terminate negotiations, return the Performance Bond and issue another LOI to the Qualified Applicant that has submitted the next lowest USF Subsidy proposal for the USF Areas.

53.5 Once the Contract has been entered into with the USF Service Provider put forward by the winning Applicant, USFCo shall publish the results of the RFA Process including at least the following information: (i) name of each Applicant who submitted a Proposal; (ii) name of Applicants whose Proposals were rejected, and the reason(s) for their rejection; (iii) the USF Subsidy Proposal amounts as read out at the subsidy proposal opening; (iv) the name of the winning Applicant; and (v) a summary of the resulting Contract. The information shall also be published on USFCo's website may be published in any other manner directed by USFCo or GoP.

54. Performance Bond

A USF Service Provider proposed by an Applicant to whom an LOI has been directed shall furnish the Performance Bond in accordance with this RFA Process and the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement. The Performance Bond shall be prepared in the form of Schedule F to the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement, and shall be furnished within seven (07) working days of the date of receipt of the LOI.

55. Information Provided by USFCo

55.1 The information contained in this RFA and any other information provided to Applicants during the Proposal process is intended to assist Applicants in the preparation of their Proposals. USFCo will ensure that all Applicants are provided with the same information during the Proposal process, in accordance with sections 33.5 and 33.6 of this RFA.

55.2 USFCo has made and will continue to make reasonable efforts to include accurate and current information in this RFA and in any other documentation provided to Applicants and potential Applicants. However, neither USFCo nor any of its agencies, employees, representatives, advisors or consultants shall have any liability whatsoever to any Applicant or any of its shareholders or members or any other Person resulting from use of or reliance on any of the information so provided. Applicants are encouraged to undertake their own verification of any information supplied by USFCo prior to use of or reliance on that information.

56. Communications, Comments and Requests for Clarification

56.1 All deliveries, notices or other communications made by USFCo to Applicants in connection with the Proposal process shall be sent by fax, e-mail or personal delivery to the registered office of the Applicant, as specified at the time the Applicant registered with USFCo pursuant to this RFA Process.

56.2 All deliveries, notices or other communications made by Applicants to USFCo in connection with the Proposal process, except for submission of the Proposal itself, shall be sent in writing by e-mail or personal delivery, unless otherwise specified by USFCo, to the contact person and address specified in section 9.1.

56.3 Subject to section 48.1, during the period between the deadline for submissions of Proposals and the award of the USF Subsidy, no Applicant, no USF Service Provider proposed by an Applicant and no party interested in a Proposal shall be permitted to discuss the merits of any Proposal with any representative of USFCo. Any

communications, or attempted communications, in contravention of this section shall be grounds for immediate disqualification.

- 56.4 Applicants are expected to carefully examine all instructions, forms and annexes in this RFA. Failure to furnish all information required by this RFA or the submission of a Proposal that does not comply with the RFA in all respects may result in disqualification of the Proposal.
- 56.5 A prospective Applicant requiring any clarification of this RFA or the draft USF Services and Subsidy Agreement may pose one or more questions to USFCo in writing by e-mail or personal delivery before the deadline for sending questions as per Annex-8 of RFA. USFCo will respond in writing to such written questions .
- 56.6 A prospective Applicant may make comments on the structure and contents of this RFA or the draft USF Services and Subsidy Agreement. Such comments should be sent in writing by e-mail or personal delivery to USFCo before the deadline for sending questions as per Annex-8 of RFA. USFCo will respond in writing to such written comments
- 56.7 To assist in the examination and evaluation of Proposals, USFCo may, at its discretion, ask any Applicant for a clarification of its Proposal. Any clarification submitted by an Applicant in respect to its Proposal that is not in response to a request by USFCo shall not be considered. USFCo's request for clarification and any response shall be in writing. Subject to sub-section 48.5, no change in the proposed USF Subsidy amount shall be sought, offered or permitted, except to confirm the correction of arithmetic errors discovered by USFCo in the evaluation of the Proposals. In responding to any request for clarification, Applicants may not attempt to change their Proposals, and any response that USFCo determines constitutes a change to an Applicant's Proposal shall not be taken into account by USFCo in evaluating the Proposal.

57. Confidentiality of Proposals

- 57.1 Except for the public opening of USF Subsidy Proposals pursuant to section 47, USFCo shall treat all Proposals received in relation to this RFA as confidential during the period before the award of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.
- 57.2 USFCo and its agencies, employees, representatives, advisors or consultants shall take reasonable steps to protect Proposal related information from improper use or disclosure; however, liability for disclosure shall be subject to the limitation set out in section 61.3.
- 57.3 Information relating to the examination, evaluation, comparison, and qualification of Proposals, and any recommendation of Contract award, shall not be disclosed by any representative of USFCo or GoP to Applicants or any other Persons not officially concerned with such process except as specifically permitted by sections 47, 48, and 53.5 of this RFA.

58. USFCo Use of Proposals

Subject to compliance with intellectual property laws of Pakistan, and section 57 above, USFCo shall have the right to use or reproduce ideas and information contained in a Proposal without notice or payment of any kind to the Applicant.

59. Cost of Proposal and Bidding

The Applicant shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its Proposal and USFCo will in no case be responsible for any such costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the Proposal process.

60. Reservation of Rights

60.1 USFCo reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to take any action, including amendment of this RFA, which it considers necessary to ensure that the RFA Process proceeds in a fair, open and transparent manner, in accordance with the laws of Pakistan and to meet the objectives of USFCo.

60.2 USFCo reserves the right to modify or terminate the RFA Process at any time in its sole discretion.

60.3 USFCo is not legally obligated to execute the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement. It may terminate the RFA Process or revoke an award of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement at any time before the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement is executed.

61. Legal and Formal Requirements

61.1 **Governing Law** - This RFA and any USF Services and Subsidy Agreement executed pursuant to this RFA shall be exclusively subject to, and interpreted in accordance with, the laws of Pakistan.

61.2 **Settlement of disputes** - Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with this RFA document, or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, shall be subject to the dispute resolution terms and processes set out in Annex 7 to this RFA.

61.3 **Limitation of Liability** - Neither GoP nor any of its Ministries, agencies, employees, representatives, advisors or consultants, including USFCo and its officers, employees and contractors, shall incur any liability whatsoever to any Applicant or any USF Service Provider proposed by an Applicant, or any of their respective shareholders or members or any other Person, in connection with any damages, losses, expenses or injury whatsoever, including but not limited to loss of revenue, opportunity, or goodwill, resulting from participation in the RFA Process, including reliance of any person on the information set out in this RFA; it being understood and agreed that USFCo's or GoP's liability for damages shall, in any event, be limited to such amount as may have been actually paid by an Applicant or other person to participate in the RFA Process.

61.4 **Language** - The Proposal, the accompanying documents, and all correspondence relating to this RFA shall be submitted in the English/Urdu language.

End of Part III

Part IV Definitions

62. Definitions

In this Request for Applications (RFA), unless the subject matter or context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“**Act**” means the Pakistan Telecommunication Act (Re-Organization) Act, 1996, XVII of 1996, as amended, and any successor legislation;

“**Applicant**” means any Person that registers itself with USFCo as an Applicant for purposes of this RFA, having obtained a copy of this RFA from USFCo;

“**Base Transceiver Station**” or “**BTS**” **base transceiver station (BTS)** is a piece of equipment that facilitates wireless communication between user equipment (UE) and a network. The network can be that of any of the wireless communication technologies like UMTS(3G), HSPA, LTE(4G), LTE-A, GSM, CDMA, Wireless Local Loop or WiMAX technology. BTS is also referred to as the *radio base station (RBS)*, node B (in 3G Networks), eNode B (in 4G networks) or, simply, the *base station (BS)*. For discussion of the LTE standard the abbreviation eNB for evolved node B is widely used. A BTS consists of Baseband units, Transceiver units and related equipment.

“**Base Transceiver Station Site**” or “**BTS Site**” consists of a BTS, Transmission and power equipment, Tower and related civil infrastructure.

“**Bid Bond**” means the financial security for the bid, in the shape of demand draft in the name of USF Co., which an Applicant must furnish to USF Co. in accordance with section 39 of this RFA;

“**Broadband Internet Access Services**” means the services that a USF Service Provider is obliged to provide under Section 14.1 and Schedule B of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement;

“**Compliance Checklist**” means the form set out in Annex 5 to this RFA that Applicants must complete in accordance with section 44 of this RFA;

“**Consortium Applicant**” means a group of Persons, including a joint venture, that submits a Proposal on behalf of its members, and that meets all eligibility requirements identified in section 38.1 of this RFA;

“**Contract**” means the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement signed with one or more successful Qualified Applicants on successful conclusion of the RFA Process;

“**Control**” of a Person other than an individual means the ownership of at least 51% (fifty-one percent) of the voting interests in the subject Person; or the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management

of that Person, whether through the ownership of shares, voting, securities, partnership or other ownership interests, agreement or otherwise;

“Final Implementation Date” means the date identified in paragraph 5 of Schedule D of SSA;

“GoP” means the Government of Pakistan;

“Interconnection Regulations” means any interconnection regulations, rules or guidelines that may be issued by PTA from time to time; **“Letter of Acceptance”** means the letter described in section 53.3 of this RFA;

“Letter of Intent” or **“LOI”** means the letter described in section 53.1 of this RFA;

“Licence” means any telecommunications licence granted by the PTA to the USF Service Provider, or to any shareholder of the USF Service Provider that meets the requirements of section 35.2, which authorizes it to provide the USF Services, as that Licence may be amended;

“Loan” means the funding received by the GoP, described in section 2.2 of this RFA;

“Mauza” means the smallest part of the revenue system recognized by the Population Census Organization;

“Net worth” for the purposes of sections 35 means total assets minus total liabilities.

“Optional Services” means services that a USF Service Provider is authorized but not required to provide pursuant to the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement and any Licences held by a USF Service Provider;

“Parties” refers to participants in the procurement process;

“Party” refers to a participant in the procurement process or contract execution.

“Performance Bond” means the financial security for performance a USF Service Provider must furnish in accordance with section 54 of this RFA;

“Person” means any individual, firm, company, corporation, partnership, joint venture or other consortium, government or governmental entity;

“Point of Interconnection” or **“POI”** means a connection point between the networks of two telecommunications service providers;

“Project Implementation Milestones” means the milestones for the roll-out of the USF Network and provision of the USF Services identified in Schedule D of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement;

“Proposal” means a proposal submitted by an Applicant in response to this RFA;

“PSTN” means the public switched telecommunications network of Pakistan;

“PTA” means the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, a statutory body corporate established under Section 3 of the Act, and its predecessors and successors;

“Qualifications and Service Proposal” means Part 1 of the Proposal that Applicants must prepare in accordance with section 41.1(a) of this RFA;

“Qualified Applicant” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 34 of this RFA;

“Quarterly Report” means a Quarterly Report required in accordance with Section 9.01 of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement enclosed as Annex 6.

“Renewable Energy” means energy that is produced by alternative or renewable resources that are replenished naturally and are non-polluting and environmental friendly, as compared to the conventional which do not deplete when consumed ;

“Renewable Energy Solution” means solutions, systems or set-ups generating power from Renewable Energy;

“RFA” means this Request for Applications, including all annexes hereto, as amended or modified by USFCo;

“Technical Auditor” means the Person appointed in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement;

“Telephone Access Service” means the services that a USF Service Provider is obliged to provide under Section 14.1 and Schedule A of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement;

“USF Areas” mean the cities, towns, villages or Mauzas identified in Schedule C of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement as being mandatory for USF Network and USF Service coverage;

“USF Contributor” means any Person who’s Licence includes identified USF Contribution requirements, and who is identified by PTA as being fully compliant with those requirements;

“USF Network” means the licensed telecommunication system consisting of telecommunications network infrastructure to be deployed by USF Service Provider to provide USF Services pursuant to the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement;

“USF Rules” means the Universal Service Fund Rules, 2006 (as amended);

“USF Service Provider” means the Person put forward by an Applicant that will provide the USF Services in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement;

“USF Services” means the Telephone Access Services and Broadband Internet Access Services to be provided by a USF Service Provider pursuant to Schedule A and B of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement..

“USF Services and Subsidy Agreement” or **“Agreement”** means the agreement, a draft of which is annexed as Annex 6 to this RFA, for the construction and roll-out of the USF Network, provision of the USF Services and payment of the USF Subsidy to be granted pursuant to this RFA;

“USF Subsidy” means the subsidy to be paid by USFCo to the USF Service Provider in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement and includes USF Capex Subsidy and USF Opex Subsidy;

“USF CAPEX Subsidy” means the subsidy to be paid by USFCo to the USF Service Provider on the USF Service Provider achieving the Project Implementation Milestones;

“USF OPEX Subsidy” means the subsidy to be paid by USFCo to the USF Service Provider for partially supporting its operational expenses as mentioned in Schedule D for operating USF Networks and providing USF Services in the USF Areas. USF OPEX Subsidy may include costs of backhauling, security, maintenance services, utilities, insurance, property management, transportation and vehicle expenses and wages of the manpower deployed for or associated with USF Network and USF Services in USF Area;

“USF Subsidy Proposal” means Part 2 of the Proposal that Applicants must prepare in accordance with section 43 of this RFA;

“USF Subsidy Proposal Form” means the form attached at Annex 1 of this RFA; and

“USFCo” means the USF (Guarantee) Limited and its successors.

“Voice Telephony” has the meaning ascribed there to in Schedule A;

End of Part IV

Annex 1: USF Subsidy Proposal Form

RFA TO PROVIDE USF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

To: The Chief Executive Officer
 USFCo
 3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex,
 Agha Khan Road, F-5/1,
 Islamabad
 Pakistan

Applicant's USF Subsidy Proposal:

The Applicant, [insert name of Applicant], hereby commits to assume all of the USF Service obligations identified in the RFA and USF Services and Subsidy Agreement in consideration for the award of the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement and payment of the amount of USF Subsidy indicated in the following table:

Description		Total cost of project	Amount of Proposed USF Subsidy (in Pakistan rupees)
USF Areas: <i>As identified in Schedule C of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.</i>		<i>[Enter amount of total cost of Project, proposed for the USF Area.]</i> <i>{The amount must be set out in both words and numbers}</i>	<i>[Enter amount of USF Subsidy proposed for the USF Areas]</i> <i>{The amount must be set out in both words and numbers}</i>
Break-up of Total cost & Proposed USF Subsidy <i>{All amounts must be set out in both words and numbers.}</i>			
USF Subsidy for capital cost including costs for Renewable energy set-up		<i>[Enter amount of total capital cost including cost of Renewable Energy Solution]</i>	<i>[Enter amount of USF Subsidy proposed for capital cost including cost of Renewable Energy Solution]</i>
USF Opex Subsidy	Enter amount of total Opex for three Years	<i>[Enter one-third amount of total Opex mentioned on the left as Opex for first year]</i>	<i>[Enter amount of USF Opex Subsidy proposed for first year]</i> <i>{This amount should not exceed 75% of the total Opex for first year mentioned on the left}</i>

		<i>[Enter one-third amount of total Opex mentioned on the left as Opex for second year]</i>	<i>[Enter amount of USF Opex Subsidy proposed for Second year]</i> <i>{This amount should not exceed 50% of the total Opex for second year mentioned on the left}</i>
		<i>[Enter one-third amount of total Opex mentioned on the left as Opex for third year]</i>	<i>[Enter amount of USF Opex Subsidy proposed for third year]</i> <i>{This amount should not exceed 25% of the total Opex for third year mentioned on the left}</i>

*USF Subsidy = USF CAPEX Subsidy + USF OPEX Subsidy

1. In the event of any discrepancy between the USF Subsidy amount and total cost of the Project set out in words and numbers, the amount set out in words shall govern.
2. This USF Subsidy Proposal shall remain valid in accordance with section 50 of the RFA.

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

in the capacity of [insert title/position of individual signing] duly authorized to sign for and on behalf of [insert name of Applicant].

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20XX.

Witness Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20XX.

Annex 2: Bid Bond Form

Bid Bond in the form of Demand Draft in the name of USFCo.

Annex 3
Left Blank

Annex 4: Form of Letter Regarding Compliance with Licence(s)

[Month] [Day], 20XX

The Chief Executive Officer
USFCo
3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex,
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1,
Islamabad,
Pakistan

Dear Sir:

Re: [insert name of proposed USF Service Provider or Person falling within one of the categories listed in section 36.2(b) of the RFA]

Compliance with Conditions of Telecommunications Licence(s)

[insert name of proposed USF Service Provider or Person falling within one of the categories listed in section 36.2(b) of the RFA] is the holder of the following telecommunications licences issued by the PTA:

[list all PTA issued licences, including appropriate licence identification and date]

[insert name of proposed USF Service Provider or Person falling within one of the categories listed in section 36.2(b) of the RFA] remains in substantial compliance with all terms and conditions of the licence(s) issued by the PTA, and otherwise remains in good standing with the PTA.

Yours very truly,

[insert name of proposed USF Service Provider or Person falling within one of the categories listed in section 36.2(b) of the RFA]

Per:

(Signature)

[insert name and title of person signing letter]
[insert phone number of person signing letter]
[insert postal and e-mail address of person signing letter]

cc: Director General (Licensing), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority

Annex 5: Compliance Checklist

1. Compliance Sheet

A complete compliance sheet for each clause of RFA/SSA/Annex/Schedules shall be provided as softcopy and as signed hardcopy in the following format

Document	Clause No.	Compliance (FC/ NC/NA)	Proposal Page Reference	Remarks in case of non-Compliance
RFA				
SSA				
Schedules				
Annexes				

Note: FC- Fully Complied, NC – Not Complied, NA – Not Applicable.

2. Design Parameters

Following table of design parameters¹ shall be filled up for the proposed solution

ITEM	VALUE
Network Technology	
Spectrum (Access Network)	
Spectrum (Satellite)	
Vendor of Access Network	
BTS count	
RF Repeater Count	
Transmission Repeater Count	
OFN count (New + Existing)	
Microwave Frequency	
Microwave Media (BTSS Count)	
Capacity for Backhaul Media (Sites)	

¹ Applicants proposing a USF Network solution that is not GSM or CDMA based should provide equivalent network design and performance information.

Capacity for Microwave aggregations	
Capacity for Fiber Media	
Satellite Media (BTSs count)	
Capacity for Satellite Media	
Data Technology (UL & DL Data rates)	
Voice mErlang/Sub	
Voice MHT (Sec)	
Network Size in Erlang	
Network Size in Subscribers	
Renewable Energy Solution Technology	
Renewable Energy Solution (BTS Count)	
Commercial Power (BTS Count)	
DG with capacities (BTS Count)	
Battery Backup time	
Battery Life	

3. Additional Information

a) Following information shall also be provided in the form of MapInfo Workspace and excel sheets. Softcopies must include the following layers:

i). BTS Locations including new/existing/upgrades (Sites + Repeaters) with necessary information(columns) as mentioned in **Table 1**.

Table 1

S.No	BTS Name	Lat	Long	Site Status (Host/Guest)	Site Configuration Existing	Site Configuration Proposed	Erlangs	Subscribers	Height	Primary Power Source	Primary Power Source (Capacity)	Secondary Power Source	Secondary Power Source (Capacity)	BB Capacity	BB Backup Time
1															
2															

ii). Cell level information as per below mentioned **Table 2**, (if required make technology wise separate sheets).

Table 2

S.No	Cell Name	Site ID	Lat	Long	No of TRXs	Height	Antenna Model	Antenna (New/Existing)	RRU Name	RRU (Existing/New)	Azimuth	Elec. Tilt	Mech. Tilt	Freq. Band	Carrier Freq	Jumper/Feeder Type	Jumper/Feeder Length	Total TX Power (dbm)	RS/Pilot Power(dbm)	Total Tx Losses (db)	MIMO Type
1																					
2																					

iii). Footprint prediction for 2G services with legends like:

Legend	dBm		dBm
Green	-65	$\leq x$	
Yellow	-75	$\leq x <$	-65
Orange	-85	$\leq x <$	-75
Blue	-95	$\leq x <$	-85
Grey	-102	$\leq x <$	-95
White	No Coverage		

iv). Separate Footprint predictions for 3G and/or 4G networks with legends like:

Legend	dBm		dBm
Green	-65	$\leq x$	
Yellow	-75	$\leq x <$	-65
Orange	-85	$\leq x <$	-75
Blue	-95	$\leq x <$	-85
Grey	-100	$\leq x <$	-95
White	No Coverage		

- b) Softcopy of Link Budget calculation sheet along with formula details linked to individual inputs for reverse and forward links (if applicable) for all the technologies/frequencies being used
- c) Sample brochures of the Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) compatible with the proposed access network
- d) Detailed requirements, design, criteria, assumptions, calculations and proposed solution for renewable energy power solutions. The design calculations shall also include Primary and secondary source of power, number of batteries, offered backup time, required charging time, lifetime and operating temperature. All calculations shall be supported by the offered products' datasheets.
- e) Detailed requirements, design, criteria, assumptions, calculations for power solution available and any expansion/upgradation requirements should also be mentioned for existing/upgraded sites.
- f) Applicants must provide design assumptions and related information to demonstrate that the USF Network is planned to provide coverage of Broadband Internet Services to target population i.e. 80 % of the total population of each Mandatory mauza, as specified in Schedule C, with provision of LTE or equivalent services and provide coverage of Voice Telephony Services to 80 % population of each Mandatory mauza as specified in Schedule C.

Further, Broadband Network should cater for Broadband data rate of 512 kbps downlink and 128 kbps uplink, for simultaneous use by at least 2% of the 80% of total population of each Mandatory Mauza.

- g) Applicant must design network as per requirements of Clause f above and Schedule A and B of Annex-6 of RFA (draft SSA), however no BTS site will be proposed with less than 2 TRXs per sector for 2G services..
- h) Applicant must provide MapInfo Workspace of Backhaul Network, identifying all sites, nodes and repeaters (existing/upgrade/new) microwave/Optical Fiber that will be utilized to provide USF Network and Services, with marking of Hub sites/nodes/repeaters along with Link Names, Media Type, Capacities etc. The applicant must also provide link details and specifications, technology used, interfaces etc. for each link as per Table 3 & Table 4 in excel format.

Table 3

S.No.	SiteID	Lon A	Lat A	Far End	LonB	LatB	Freq band	Licensed capacity	Antenna size	Configuration	MW link Type (if Hub)	Type (Existing/New/Upgrade)	Power Solution (Primary/Secondary)
1													
2													

Table 4

S.No.	Fiber Node ID	Lon A	Lat A	Co-located BTS sites (Yes/No)	BTS ID	TXN Backhaul Capacity	Licensed/Leased Capacity	Type (Existing/New/Upgrade)	Power Solution (Primary)	Primary Power Source (Capacity)	Power Solution (Secondary)	Secondary Power Source (Capacity)
1												
2												

Annex [6]

Draft of Proposed USF Services and Subsidy Agreement

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND
SERVICES and SUBSIDY AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND
(A company setup under Section 42 of the Companies Ordinance 1984)**

**AND
[•]**

**MADE AS OF
[•MONTH•] [•DAY•], 202X**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE ONE - INTERPRETATION 5

 1.01 Definitions..... 5

 1.02 Headings 9

 1.03 Extended Meanings..... 9

 1.04 Currency..... 9

 1.05 Schedules 9

ARTICLE TWO - PROVISION OF USF NETWORK AND USF SERVICES 10

 2.01 General..... 10

 2.02 Implementation of the USF Network..... 10

 2.03 Provision of USF Services 10

 2.04 Service Availability and Quality..... 10

 2.05 Facilities Access and Sharing 11

 2.06 USF Service Charges 11

ARTICLE THREE - OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL 11

 3.01 Ownership and Operation of USF Network..... 11

 3.02 Change of Control of USF Service Provider 12

ARTICLE FOUR - IMPLEMENTATION AND SERVICE FAILURES 12

 4.01 Failure to Meet Project Implementation Milestone Schedule..... 12

 4.02 Failure to Maintain Service Availability and Quality Specifications 13

 4.03 Additional Penalties or Remedies 13

ARTICLE FIVE - PAYMENT OF THE USF SUBSIDY..... 13

 5.01 Payment of USF Subsidy 13

ARTICLE SIX - PERFORMANCE SECURITY 13

 6.01 Performance Bond 13

 6.02 Equipment Lien..... 14

ARTICLE SEVEN - INSURANCE 15

 7.01 Insurance..... 15

 7.02 General..... 15

7.03 Changes in the Insurance Industry.....	16
ARTICLE EIGHT - TECHNICAL AUDITOR.....	16
8.01 Appointment of Technical Auditor.....	16
8.02 Role of Technical Auditor.....	17
8.03 Cooperation with Technical Auditor.....	17
ARTICLE NINE - REPORTING.....	18
9.01 Reports.....	18
ARTICLE TEN - DISPUTE RESOLUTION.....	20
10.01 Dispute Escalation Process.....	20
10.02 Referral to Appeal Committee.....	21
10.03 Arbitration or Court Proceedings.....	21
10.04 Dispute Resolution Costs.....	22
10.05 Exemption from Dispute Resolution Processes.....	22
ARTICLE ELEVEN - REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES.....	22
11.01 Mutual Representations and Warranties.....	22
11.02 Representations and Warranties of USF Service Provider.....	22
ARTICLE TWELVE - INDEMNIFICATION.....	23
12.01 Indemnification.....	23
ARTICLE THIRTEEN - FORCE MAJEURE.....	24
13.01 Force Majeure.....	24
13.02 Technical Amendments.....	25
13.03 No Payment for Unperformed Services.....	26
13.04 Duration of Force Majeure Event Beyond Six Months.....	27
ARTICLE FOURTEEN - CONFIDENTIALITY.....	27
14.01 Confidentiality.....	27
ARTICLE FIFTEEN - TERM AND TERMINATION.....	27
15.01 Term.....	27
15.02 Termination – Bankruptcy, Winding Up, Etc.....	28
15.03 Termination – Material Breach.....	28

15.04 Termination – Remedies	28
ARTICLE SIXTEEN - GENERAL.....	29
16.01 Records, Audit and Inspection	29
16.02 Time of the Essence	29
16.03 Expenses	29
16.04 Public Announcements	29
16.05 Benefit of the Agreement.....	29
16.06 Entire Agreement.....	30
16.07 Severability	30
16.08 Amendments and Waiver.....	30
16.09 Assignment	30
16.10 Subcontractors and Other Suppliers.....	30
16.11 Notices	30
16.12 Governing Law	31
ARTICLE SEVENTEEN - COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (EMF)..	31
17.01	31
17.02	31
Schedule A – Basic Public Telephone Access Services: Availability and Quality Specifications	
Schedule B – Broadband Internet Access and Data Services, Availability and Quality Specifications	
Schedule C – USF Areas	
Schedule D – USF Project Implementation and Subsidy Payment Schedule	
Schedule E – Material Events of Default	
Schedule F – Irrevocable Bank Guarantee	
Schedule G – Environmental Assessment	
Schedule H – Technical Proposal	
Schedule I – Financial Proposal	
Schedule J – Bid Clarifications	
Schedule K – Request for Application (RFA)	
Schedule L – Methodology for OPEX subsidy confirmation	
Schedule M – Letter of Lien	
Schedule N – Integrity Pact	

UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND SERVICES AND SUBSIDY AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made as of [Month][DD], 20[YY];

B E T W E E N:

USF, a company listed under the Companies Ordinance 1984 having its principal office at 3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad through its Chief Executive Officer, (hereinafter referred to as “USFCo”)

- and -

[.]

(hereinafter referred to as “USF Service Provider”).

WITNESSES THAT:

WHEREAS USFCo wishes to ensure the supply of certain USF Services to certain unserved and under-served areas and to facilitate the implementation of a USF Network to provide such services;

AND WHEREAS the USF Service Provider has been selected by USFCo through competitive process to construct the USF Network and provide the USF Services in certain unserved and under-served areas;

AND WHEREAS the USF Service Provider wishes to construct the USF Network and to provide USF Services upon and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE ONE - INTERPRETATION

1.01 Definitions

In this Agreement, unless something in the subject matter or context is inconsistent therewith:

“**Act**” means the Pakistan Telecommunication Act (Re-Organization) Act, 1996 (XVII of 1996) as may be amended, and any successor legislation;

“**App Coverage**”, means delivery of optimum end to end network services with sufficient performance so that subscribers may access digital platforms and use popular applications with acceptable user experience.

“**Base Transceiver Station**” or “**BTS**” **base transceiver station (BTS)** is a piece of equipment that facilitates wireless communication between user equipment (UE) and a network. The network

can be that of any of the wireless communication technologies like UMTS (3G), HSPA, LTE(4G), GSM, CDMA, wireless local loop or WiMAX technology.

BTS is also referred to as the *radio base station* (RBS), node B (in 3G Networks) or, simply, the *base station* (BS). For discussion of the LTE standard the abbreviation eNB for evolved node B is widely used. A BTS consists of Baseband units, Transceiver units and related equipment.

“Base Transceiver Station Site” or **“BTS Site”** consists of a BTS, Transmission and power equipment, Tower and related civil infrastructure.

“Broadband Internet Access Services” means the services that the USF Service Provider is obliged to provide under Section 2.03(a) and Schedule B;

“Business Day” means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or statutory holiday in Pakistan;

“Companies Ordinance” means the Companies Ordinance, 1984 as may be amended, or any successor legislation;

“Constating Instruments” includes any certificate of incorporation, certificate of continuance, memorandum and articles of association, by-laws, regulations or other instrument by which a body corporate is incorporated or continued under the Companies Ordinance or that governs or regulates the affairs of a body corporate;

“Control” of a Person that is not an individual means the ownership of at least 51% (fifty-one percent) of the voting interests in the subject Person; or the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management of that Person, whether through the ownership of shares, voting, securities, partnership or other ownership interests, agreement or otherwise;

“Customer Service Agreement” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 2.03(d);

“Effective Date” means the effective date of this Agreement, as recorded on the first page hereof;

“Final Implementation Date” means the date identified in paragraph 5 of Schedule D;

“Force Majeure Certification” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 13.01(c)(i);

“Force Majeure Event” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 13.01(h);

“Force Majeure Notice” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 13.01(a);

“GoP” means the Government of Pakistan;

“Indemnification Notice” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 12.01(b);

“Internet Applications Service” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Schedule B;

“Licence” means any telecommunications licence granted by the PTA to the USF Service Provider, prior to the Effective Date, which authorizes it to provide the USF Services;

“Muza” means the smallest part of the revenue system recognized by the Population Census Organization;

“Optional USF Services” means services that the USF Service Provider is authorized but not required to provide pursuant to this Agreement and any Licence;

“Parties” means USFCo and the USF Service Provider, and “Party” means any one of them;

“Performance Bond” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 6.01;

“Person” means any individual, firm, company, corporation, partnership, joint venture or other consortium, government or governmental entity;

“Project Implementation Milestones” means the milestones for the roll-out of the USF Network and provision of the USF Services, and related schedule for payment of the USF Subsidy, set out in Schedule D;

“Project Implementation Milestone Certification” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Schedule D;

“Project Implementation Milestone Notice” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Schedule D;

“Proposal” means the proposal submitted by the USF Service Provider, or the company or joint venture that incorporated the USF Service Provider, in response to the RFA;

“PTA” means the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, a statutory body corporate established under section 3 of the Act, and its predecessors and successors;

“Relationship Executive Committee” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 10.01(d)(i);

“Quarterly Report” means a Quarterly Report required in accordance with Section 9.01.

“Relationship Liaison Committee” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 10.01(c)(i);

“Relationship Manager” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 10.01(b)(i);

“RFA” means the Request for Applications document issued by USFCo for this project and attached as Schedule K, including all annexes thereto, as amended or modified by USFCo;

“Renewable Energy” means energy that is produced by alternative or renewable resources that are replenished naturally and are non-polluting and environmental friendly, as compared to the conventional which do not deplete when consumed ;

“Renewable Energy Solution” means solutions, systems or setups generating power from Renewable Energy;

“Report” means a Report required in accordance with Section 9.01;

“Technical Amendment” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 13.02(a);

“Technical Auditor” means the person appointed in accordance with Section 8.01(a);

“Telephony Services” means the services that the USF Service Provider is obliged to provide under Section 2.03(a) and Schedule A;

“Term” means the term of the Agreement identified in Section 15.01;

“USF Areas” means the cities, towns, villages or Muzas identified in Schedule C as being mandatory for USF Network and USF Service coverage;

“USFCo” means the USF (Guarantee) Limited, a body corporate established by the Government of Pakistan, and its successors;

“USF Contributor” means any Person whose License includes identified USF Contribution requirements, and who is identified by PTA as being fully compliant with those requirements;

“USF Network” means the licensed telecommunication system consisting of the telecommunications network infrastructure to be deployed by the USF Service Provider to provide USF Services pursuant to this Agreement;

“USF Rules” means the Universal Service Fund Rules, 2006 (as amended);

“USF Services and Subsidy Agreement” or **“Agreement”** means this agreement with all Schedules and all amendments made hereto by written agreement between the parties;

“USF Service Provider” means the Party, other than USFCo, identified on the first page of this Agreement (referred to as the “Contractor” in the USF Rules);

“USF Services” means the Telephone Access Services and Broadband Internet Access Services to be provided by a USF Service Provider pursuant to Schedule A and B of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.

“USF Subsidy” means the subsidy to be paid by USFCo to the USF Service Provider in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement and includes USF Capex Subsidy and USF Opex Subsidy;

“USF CAPEX Subsidy” means the subsidy to be paid by USFCo to the USF Service Provider on the USF Service Provider achieving the Project Implementation Milestones; and

“USF OPEX Subsidy” means the subsidy to be paid by USFCo to the USF Service Provider for partially supporting its operational expenses for three years as mentioned in Schedule D for operating USF Networks and providing USF Services in the USF Areas and may include costs of backhauling, security, maintenance services, utilities, insurance, property management, property taxes, transportation and vehicle expenses and wages of the manpower deployed for or associated with USF Network and USF Services in USF Area;;

“Voice Telephony” has the meaning ascribed thereto in Schedule A;

1.02 Headings

The division of this Agreement into Articles and Sections and the insertion of a table of contents and headings are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the construction or interpretation of this Agreement. The terms “hereof”, “hereunder” and similar expressions refer to this Agreement and not to any particular Article, Section or other portion hereof. Unless something in the subject matter or context is inconsistent therewith, references herein to Articles, Sections and Schedules are to Articles and Sections of and Schedules to this Agreement.

1.03 Extended Meanings

In this Agreement words importing the singular number only include the plural and vice versa, words importing any gender include all genders.

1.04 Currency

All references to currency herein are to Pakistan rupees (PKR), unless stated otherwise in this Agreement.

1.05 Schedules

The following are the Schedules annexed hereto and incorporated by reference and deemed to be part hereof:

- Schedule A – Telephony Services, Availability & Quality Specifications
- Schedule B – Broadband Internet Access Services, Availability & Quality Specifications
- Schedule C – USF Areas
- Schedule D – USF Project Implementation and Subsidy Payment Schedule
- Schedule E – Material Events of Default
- Schedule F – Performance Bond
- Schedule G – Environment Management Framework
- Schedule H – Technical Proposal
- Schedule I – Financial Proposal
- Schedule J – Bid Clarifications

Schedule K – Request for Application (RFA)
Schedule L – Methodology for OPEX subsidy confirmation
Schedule M – Letter of Lien
Schedule N – Integrity Pact

ARTICLE TWO - PROVISION OF USF NETWORK AND USF SERVICES

2.01 General

Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, the USF Service Provider will construct the USF Network according to the accepted BoQ to provide the USF Services. USFCo will provide the USF Subsidy to assist in meeting USF Network Infrastructure and partial operational costs for providing the USF Services in the USF Areas as per Schedule D.

2.02 Implementation of the USF Network

(a) The USF Service Provider shall implement the USF Network powered by Renewable Energy Solution as a source, in accordance with the Project Implementation Milestones, and Final Implementation Date, identified in Schedule D.

(b) In implementing the USF Network, the USF Service Provider shall comply with all planning and approvals processes, and applicable environmental guidelines including those identified in Article 17 and Schedule G.

2.03 Provision of USF Services

(a) The USF Service Provider shall provide the USF Services in accordance with the service specifications and requirements identified in Schedules A and B.

(b) The USF Service Provider shall provide the USF Services in the USF Areas identified in Schedule C as being mandatory for USF Network and USF Service coverage in accordance with the network and service roll-out requirements identified in Schedule D.

(c) In addition to the USF Services, the USF Service Provider may provide any other services authorized by the Licence or another PTA-issued licence held by the USF Service Provider in Pakistan.

(d) The USF Services shall be provided by the USF Service Provider pursuant to an agreement (the “Customer Service Agreement”) with each subscriber or user of the USF Services. The Customer Service Agreement shall be in a form approved by the PTA.

2.04 Service Availability and Quality

The USF Service Provider shall provide the USF Services in accordance with the quality of service requirements identified in Schedules A and B any quality of service requirements identified in the USF Service Provider’s Licence and any quality of service regulations issued by PTA.

2.05 Facilities Access and Sharing

- a) As required pursuant to Rule 27 of the USF Rules, the USF Service Provider shall share the USF Network infrastructure and facilities with at least one requesting USF contributor, on a first come first served basis and at cost based rates and at rates based on reasonable cost.
- (b) Where the USF Service Provider and USF contributor requesting facilities access are not able to successfully negotiate the terms of access, following a reasonable period of good faith negotiation, either party may request the assistance of the PTA in resolving the disputed terms.
- (c) In determining whether rates for infrastructure sharing are based on reasonable cost, or to assist in resolving any other dispute regarding the terms of facilities access, USFCo shall be entitled to disclose information obtained by it pursuant to Section 16.01 to the PTA.
- (d) The USF Service Provider shall also comply with any facilities sharing requirements set out in regulations, guidelines, decisions or orders issued by the PTA.

2.06 USF Service Charges

- (a) The USF Service Provider's charges for the USF Services shall not exceed the USF Service Provider's National or Regional tariffs for the same or equivalent services provided in urban locations that are not included in the USF Areas. To determine compliance with this Section 2.06, reference shall be made to the PTA's then-current records of USF Service Provider tariffs.
- (b) For any other USF Services which are not subject to a National or Regional tariff filed by the USF Service Provider, service charges in the USF Areas shall not exceed the maximum charges for equivalent services in the closest major population centre not included in the USF Areas.

ARTICLE THREE - OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL

3.01 Ownership and Operation of USF Network

- (a) The USF Services shall be provided primarily over network transmission and access facilities (i.e. wireless base-stations, fiber optic lines, cables, satellite for backhauling, microwave repeaters, etc.) owned and operated by the USF Service Provider.
- (b) The USF Service Provider may extend the reach or capability of its USF Network by acquiring facilities or services from another network operator on a resale basis, that is by transmission over the networks of other operators or by means of leased line services acquired from other telecommunications operators. USF network shall not be switched off or transferred to any other network during the term of the agreement unless directed by the PTA or any other authorized government agency. However, if USF network is required to

be shut down or transferred to other network after getting necessary approvals from PTA, the Service provider will ensure continuation of USF services as per terms and conditions of the signed SSA.

(c) Regardless of whether the USF Services are provided in accordance with Sections 3.01(a) or (b), the obligations hereunder to implement the USF Network and to provide the USF Services remain entirely those of the USF Service Provider.

3.02 Change of Control of USF Service Provider

For so long as the Performance Bond provided by the USF Service Provider pursuant to Section 6.01 remains in place, the transfers and changes in the ownership or Control of a USF Network will be subject to fulfillment of Service Provider's PTA licence obligations on ownership and control reporting and/or approvals the USF Service Provider may require from other applicable Government agencies.

ARTICLE FOUR - IMPLEMENTATION AND SERVICE FAILURES

4.01 Failure to Meet Project Implementation Milestone Schedule

(a) Unless a Force Majeure Certification has been issued to certify that a Force Majeure Event has caused the failure, then failure to meet the Final Implementation Date identified in Schedule D may, at the sole discretion of USFCo, result in the imposition of one or more of the penalties set out below:

(i) loss of eligibility for all or part of the USF Subsidy;

(ii) forfeiture of all or part of the Performance Bond;

(iii) payment of liquidated damages equal to one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the USF Subsidy amount payable for the work that is delayed, and such half percent shall be payable per every week the failure continues;

(iv) recovery of any USF Subsidy amounts previously paid to the USF Service Provider;

(v) payment of liquidated damages equal to all or part of USFCo's estimate of the costs of providing the USF Services in the USF Areas left unserved due to the failure, provided that the total amount of such liquidated damages shall not exceed the amount of the USF Subsidy payable to the USF Service Provider for the provision of the USF Services in the USF Areas.

(vi) provided that in case of termination of SSA Agreement without achieving a single milestone due to force majeure event the USF Service Provider shall be bound to return total mobilization advance, otherwise, USFCo has the right to forfeit the Performance Bond to the extent of mobilization amount.

(b) Left Blank.

4.02 Failure to Maintain Service Availability and Quality Specifications

(a) Unless a Force Majeure Certification has been issued to certify that a Force Majeure Event has caused the failure, then failure of the USF Service Provider to maintain the Service Availability and Quality Specifications for the USF Services as set out in Schedule A or B may, at the sole discretion of USFCo, result in the imposition of one or more of the penalties set out below:

(i) loss of eligibility for all or part of the USF Subsidy;

(ii) forfeiture of all or part of the Performance Bond;

(iii) imposition of penalty on per day per site basis on outage observed on USF sites as defined in Schedule D and Schedule L of SSA

(iv) recovery of any USF Subsidy amounts previously paid to the USF Service Provider;

(v) taking possession of USF Network equipment and the exercise of any other remedies or rights by USFCo under the equipment lien created pursuant to Section 6.02.

(b) Left Blank.

4.03 Additional Penalties or Remedies

The penalties described in Sections 4.01 and 4.02 are in addition to any other penalties or remedies that may otherwise be available to USFCo under this Agreement or the laws of Pakistan.

ARTICLE FIVE - PAYMENT OF THE USF SUBSIDY

5.01 Payment of USF Subsidy

USFCo shall pay the USF Service Provider the USF Subsidy in accordance with the subsidy installment payments identified in Schedule D. Further USF Service Provider will be responsible for paying any fees, taxes or charges otherwise applicable to the USF Service Provider till the term of the contract, in accordance with the Act and other laws of Pakistan and regulations made thereunder.

ARTICLE SIX - PERFORMANCE SECURITY

6.01 Performance Bond

(a) The USF Service Provider shall furnish USFCo with an irrevocable bank guarantee in the form specified in Schedule F / F (1), or other form of performance guarantee acceptable to USFCo (the “Performance Bond”).

(b) The amount of the Performance Bond shall be 40% of the total USF Subsidy to be paid to the USF service provider. The Performance Bond will be maintained for the entirety of the implementation Phase of the project. However during the monitoring phase, the Performance Bond shall be proportionately reduced each year, subject to satisfactory monitoring reports of the project. The validity of the Performance Bond will be 5 years or any extended period either due to Force Majeure or due to delay by the Service Provider, however the USF Service Provider shall have the option to submit a single Performance Bond valid for 5 years or successive five annual Performance Bonds with minimum one year validity in accordance with Schedule “F” or F/1. In case USF Service Provider opts for successive five annual Performance Bonds option then it shall:

1. submit first Performance Bond as per requirements of this RFA with validity of one year;
2. submit second Performance Bond of same value during implementation phase and proportionately reduced value for each year during monitoring phase, subject to satisfactory monitoring reports of the project, with minimum one year validity, one month before the expiry date of the first Performance Bond. Similarly it shall submit third, fourth and fifth performance bonds annually, provided that the expiry date of the fifth performance Bond shall be the same as that of the expiry date of the 5 year Performance Bond would have been,;
3. be entitled, after submitting the new Performance Bond, to get released previous Performance Bond from USFCo within 05 days of the effective date of the new Performance Bond ;
4. not have the right to expect or demand a reminder from USFCo regarding expiry of any of the Performance Bonds or submission of new Performance Bond; and
5. not object to encashment of Performance Bond by USFCo in its custody because of late or non-submission of new Performance Bond.

(c) The Performance Bond shall be issued by a commercial bank recognized by State Bank of Pakistan, having a branch office in Pakistan, and that is otherwise acceptable to USFCo.

(d) Left Blank.

(e) The Performance Bond shall be forfeited, in whole or in part, by the USF Service Provider as provided for in Article Four.

6.02 Equipment Lien

As required pursuant to Rule 26(6) of the USF Rules, all assets deployed by the USF Service Provider in implementing the USF Network shall be subject to a lien exercisable by USFCo pursuant to the documented terms of the lien.

ARTICLE SEVEN - INSURANCE

7.01 Insurance

The USF Service Provider shall maintain or cause to be maintained on behalf of itself and all subcontractors to whom the USF Service Provider has subcontracted (in relation to the implementation or operation of the USF Network or provision of the USF Services) at all times during the Term of this Agreement, in a form and with insurers acceptable to USFCo, the following types of insurance:

(a) Commercial General Liability Insurance – Commercial general liability insurance covering liability imposed by law or assumed under contract arising from bodily injury, death or property damage including loss of use, with minimum combined limits of not less than PKR 50,000,000/- [Rupees Fifty Million only] per occurrence. Such policy or policies shall be on an occurrence basis and shall provide coverage for full legal defence costs, premises and operational liability, and blanket broad form contractual liability and property damage coverage (including malicious property damage). The policy or policies shall name USFCo as additional insured.

(b) Property Insurance – Property insurance covering property and assets used to operate the USF Network including Renewable Energy Solution and provide the USF Services on a blanket form basis for all risks of physical loss or damage, with minimum limits equal to the full replacement cost value of the property. The basis of loss settlement shall be replacement cost with like kind and quality.

7.02 General

(a) All insurance provided for in Section 7.01 shall be effected with valid and enforceable policies issued by insurance companies that are licensed to do business in Pakistan.

(b) All policies shall be endorsed to contain an agreement by the insurer that the coverage will not be cancelled or materially changed to the detriment of USFCo, without at least 30 days' prior written notice to USFCo.

(c) Within 30 days of the Effective Date, the USF Service Provider shall have the insurance specified herein in full force and effect and shall provide USFCo with certificates of insurance as evidence of such insurance in such form and scope acceptable to USFCo. Such proof of insurance shall be updated to maintain its accuracy, within 14 days of any change in coverage. The USF Service Provider shall notify USFCo promptly and in writing in the event of any termination, expiry, lapse or change in insurance coverage.

(d) The insurance requirements herein do not limit or modify any liability that would otherwise exist or create any liability that would otherwise not exist under this Agreement in the absence of such insurance requirements.

7.03 Changes in the Insurance Industry

The Parties agree that should any change in the insurance industry materially impact the USF Service Provider's ability to obtain the insurance and insurance coverage levels set forth in this Article Seven, the Parties will assess such impact and, if deemed necessary by the Parties, negotiate in good faith any amendments to this Article Seven to account for such insurance industry changes, provided however, that nothing herein shall require USFCo to approve of any such amendment.

ARTICLE EIGHT - TECHNICAL AUDITOR

8.01 Appointment of Technical Auditor

(a) A Technical Auditor shall be appointed by USFCo in accordance with the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement and other applicable processes. The Technical Auditor may be an appropriately qualified employee of USFCo and/or expert consultant.

(b) The Technical Auditor may be an external consultant who shall be a person of demonstrated telecommunications engineering expertise.

(c) Where the Technical Auditor is an external consultant, USFCo shall enter into an agreement (the "Technical Auditor Agreement") with the Technical Auditor. The Technical Auditor Agreement shall:

- (i) define the role of the Technical Auditor in accordance with this Agreement;
- (ii) prescribe the methodology, tests and reporting structure to be used by the Technical Auditor in performing his or her role;
- (iii) set out the fees to be payable, and expenses to be reimbursable, to the Technical Auditor; and
- (iv) contain any other provisions that USFCo determines necessary to give effect to the appointment and for the performance of the functions of the Technical Auditor identified in this Agreement.

Once executed, USFCo shall make a copy of the Technical Auditor Agreement available to the USF Service Provider.

(d) USFCo shall be solely responsible for the selection of Technical Auditor and for any fees to be payable, and expenses to be reimbursable, to the Technical Auditor.

(e) If the Technical Auditor resigns or otherwise ceases to perform the intended functions before the end of this Agreement, or if USFCo decides to replace the Technical Auditor at any time, USFCo shall appoint a replacement Technical Auditor who, for all purposes of this Agreement, shall from and after such appointment perform the functions of the Technical Auditor.

(f) If the Technical Auditor has been replaced during the execution of the project USFCo will inform the USF Service Provider about this change.

8.02 Role of Technical Auditor

The Technical Auditor shall perform the following functions, in accordance with this Agreement and the Technical Auditor Agreement:

(a) making a determination as to whether or not any of the USF Network Project Implementation Milestones identified in Schedule D have been met, which may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

(i) making a determination as to whether or not the USF Services meet the service specifications and requirements identified in Schedules A and B;

(ii) verifying that all USF Network is powered by Renewable Energy Solution as a (primary or secondary) source;

(iii) issuing a Project Implementation Milestone Certification to the USFCo to indicate that a Project Implementation Milestone has been completed in accordance with Schedule D; and

(iv) issuing an indication in writing to the USFCo that a Project Implementation Milestone has not been completed in accordance with Schedule D; and

(b) making a determination as to whether or not a Force Majeure Event exists in accordance with Article Thirteen, which may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

(i) issuing a Force Majeure Certification to USFCo in accordance with Article Thirteen;

(ii) issuing an indication in writing to USFCo that a Force Majeure Event has not occurred in accordance with Article Thirteen; and

(iii) proposing a Technical Amendment made in accordance with Article Thirteen.

8.03 Cooperation with Technical Auditor

The USF Service Provider shall co-operate with the Technical Auditor, in performing his or her functions pursuant to this Agreement and the Technical Auditor Agreement, including by:

- (a) providing access to all USF Network facilities and systems, including for equipment testing purposes, statistical data collection, reporting etc; and
- (b) providing any information regarding the USF Network or the USF Services requested by the Technical Auditor, and related access to technical personnel of the USF Service Provider.

ARTICLE NINE - REPORTING

9.01 Reports

(a) The USF Service Provider shall provide to USFCo, within 60 days of the Effective Date and for each calendar quarter (three months) thereafter throughout the Term of this Agreement, a report (the “Report”), which shall include:

- (i) a detailed USF Network implementation plan and network description with details of Renewable Energy Solution;
- (ii) detailed report on the achievement of the Project Implementation Milestones set out in Schedule D, which should also highlight the risks and bottlenecks during the implementation phase with their proposed measures and the forecasted project progress against the milestones set out in Schedule D;
- (iii) a report on the achievement of the quality of service and other service requirements for the USF Services set out in Schedules A and B, including details regarding service maintenance and the time required to repair service outages;
- (iv) a report on general demand for and usage of the USF Services, and the USF Service Provider’s current charges for the USF Services;
- (v) a report on demand for the USF Services, indicating:
 - (I) technical capacity and readiness of the USF Network to provide the USF Services;
 - (II) the USF Service Provider’s marketing and distribution plan for the USF Services;
 - (III) the number of requests received by the USF Service Provider for the USF Services;
 - (IV) the number of requests received by the USF Service Provider for the USF Services that remain outstanding; and

(V) the average time it takes for the USF Service Provider to fulfill a request for the USF Services; and

(vi) such other information as determined by the Relationship Liaison Committee.

(a1) For Payment of OPEX Subsidy, the USF Service Provider shall provide USFCo, a report (the “Quarterly Report”) at the end of each quarter, for three years, after completion of Project Implementation Milestone, indicating following;

- (I) USF BTS Sites availability and downtime along with the reasons of downtime
- (II) Traffic statistics of USF BTS Sites
- (III) Equivalent reports if PSTN or any other technology is used for providing coverage to USF Areas.

(a2) The USF Service Provider shall provide USFCo, a report on 24th day of every month, that comprises of the following KPIs at the granularity of Busy Hour & Daily for USF BTS sites (New +Existing).

GSM	WCDMA	LTE
SDCCH Setup Success Rate	AMR CSSR	ERAB Setup Success Rate
TCH Assignment Success Rate	PS CSSR	CSFB Success Rate
TBF Establishment Success Rate	RRC Drop Rate	PS CSSR
CSSR	Call drop rate	ERAB Drop Rate
CS CDR	Soft handover Success Rate	Intra-Frequency handover Success rate
Handover Success rate	Inter-Frequency Handover Success Rate	Inter-Frequency handover Success rate
Intra-Cell handover Success Rate	Inter-Rat Handover Success Rate (CS & PS)	PS Payload
CS Traffic	CS Traffic	Throughput
PS Traffic	PS payload	Availability
TCH Availability	Throughput	RSSI
	Availability	
	Frame-loss and IuB Congestion	
	RTWP	

- (I) Additionally, USF may demand hourly statistics that shall be provided by the Service Provider.

(a3) The USF Service provider shall also provide USF Team real time access to NOC (Network Operations Center) Server on request at operator's location to verify these reports in an agreed manner and medium.

(b) The Reports shall be filed by the USF Service Provider with USFCo within 30 days of the end of the relevant quarter.

(c) The Reports shall be in a form satisfactory to the USFCo. Any disputes regarding the form of the reports shall be handled in accordance with Article Ten.

ARTICLE TEN - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

10.01 Dispute Escalation Process

(a) The Parties shall act reasonably in interpreting this Agreement and the Schedules hereto. In the event of a dispute under this Agreement, the Parties will first engage in the dispute escalation processes identified in this Section 10.01. The Parties also agree to use reasonable good faith efforts to resolve all disputes.

(b) Resolution by Relationship Managers

(i) Each of the Parties will appoint managers (each a "Relationship Manager") within 30 days of the Effective Date. Each Relationship Manager will be familiar with this Agreement and related documentation. If a Party replaces or reassigns its Relationship Manager, that Party will immediately notify the other Party of the change.

(ii) Either Party may refer a dispute to the Relationship Managers by preparing a written notice describing the nature of the dispute and summarizing related information (the "Dispute Notice"). The Relationship Managers will meet within three Business Days of receipt of the Dispute Notice to review the information with the objective of resolving the dispute.

(c) Resolution by Relationship Liaison Committee

(i) A committee (the "Relationship Liaison Committee") will be formed by the Parties and shall consist of an equal number of representatives appointed by each of the Parties.

(ii) If the Relationship Managers are unable to resolve the dispute within ten Business Days of the receipt of the Dispute Notice, either Relationship Manager may refer the matter to the Relationship Liaison Committee by written notice to the other Relationship Managers. Within five Business Days of the Relationship Liaison Committee's receipt of such referral, the Relationship Liaison Committee shall meet with the objective of resolving the dispute. A representative of each of the Parties shall co-chair each meeting. Minutes of each meeting will be taken.

(iii) The Relationship Liaison Committee will have the discretion to form additional committees or subcommittees for any purpose it deems appropriate, with the ultimate objective of resolving the dispute.

(iv) The Relationship Liaison Committee or any additional committees or subcommittees formed by the Relationship Liaison Committee in relation to the dispute will, at either Parties' reasonable request, meet as often as reasonably required with the objective of resolving the dispute. Minutes of all meetings will be taken.

(d) Resolution by Relationship Executive Committee

(i) A committee (the "Relationship Executive Committee") will be formed by the Parties and shall include USFCo's Chief Executive Officer and the USF Service Provider's President / Chief Executive Officer.

(ii) If the Relationship Liaison Committee is unable to resolve the dispute within fifteen Business Days of the receipt of the Dispute Notice, either Party may refer the matter to the Relationship Executive Committee by written notice to the other Party. Within five Business Days of the Relationship Executive Committee's receipt of such referral, USFCo's Chief Executive Officer will meet with the USF Service Provider's President / Chief Executive Officer with the object of resolving the dispute. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken.

(iii) If the Relationship Executive Committee is unable to resolve the dispute within fifteen Business Days of the receipt of the Dispute Notice, then either Party may:

(I) refer the dispute to the Appeal Committee in accordance with Section 10.02; or

(II) commence arbitration or court proceedings in accordance with Section 10.03.

10.02 Referral to Appeal Committee

Any dispute that has not been resolved by application of the Disputes Escalation Process described in Section 10.01 may be referred to the Appeal Committee to be constituted pursuant to Rule 31 of the USF Rules.

10.03 Arbitration or Court Proceedings

Any dispute that has not been resolved by application of the Disputes Escalation Process described in Section 10.01, or that is not pending before the Appeal Committee pursuant to Section 10.02, may become the subject of arbitration or court proceedings commenced by either Party in accordance with applicable rules and procedures.

10.04 Dispute Resolution Costs

The Parties shall be responsible for their own dispute resolution costs, unless the competent forum decides otherwise.

10.05 Exemption from Dispute Resolution Processes

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement:

- (a) Neither Party will be required to use the dispute escalation process described in Section 10.01 for disputes requiring injunctive relief or other urgent relief.
- (b) The dispute resolution processes described in this Article Ten apply only to disputes arising under this Agreement. They do not apply to disputes arising under any licence, the Act or any other regulatory matters, which shall be dealt with by PTA in accordance with the Act and applicable PTA regulations and procedures.
- (c) Nothing in this Article Ten derogates from PTA's rights or powers under the Act. The provisions of Article 10 are subject to the Act and any regulations made there under. For greater certainty, if and to the extent there are conflicts in the interpretation or application of any of the provisions of this Article 10 with the provisions of the Act or related regulations, the Act and regulations shall prevail.

ARTICLE ELEVEN - REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

11.01 Mutual Representations and Warranties

Each of the USF Service Provider and the USFCo represents and warrants to the other that:

- (a) it is duly organized and validly existing under the laws of Pakistan;
- (b) that it has all right and authorization, and has obtained all consents necessary or desirable to execute, deliver and perform this Agreement;
- (c) nothing in this Agreement, nor the performance of any obligations thereunder, will conflict with such party's Constating Instruments, any law or any other person's rights; and
- (d) to the best of its knowledge, there are no pending suits threatened against such party that would affect the USF Services or the performance of obligations under this Agreement.

11.02 Representations and Warranties of USF Service Provider

The USF Service Provider further represents and warrants to USFCo that:

- (a) unless the USF Service Provider obtains USFCo's prior written approval, all telecommunications facilities and equipment installed by the USF Service Provider in its USF Network shall be new when first installed and shall comply with Pakistani type-approval requirements and internationally recognized standards;
- (b) the USF Network constructed by it and the USF Services provided by it shall at all times comply with all applicable Pakistani laws and regulations including, but not limited to, telecommunications, environmental, import and export regulations;
- (c) all telecommunications facilities, equipment and Renewable Energy Solution installed by the USF Service Provider in its USF Network will be maintained by the USF Service Provider in good working order, ordinary wear and tear excepted;
- (d) the USF Network constructed by it and the USF Services provided by it will meet or exceed the specifications identified in the Proposal;
- (e) it has, and will have (either by itself, or in conjunction with its affiliates, or its subcontractors), the skills, qualifications, expertise and experience necessary to construct and operate the USF Network and perform and manage the USF Services in accordance with this Agreement;
- (f) all representations and warranties made in the Proposal as to facts materially related to the USF Network and USF Services, including facts pertaining to the USF Service Provider's corporate structure, organization, operations, general skills and capabilities relevant to the USF Network and USF Services, remain true and correct and will be observed by the USF Service Provider in all material respects; and
- (g) the USF Service Provider is under no current obligation or restriction, nor will it knowingly assume any such obligation or restriction, that does or would in any way interfere or conflict with the operation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE TWELVE - INDEMNIFICATION

12.01 Indemnification

- (a) The USF Service Provider hereby indemnifies and agrees to save harmless Universal Service Fund, USFCo and GoP from any and all claims, damages, judgments, liens, suits, costs and expenses of any nature or kind whatsoever that may be successfully claimed or asserted by any person against USFCo arising out of, or in connection with, the implementation or operation of the USF Network or the supply or failure to supply the USF Services.

(b) The USF Service Provider's obligation to indemnify and hold USFCo harmless is contingent on USFCo giving the USF Service Provider prompt notice of any event giving rise to such a claim (an "Indemnification Notice") and giving the USF Service Provider the authority to conduct the defence of any legal action arising therefrom, provided however that USFCo may assist the USF Service Provider in such defence at its own expense and retain additional counsel at its own expense to observe or participate in any such litigation.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN - FORCE MAJEURE

13.01 Force Majeure

(a) If and to the extent that a Party's performance of any of its obligations pursuant to this Agreement is prevented, hindered or delayed by reason of a Force Majeure Event and such non-performance, hindrance or delay could not have been prevented by reasonable foresight or precautions, and cannot reasonably be circumvented through the use of alternate sources, work-around plans or other means, then the non-performing, hindered or delayed Party may give written notice (a "Force Majeure Notice") to the other Party within 30 business days of occurrence of such event. Subsequently SP shall provide initial evidence in support of the notice within 30 business days after such notice.

(b) A Force Majeure Notice shall contain reasonable particulars of the Force Majeure Event in question and the effect of such Force Majeure Event as it relates to the obligations of the non-performing, hindered or delayed Party hereunder.

(c) Within reasonable time, which shall not be more than 15 business days after receipt of the evidence against Force Majeure Event, the other Party shall either:

(i) certify in writing (a "Force Majeure Certification") to the non-performing, hindered or delayed Party that a Force Majeure Event has occurred and whether a Technical Amendment to this Agreement is required in accordance with Section 13.02 ; or

(ii) indicate in writing to the non-performing, hindered or delayed Party that a Force Majeure Event has not occurred, providing reasons for this conclusion.

(d) Where the other Party has issued a Force Majeure Certification in response to a Force Majeure Notice in accordance with Section 13.01(c), the Parties may agree to amend this Agreement in such a way that adapts to the circumstances of the Force Majeure Event while providing similar value for money as the original Agreement and achieving the objective of extending USF Network facilities and USF Services into rural communities that do not then have access to such types and capacities of telecommunications facilities and services.

(e) Left Blank.

(f) Left Blank.

(g) Where a Force Majeure Certification has been issued in response to the Force Majeure Notice of either Party, such non-performance, hindrance or delay, as applicable, of those obligations affected by the Force Majeure Event will not constitute a default hereunder by that Party for as long as such Force Majeure Event continues and such Party continues to use its reasonable commercial efforts to re-commence performance whenever and to whatever extent possible without delay, including through the use of alternate sources, workaround plans or other means.

(h) For the purpose of this Agreement, “Force Majeure Event” means any of the following events beyond the control of the Parties:

(i) With respect to the obligations of both parties:

(I) lightning, storms, earthquakes, landslides, floods, tsunamis, washouts and other Acts of God;

(II) strikes, lockouts or other industrial disturbances of the party;

(III) civil disturbances, sabotage, war, blockades, insurrections, terrorist actions, vandalism, riots, epidemics;

(IV) any law, order proclamation, regulation, ordinance, demand or requirement of any governmental authority;

(V) any other material event that could reasonably be considered to be force majeure by reason that it is beyond the control of the Party affected; and

(ii) With respect to the obligations of the USF Service Provider alone, substantial or material fires, explosions, breakage of or other accidents to plant, machinery, equipment or other facilities of the USF Service Provider;

but does not include the inability of either Party to obtain financing or any other financial inability on the part of either Party.

13.02 Technical Amendments

(a) Where the Technical Auditor issues a Force Majeure Certification to USFCo in accordance with Section 13.01, indicating that a Force Majeure Event has prevented the implementation, activation or operation of the USF Network or the provision of the USF Services in certain parts of the USF Areas described in Schedule C or in accordance with the implementation and payment schedule described in Schedule D, the Technical Auditor may propose amendments to SSA or its Schedules.

(b) If the Technical Auditor proposes a Technical Amendment in accordance with Section 13.02(a), then one or more of the following Schedules to this Agreement may also be the subject of amendments to be proposed by the Technical Auditor, to the extent that, in the professional opinion of the Technical Auditor, such further amendments are required by the Technical Amendment:

(i) Schedule A – Telephony Services, Availability and Quality Specifications;

(ii) Schedule B – Broadband Internet Access Services, Availability and Quality Specifications;

(iii) Schedule C

(iv) Schedule F – Performance Bond.

(v) Letter of Lien

(c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article, any Technical Amendment shall be proposed by USFCo in accordance with the following:

(i) the Technical Auditor shall consult with USFCo prior to proposing the Technical Amendment;

(ii) the Technical Amendment shall, in the professional opinion of the Technical Auditor, provide similar value for money as the original Schedule C and other Schedules to this Agreement, and achieve substantially the same universal service objectives; and

(iii) the Technical Amendment shall not increase the costs of implementing the USF Network, providing the USF Services or Opex Subsidy..

13.03 No Payment for Unperformed Services

(a) If the USF Service Provider fails to construct the USF Network or provide the USF Services in accordance with this Agreement due to a Force Majeure Event, any USF Subsidy payments will be adjusted in a manner such that USFCo is not responsible for any payment for a Project implementation Milestone that the USF Service Provider fails to meet. Further USF OPEX subsidy shall be paid in accordance with the contracted “OPEX Methodology”.

(b) Where a Project Implementation Milestone is only partially completed due to a Force Majeure Event for which a Force Majeure Certification has been issued, and the Force Majeure Event is likely to continue for a substantial period of time, the payment for such Project Implementation Milestone for the period of the Force Majeure Event will be adjusted on an equitable basis taking into account, among other things, the equipment to be installed as per the approved BoQ, the length of the resulting delay and the progress achieved towards the Project Implementation Milestone. Same principle would apply for USF Opex Subsidy.

13.04 Duration of Force Majeure Event Beyond Six Months

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, if a Force Majeure Event during which the USF Service Provider is unable to complete one or more Project Implementation Milestones in accordance with this Agreement, lasts for more than six months, then:

(a) subject to section 13.03(b), USFCo will have no obligation whatsoever to pay part of the USF Subsidy for the uncompleted work or any future work of the USF Service Provider under this Agreement; and

(b) the USF Service Provider may be deemed by USFCo to be in material breach of this Agreement in accordance with section 15.03, at USFCo's sole discretion; however, USFCo shall not be entitled to exercise any of the remedies identified in Sections 4.01 and 4.02 in connection with the circumstances of the Force Majeure event.

(b)(i) Where a Project is only partially completed due to Force Majeure Event for which Force Majeure Certification has been issued, and the Force Majeure Event is likely to continue and where the Service Provider is unable to complete the project and has also submitted the closure request, the final project payment will be adjusted on an equitable basis (subject to the provision that the total amount payable shall not exceed CAPEX Subsidy) taking into account, the approved BoQ and coverage provided as per Schedule C to the SSA. Same principle would apply for USF Opex Subsidy

ARTICLE FOURTEEN - CONFIDENTIALITY

14.01 Confidentiality

Except as specifically provided for in this Agreement or as required by applicable laws or regulation, or, neither USFCo nor the USF Service Provider, nor any of their respective employees, agents, servants or subcontractors may disclose any confidential or trade secret information provided by one to the other with respect to the USF Network or the USF Services or any other matter pertaining to this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other.

Each party must retain such information in strict confidence for the benefit of the other party, provided that the foregoing will not apply to any information that either party establishes as being already in the public domain or already known to the party receiving the information, without violation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN - TERM AND TERMINATION

15.01 Term

This Agreement commences on the Effective Date and continues for a term of ten (10) years and any other extended period either due to Force Majeure or delay in Project.

15.02 Termination – Bankruptcy, Winding Up, Etc.

(a) This Agreement and the rights and obligations of each Party contained herein may be terminated by USFCo giving notice to the USF Service Provider forthwith upon the happening of any of the following events of default:

(i) where the USF Service Provider takes any action in respect of liquidation or winding up, or makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors, or if a winding up, bankruptcy or similar petition under the Companies Ordinance is filed or presented by the USF Service Provider in respect of its properties or assets, or a judgment or order is entered by any court of competent jurisdiction approving any such petition or petition seeking the reorganization, arrangement or composition of or in respect to the USF Service Provider or its debts or obligations, or if a custodian or receiver or receiver and manager or any other official with similar powers be appointed for the USF Service Provider or a substantial portion of its properties or assets and such appointment is not dismissed or discharged within 30 days thereof; or

(ii) where a winding up, bankruptcy or similar petition with respect to an enforced liquidation of the USF Service Provider is presented or filed against it unless the same is dismissed or discharged within 30 days, during which grace period execution thereunder is effectively stayed.

(b) If an event of default pursuant to Section 15.02(a) occurs and USFCo wishes to terminate this Agreement, USFCo must give the USF Service Provider notice of its decision to terminate within 60 days of such default coming to its attention.

15.03 Termination – Material Breach

(a) Subject to Section 15.03(b), if any Party commits a material breach of this Agreement, the Parties agree that the other Party not in default has the right to terminate the Agreement; provided that the Party not in default gives the other Party who is in default not less than 30 days prior written notice of the default complained of during which period the Party alleged to be in default has an opportunity to cure the same and if the default is cured within such period, the other Party is not entitled to terminate the Agreement.

(b) Schedule E is a list of defaults which the Parties acknowledge as constituting material events of default and for which the other party should be entitled to terminate the Agreement pursuant to this Section 15.03.

15.04 Termination – Remedies

(a) On termination by the USFCo pursuant to Sections 15.02 or 15.03, the USFCo shall be entitled to exercise any of the remedies identified in Sections 4.01 and 4.02 that are applicable in the circumstances of the performance failure leading to the termination.

(b) On termination by the USF Service Provider pursuant to Section 15.03, the USF Service Provider shall be entitled to payment of all USF Subsidy installments payable pursuant to Schedule D for Project Implementation Milestones achieved and Opex Subsidy earned prior to the effective date of termination.

(c) The provisions of this Article Fifteen as to termination do not limit or restrict the rights of either party, to seek other remedies or take measures that may be otherwise available to it at law or equity in connection with the enforcement and performance of obligations under this Agreement.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN - GENERAL

16.01 Records, Audit and Inspection

(a) The USF Service Provider shall maintain all records required for preparation of the reports described in Section 9.01. The USF Service Provider shall also maintain complete records of its network plans, contracts entered into, expenses incurred in connection with the implementation of the USF Network and the provision of the USF Services, and any other records required for compliance with its obligations under this Agreement.

(b) USFCo shall have the right to send its auditors or other appointed representatives, on at least 24 hours prior notice, to the USF Service Provider's places of business for the purpose of auditing or otherwise inspecting the information and records of the USF Service Provider pertaining in any way to the performance of this Agreement.

16.02 Time of the Essence

Time is of the essence of this Agreement.

16.03 Expenses

Each of the Parties hereto will pay their respective legal and accounting costs and expenses incurred in connection with the preparation, execution and delivery of this Agreement and all documents and instruments executed pursuant hereto and any other costs and expenses whatsoever and howsoever incurred.

16.04 Public Announcements

No public announcement or press release concerning this Agreement will be made by the USF Service Provider without the prior consent and approval of USFCo.

16.05 Benefit of the Agreement

This Agreement will ensure to the benefit of and be binding upon the respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns of the Parties hereto.

16.06 Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof and cancels and supersedes any prior understandings and agreements between the Parties hereto with respect thereto. There are no representations, warranties, terms, conditions, undertakings or collateral agreements, express, implied or statutory, between the Parties other than as expressly set forth in this Agreement.

16.07 Severability

If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part, such invalidity or unenforceability will attach only to such provision or part thereof and the remaining part of such provision and all other provisions hereof will continue in full force and effect. In the event of any such invalidity or unenforceability, the Parties agree to engage in good faith efforts to determine any amendments to the Agreement required to preserve its intended purpose and effect.

16.08 Amendments and Waiver

No modification of or amendment to this Agreement is valid or binding unless set forth in writing and fully executed by both of the Parties hereto and no waiver of any breach of any term or provision of this Agreement is effective or binding unless made in writing and signed by the Party purporting to give the same and, unless otherwise provided, is limited to the specific breach waived.

16.09 Assignment

This Agreement may not be assigned by the USF Service Provider without the prior written consent of USFCo.

16.10 Subcontractors and Other Suppliers

Subject to Section 13.01, the USF Service Provider shall remain responsible for the due performance of this Agreement regardless of its engagement of subcontractors or other suppliers.

16.11 Notices

Any demand, notice or other communication to be given in connection with this Agreement must be given in writing and must be given by personal delivery or such other method as agreed to by the Relationship Liaison Committee, addressed to the recipient as follows:

To USFCo:

USFCo

3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex,
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad
Pakistan
Attention: Chief Executive Officer

To USF Service Provider:

[insert corporate name and address]
Attention: [insert title]

or to such other address or individual as may be designated by notice given by either Party to the other. Any demand, notice or other communication given by personal delivery will be conclusively deemed to have been given on the day of actual delivery thereof.

16.12 Governing Law

(a) This Agreement is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Pakistan.

(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement:

(i) nothing in this Agreement derogates from USFCo's rights or powers under the Act or any rules or regulations made thereunder;

(ii) the provisions of this Agreement are subject to the Act, any rules or regulations made thereunder, and any Licence; and

(iii) for greater clarity, if and to the extent there are conflicts in the interpretation or application of any of the provisions of this Agreement with the provisions of the Act, or any rules or regulations made thereunder, the provisions of the Act shall prevail.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN - COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (EMF).

17.01

It shall be the responsibility of the USF Service Provider to comply with all Federal, provincial or local environmental laws, rules and regulations including laws relating to Alternate or Renewable Energy applicable in Pakistan, including, without limitation, the laws referred to in the Environmental Assessment which is attached as Schedule G.

17.02

The USF Service Provider shall also comply with the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) and related processes described in Schedule G.

[End of Agreement]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties have executed this Agreement.

USFCo

Per: _____
[insert name], Chief Executive Officer

c/s

USF SERVICE PROVIDER

Per: _____
[insert name and title]

c/s

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED
in the presence of:

Witness for USFCo

[insert name]

Witness for USF Service Provider

[insert name]

SCHEDULE A

Telephone Access Services: Availability and Quality Specifications

1. Telephony Services

(a) The USF Service Provider shall provide Telephone Access Service in all of the cities, towns, villages or Muzas identified in Schedule C as being mandatory and where **USF Services include Voice Services**. For the purposes of this Schedule A, Telephone Access Service means the provision of:

(i) two-way live voice telephone service; and

(ii) international telephony service.

(b) For provision of voice telephony services compatible with existing 2G services, the networks deployed should be backward compatible with 2G voice services and 2G handsets.

(c) For the purposes of this Schedule A, the PSTN includes the networks of PTCL, all licensed providers of Local Loop (“LL”) and Wireless Local Loop (“WLL”) services, all licensed providers of Long Distance International (“LDI”) services, and all licensed providers of Mobile Cellular services.

(d) The Telephony Services are further defined as follows:

(i) **Not Applicable**

(ii) **Voice Telephony** –voice telephony service, including incoming and outgoing local direct dial calling and national and international direct dial long distance calling shall be provided throughout the USF Areas described in Schedule C as being mandatory for USF Network and USF Service coverage, in accordance with the Project Implementation Milestones and the following:

a) The availability of the Voice Telephony service shall be effectively advertised to the public in the USF Areas, and the USF Service Provider must invite requests for service and publish its service plan and tariffs.

b) Subscriber contracts for the Voice Telephony service shall be of a standard form approved in advance by the PTA.

c) Once the USF Services are available in a coverage area, the USF Service Provider shall fulfill requests for the Voice Telephony service within a period of ten (10) Business Days from receipt of the request.

d) Subscriber terminal or customer premises equipment required to make use of the voice telephony service shall be as affordable (including installation or service charges if any) to the public as that of

common subscriber terminals for voice telephony available in urban areas of the country.

(iii) **Operator and National Emergency Services** – The Telephony Services provided by the USF Service Provider in the USF Areas shall provide access to an operator service and an emergency response service, which are either compatible with or connected to the operator and emergency response services provided by other licensed service providers, and which meet any other requirements for such services identified by the PTA.

2. Service Availability

(a) The Telephony Services shall become available in all of the cities, towns, villages and Muzas identified in Schedule C as being mandatory for USF Network and USF Service coverage in accordance with the USF Project Implementation Milestones identified in Schedule D.

(b) The USF Service Provider shall ensure that the Telephony Services are maintained and continued, and meet applicable service requirements and quality of service standards, throughout the Term of the Agreement.

3. Not Applicable

4. Quality of Service

(a) **Quality Criteria for Telephony Services** – The USF Service Provider shall meet all quality of service requirements for the Telephony Services identified in the USF Service Provider’s Licence(s), or otherwise established by the PTA.

(b) **Quality of Service Reporting for Telephony Services** – Quality of service reports for the Telephony Services shall be provided in accordance with Section 9.01 of the Agreement and any requirements for quality of service reporting established by the PTA.

SCHEDULE B

Broadband Internet Access and Data Services, Availability and Quality Specifications

1. Broadband Internet Access Services

(a) The USF Service Provider shall provide Broadband Internet Access Services, in USF areas mentioned in schedule C.

(b) The Broadband Internet Access Services are defined as follows:

(i) **Not Applicable**

(ii) **Broadband Internet Access Service** –The USF Service Provider must offer Broadband Internet Access Service. Each subscriber of this service shall be provided with access to the Internet:

- a) for both incoming and outgoing Internet traffic;
- b) available to the subscriber’s devices;
- c) at the data rates specified in Section 2(a) of this Schedule B;
- d) based on appropriate ITU standards; and
- e) Not Applicable

(iii) **Internet Applications Service** – Each subscriber of Broadband Internet Access Service shall be provided with access to common Internet applications, including:

- a) “email service”, meaning a service that provides subscribers with an e-mail address from which they can receive and transmit e-mail to e-mail servers over the public global Internet.
- b) “web browsing service”, meaning a service that allows subscribers to access information on the World Wide Web.
- c)“file transfer service”, meaning a service that enables a subscriber to transfer files over the internet..
- d) “Domain Name System (DNS) service”, meaning the Internet's service for converting alphabetic names into numeric IP addresses.

(iv) **Subscriber Technical Support** – Each subscriber to Broadband Internet Access Service shall be provided with technical support in accordance with the following:

- a) initial and ongoing technical support, which will assist users:

i) in configuring hardware and software settings of customer's devices as necessary in order to use the Internet Access Services; and

ii) in resolving technical problems that they experience when using the Internet Access Services.

b) Subscribers to Broadband Internet Access Service shall also be provided with a Helpline number (the "Subscriber Technical Support Hotline") that subscribers can call to report any trouble they are experiencing with the service and obtain real-time technical assistance to resolve the trouble they are experiencing.

2. Minimum Service Requirements

- (a) The Broadband Internet Access Services may be provided with provision of LTE or equivalent services at a minimum data transfer rate of 512 kbps for downlink and 128 kbps for uplink.
- (b) Provision of LTE or equivalent services to "target population" of mandatory mauzas as specified in Schedule C, whereas target population means 80% population of mandatory mauzas.

3. Service Provision

(a) Subject to the other provisions of this Schedule B, the USF Service Provider shall fulfill all requests for Voice and Broadband Internet Access Service:

(i) within one month from receipt of the request; or

(ii) where significant upgrades to the infrastructure of the USF Network are required to fulfill the request, such as the installation of additional wireless equipment or the laying of transmission lines to the subscriber's premises, no later than three months from receipt of the request.

4. Not Applicable

5. Service Availability

(a) The Broadband Internet Access Services shall become available in the USF Areas in accordance with the USF Project Implementation Milestones identified in Schedule D and the requirements of this Schedule B.

(b) The Service Provider shall ensure that the Broadband Internet Access Services are maintained and continued and meet applicable service standards and quality of service requirements, throughout the term of the Agreement.

(c) The availability of the Broadband Internet Access Services shall be effectively advertised to the public in the USF Areas, and the USF Service Provider shall publish its service plans and tariffs.

(d) Subscriber contracts for the Broadband Internet Access Services shall be of a standard form approved in advance by the PTA.

6. Quality of Service

Quality Criteria for Services – In addition to the service requirements identified in this Schedule B, the Broadband Internet Access Services shall be provided in accordance with all quality of service requirements specified in the USF Service Provider’s Licences, and any other quality of service requirements established by the PTA.

SCHEDULE C

To be provided to Registered Bidders Only.

SCHEDULE D

USF Project Implementation and Subsidy Payment Schedule

1. The USF Subsidy shall consist of a total subsidy payment of Pakistan rupees [insert total amount of USF Subsidy], payable by USFCo to the USF Service Provider in specific installments in accordance with this Schedule D. All USF Subsidy installment payments shall be payable in PKR. The above subsidy comprises of Rs. [insert Capex Subsidy] as Capex Subsidy and Rs. [insert OPEX Subsidy] as OPEX Subsidy.
2. The USF Subsidy installments shall be paid by a form of bank instrument selected by USFCo in its sole discretion, but all payments by USFCo to the USF Service Provider shall comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.
3. The USF Service Provider shall send USFCo a written confirmation of receipt of all USF Subsidy installments.

USF CAPEX Subsidy Payment Schedule

4. Subject to the provisions of Article Thirteen of the Agreement and this Schedule D, the USF Subsidy, excluding portion of USF OPEX Subsidy, shall be payable in accordance with following schedule of payments. The payments shall include an initial mobilization payment and the Project Implementation Milestones and amounts identified in the following tables:

Project Mobilization Payment		Installment Payable (percentage of USF Subsidy)	Total Amount to be Paid
1.	Payable within fifteen (15) Business Days of Effective Date or date of the invoice, as the case maybe.	20%	PKR [xxx]

Milestone Number	Project Implementation Milestone	Installment Payable (percentage of USF Subsidy)	Total Amount to be Paid
1.	Demonstration that the USF Network provides coverage of, and that the USF Services are available to, at least 25% of the total underserved/unserved Mandatory Mauzas/villages identified in Schedule C.	20 %	PKR [xxx]
2.	Demonstration that the USF Network provides coverage of, and that the USF Services are available to, at least 50% of the total underserved/unserved Mandatory Mauzas/villages identified in	20 %	PKR [xxx]

	Schedule C.		
3.	Demonstration that the USF Network provides coverage of, and that the USF Services are available to, at least 75% of the total underserved/unserved Mandatory Mauzas/villages identified in Schedule C.	20 %	PKR [xxx]
4.	Demonstration that the USF Network provides coverage of, and that the USF Services are available to, 100% of the total underserved/unserved Mandatory Mauzas/villages identified in Schedule C.	20 %	PKR [xxx]

5. Timing of completion of each of the Project Implementation Milestones set out in the table above shall be at the discretion of the USF Service Provider. However, the USF Service Provider must achieve all four (04) Project Implementation Milestones as per following:
 - a. First Milestones must be achieved within six (6) months of the Effective Date.
 - b. Rest three Milestones must be achieved within Eighteen (18) months of the Effective Date (the “Final Implementation Date”).
6. For the purposes of the Project Implementation Milestones set out in the table above, “available” means that USF Services are fully operational and available to **target population** i.e. 80 % population of each Mandatory mauza with provision of LTE or Equivalent services at data rate of 512 kbps downlink and 128 kbps uplink for simultaneous use by at least 2% of **target population**, in accordance with Schedule C of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement, including, but not limited to, the service requirements and quality of service standards as identified in Schedules A & B of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement.
7. The USF Service Provider shall provide USFCo with a notice in writing (a “Project Implementation Milestone Notice”) upon completion of each Project Implementation Milestone.
8. After the receipt of a Project Implementation Milestone Notice, the Technical Auditor shall start the Audit of the Project Implementation Milestone and after completing the audit shall either:
 - (a) Certify in writing (a “Project Implementation Milestone Certification”) to the USFCo that the Project Implementation Milestone has been completed; or
 - (b) Certify in writing to the USFCo that the Project Implementation Milestone has not been completed (a “Project Implementation Milestone Rejection Certification”), providing reasons for this conclusion.
9. Where the USF Service Provider disputes any notice that a Project Implementation Milestone has not been completed, the dispute will be resolved in accordance with Article 10 of the Agreement.

10. Each installment of the USF Subsidy will be paid to the USF Service Provider within 45 Business Days of USFCo receiving a written Project Implementation Milestone Certification from the Technical Auditor certifying that the USF Service Provider has completed the relevant Project Implementation Milestone.
 - (a) The fourth milestone payment will be adjusted on an equitable basis taking into account the approved BoQ, delivered BoQ and coverage provided subject to the provision that the total amount payable shall not exceed CAPEX Subsidy. Same principle would apply for USF OPEX Subsidy.
11. Where a Project is only partially completed due to Force Majeure Event for which Force Majeure Certification has been issued, and the Force Majeure Event is likely to continue and where the Service Provider is unable to complete the project and has also submitted the closure request, the final project payment will be adjusted on an equitable basis (subject to the provision that the total amount payable shall not exceed CAPEX Subsidy) taking into account, the approved BoQ and coverage provided as per Schedule C to the SSA. Same principle would apply for USF OPEX Subsidy

USF OPEX Subsidy payment Schedule

12. Subject to the provisions of Article Thirteen of the Agreement and this Schedule D, the USF OPEX Subsidy for each of the Years i.e. One, Two and Three shall be paid in quarterly installments based on the audited BTS sites in each Milestone. The quarterly installments shall start immediately after completion of each of the Milestones and issuance of Project Implementation Milestone Certification. The payment will be due after verification of Quarterly Reports submitted by SP in accordance with Section 9.01 of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement and in accordance of Schedule of the OPEX Payment Methodology in the following manner:
 - (a) After completion of the First Milestone and issuance of Project Implementation Milestone Certification and verification of Quarterly Reports as per OPEX methodology, USF Service Provider shall be paid as quarterly installments of the First Year OPEX Subsidy for the number of audited BTS sites in the First Milestone. Second and Third year OPEX subsidy for the First Milestone shall be paid to the service provider in the same manner. Thus, over a period of three years (thirty-six (36) months), against First Milestone, USF Service Provider shall be paid twelve (12) quarterly installments in accordance with the number of BTS sites audited for the Milestone.
 - (b) Same process of payment of OPEX Subsidy shall be repeated for each subsequent Project Implementation Milestone, thus USF Service Provider shall get forty-eight (48) installments covering entire amount of OPEX Subsidy for the Project.
- 13 In case of total outage days of USF Site exceeds four (04) days in a quarter for which the OPEX Subsidy is being given, USFCo shall be entitled to deduct proportionate amount on per day per site basis, on number of days exceeding four (04) for respective sites from the current installment of OPEX Subsidy. The method of calculation of per-day per site OPEX Subsidy shall be to divide the OPEX Subsidy of

that quarter by the total number of sites and then by the number of days in that quarter, as explained in OPEX methodology.

Provided that, any existing site of the service provider proposed to be optimized in the offered solution for provision of contracted services under the USF SSA shall not be eligible for OPEX subsidy from USF.

			Per BTS Payment per year
A	Total OPEX is Rs. xxx for yyy sites for 3 years		
B	OPEX per annum	[Total OPEX/3]	
C	1st Year Subsidy (max 75%)	Total OPEX for Year One	
D	2nd year subsidy (max 50%)	Total OPEX for Year Two	
E	3rd year subsidy (max 25%)	Total OPEX for Year Three	

Table 1: OPEX distribution mechanism

		Year One				Year Two				Year Three			
		16 installments (in Rs.)				16 installments (in Rs.)				16 installments (in Rs.)			
M S1	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	
M S2	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	
M S3	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	
M S4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	C x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	D x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	E x No of BTS sites/ 4	

Table 2: Total OPEX subsidy for four milestones spread over forty eight installments

SCHEDULE E

Material Events of Default

1. Breach by USF Service Provider

- (a) Each of the following shall be deemed to be a material breach by the USF Service Provider for which USFCo will be entitled to terminate this Agreement in accordance with Article Fifteen:
- (i) Failure by USF Service Provider to meet the Final Implementation Date identified in paragraph 5 of Schedule D.
 - (ii) The accumulation of liquidated damages under clause 4.01 (a) (iii) equal to ten percent (10%) of the USF Subsidy amount payable for the affected Project Implementation Milestone(s);
 - (iii) Repeated failure to meet the USF Service Availability and Quality Specifications set out in Schedules A and B, the cumulative effect of which significantly affects public use or enjoyment of the USF Services in the USF Areas.
 - (iv) The occurrence of a change in ownership or Control of the USF Network that is contrary to Article Three.
 - (v) Failure by the USF Service Provider to maintain its incorporation in and under the Companies Ordinance or to comply with eligibility requirements for Pakistani companies that are established under applicable Pakistani laws.
 - (vi) Any misconduct of the USF Service Provider, or any other Person on the USF Service Provider's behalf, described in section 52 of the RFA.
 - (vii) Failure of the USF Service Provider to adequately address any matters identified by an applicable regulatory authority falling within the scope of the USF Services, to such regulatory authority's reasonable satisfaction.
 - (viii) The USF Service Provider commits any other material breach of this Agreement which breach is not capable of being cured.

2. Breach by USFCo

- (a) It shall be deemed to be a material breach by USFCo for which the USF Service Provider will be entitled to terminate this Agreement in accordance with Article Fifteen, where:
- (i) The Technical Auditor fails to take any action in response to a Project Implementation Milestone Notice (reference: paragraphs 5 and 6 of Schedule D); or
 - (ii) USFCo fails to pay undisputed payments of the USF Subsidy due to the USF Service Provider exceeding PKR 1,000,000.

SCHEDULE F
Irrevocable Bank Guarantee

Issuing Bank: _____
(insert name and address of issuing bank)

Date of Issue: _____

Bank Guarantee No: _____

Maximum Amount of Bank Guarantee _____ (40% of USF total subsidy amount during implementation phase and proportionately reduced for each subsequent year, subject to satisfactory monitoring reports of the project)
(insert amount, in PKR, in numbers and words)

Applicant: _____
(insert full legal name and address of the USF Service Provider)

Beneficiary:
Universal Service Fund
3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex,
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1,
Islamabad

On behalf of our client (the "Applicant") we hereby issue in your favour this Irrevocable Bank Guarantee (the "IBG") for the maximum amount identified above.

The IBG is available with the Bank, and will be paid, against presentation of the following documents:

- 1) The Beneficiary's demand on the Bank in the form attached hereto as Appendix "A", signed by the CEO of the Beneficiary, indicating the amount to be drawn under this IBG, the number of this IBG, the date of issue of this IBG, and the name of our Bank.
- 2) This IBG for endorsement by us of the amount drawn and, on final drawing, for cancellation.

This IBG is irrevocable and shall remain valid for 5 years up to and including the [*date*] day of [*month*], [*year*]

Partial drawings are permitted.

We will honour each drawing made in conformity with the terms of this IBG without enquiring whether you have, as between you and the Applicant, the right to make such drawing and without recognizing any claim of the Applicant.

This IBG shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Pakistan. We hereby irrevocably and unconditionally accept exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts at Islamabad.

Issuing Bank

Authorized Signing Officer

SCHEDULE F(1)

Irrevocable Bank Guarantee

Issuing Bank: _____
(insert name and address of issuing bank)

Date of Issue: _____

Bank Guarantee No: _____
Maximum Amount of Bank Guarantee _____ (40% of subsidy amount)
(insert amount, in PKR, in numbers and words)

Applicant: _____
(insert full legal name and address of the USF Service Provider)

Beneficiary:
Universal Service Fund
3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex,
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1,
Islamabad

On behalf of our client (the "Applicant") we hereby issue in your favour this Irrevocable Bank Guarantee (the "IBG") for the maximum amount identified above.

The IBG is available with the Bank, and will be paid, against presentation of the following documents:

- 1) The Beneficiary's demand on the Bank in the form attached hereto as Appendix "A", signed by the CEO of the Beneficiary, indicating the amount to be drawn under this IBG, the number of this IBG, the date of issue of this IBG, and the name of our Bank.
- 2) This IBG for endorsement by us of the amount drawn and, on final drawing, for cancellation.

1. This IBG is irrevocable and shall remain valid for 1 year up to and including the [date] day of [month], [year]

Partial drawings are permitted.

We will honour each drawing made in conformity with the terms of this IBG without enquiring whether you have, as between you and the Applicant, the right to make such drawing and without recognizing any claim of the Applicant.

This IBG shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Pakistan. We hereby irrevocably and unconditionally accept exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts at Islamabad.

Issuing Bank

Authorized Signing Officer

Appendix “A”

To Irrevocable Bank Guarantee No. _____

Issued by _____ Bank

Drawn Under IBG No.: *(insert IBG number and date)*

To: *(insert name and address of Issuing Bank)*

The undersigned hereby demands that (Name of Issuing Bank) pay to the order of the undersigned the sum of Pakistan rupees _____ under the IBG described above.

Dated: *(insert date)*

Universal Service Fund

CEO

SCHEDULE G

Next Generation Broadband for Sustainable Development Project

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Document is available at website of USFCo at:
<http://usf.org.pk/aboutus/content/rules>



UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

Methodology for NG-BSD OPEX subsidy confirmation

1. Preamble

The objective of this document is to present the Monitoring Methodology for OPEX disbursement to verify that Service Providers (SPs) are meeting their contractual obligations of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement (SSA) regarding OPEX claim.

Schedule D of the SSA defines payment mode for OPEX subsidy.

2. Methodology for OPEX Subsidy disbursement

Service Provider's (SP) NOC/ BSC will be visited along with SP representative to obtain the required NOC data mentioned below, directly from NOC terminal/ element management system (EMS). NOC data will be collected from SP NOC on monthly basis, for all USF sites, based on KPI's mentioned in Article 9 of the SSA signed between USF and SP.

NOC data which will be collected and analyzed. This will include:

- a) System generated reports and analysis:
 - Unplanned downtime events of USF BTS Availability.
 - TCH Availability and Traffic on USF BTS sites on an hourly basis for each day of the quarter. The required data to be in terms of Erlangs. Other formats should be intimated to USF Company and a prior approval be taken before submission of data.
- b) A field visit may also be carried out if required to verify the network statistics.
- c) Non-provision of the required data in required format in any of the subsequent quarters will result in a corresponding payment deduction.

2.1. System generated logs for calculation of downtime

The Service Provider shall ensure that system generated data portraying downtime status of all USF BTS sites pertaining to the Milestone of the quarter for which OPEX subsidy is being claimed is provided to USF in time.

These reports shall include BTS Availability on hourly basis for which outage duration of the OPEX quarter in question would be calculated based on BTS availability data. All system generated data is to be saved monthly on the 25th of the Calendar month and archived and made available and accessible during the quarter in question and thereafter for a period of thirty-six months, till validity of OPEX subsidy duration.

2.2. OPEX Subsidy Deduction Calculation

2.2.1. Without FM Scenario

In case the cumulative unscheduled downtime of USF site exceeds four (04) days in a quarter for which the OPEX Subsidy is being given, USFCo shall be entitled to deduct proportionate amount on per day per site basis, on number of days exceeding four (04), from the current installment of OPEX Subsidy and/or part thereof from the OPEX subsidy as the case may be for outage period exceeding 4 days in that quarter. The method of calculation of per-day per site OPEX Subsidy shall be to divide the OPEX Subsidy of that quarter by the total number of sites and then by the number of days in that quarter.

The method for calculating the number of outage days per site in a quarter is given below:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Per Site Outage Days} &= \frac{\text{Total Outage Minutes of a Site}}{24 \text{ Hours} \times 60 \text{ Minutes}} \\ \text{Per Site Per Day Cost} &= \left(\frac{\text{Total OPEX subsidy of a Quarter}}{\text{Total number of USF Sites in Milestone}} \right) / \text{No of Days in Quarter} \\ \text{Per site Deduction} &= \text{Per site outage days exceeding 04} \times \text{Per Site Per Day Cost} \\ \text{Total Deduction} &= \text{Sum of per site deduction for all USF sites} \end{aligned}$$

2.2.2. With FM Scenario

In case there are certain sites which become partial accessible or completely inaccessible, due to reasons mentioned below, for certain period of the OPEX quarter, then the outage minutes resulting from this inaccessibility, will be excluded from OPEX subsidy deduction based on formula mentioned in this section. The reasons of inaccessibility include:

- a. Areas which become inaccessible due to weather i.e., snowfall, rain and land sliding. This will be verified from District Administration/relevant authorities. In case the verification is not done through district administration, NDMA certification shall be used. The responsibility of getting inaccessibility certificates will lie on USF Service Provider.
- b. Areas which become inaccessible due to Law-and-order Situations. This will be verified from District Administration/relevant authorities. The responsibility of getting inaccessibility certificates will lie on USF Service Provider.

In case the cumulative unscheduled downtime of USF site, based on outage minutes not claimed under FM/inaccessibility, exceeds four (04) days in a quarter for which the OPEX Subsidy is being given, USFCo shall be entitled to deduct proportionate amount on per day per site basis, on number of days exceeding four (04), from the current installment of OPEX

Subsidy and/or part thereof from the OPEX subsidy as the case may be for outage period exceeding 4 days in that quarter.

The method of calculation of per-day per site OPEX Subsidy shall be to divide the OPEX Subsidy of that quarter by the total number of sites and then by the number of days in that quarter.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Per Site Outage Days} &= \frac{(\text{Total Outage Minutes} - \text{Inaccessible outage minutes})}{24 \text{ Hours} \times 60 \text{ Minutes}} \\ \text{Per Site Per Day Cost} &= \left(\frac{\text{Total OPEX subsidy of a Quarter}}{\text{Total number of USF Sites in Milestone}} \right) / \text{No of Days in Quarter} \\ \text{Accessible Per site Deduction} &= \text{Per site outage days exceeding 04} \times \text{Per Site Per Day Cost} \\ \text{Total Deduction} &= \text{Sum of per site deduction for all USF accessible sites} \end{aligned}$$

2.3. System generated logs showing sector wise traffic carried by BTS

Sector wise TCH Traffic recorded on hourly basis on all USF BTS sites for which OPEX subsidy is being claimed shall also be submitted by the Service Provider. All system generated data is to be saved on the 24th of the Calendar month and archived on a Server and made available & accessible during the quarter in question and thereafter for a period of thirty-six months, till validity of OPEX subsidy duration.

Deductions in OPEX subsidy shall be calculated on the basis of system generated reports for the OPEX duration as given in Schedule D of the SSA.

2.4. Inspection of Nodes

Service Provider (SP) shall provide monthly data of OFC Nodes installed by SP for which capex subsidy is being claimed or OFC nodes visited during Technical Audit for the acceptance of the Project Implementation Milestone.

Monthly data of OFC Nodes shall contain following:

1. Installed OFC pairs and number of lit pairs
2. Alarm Generated
3. Bandwidth Utilization Graphs of Fiber links

If required, a separate visit to the NMS and sample of these nodes may also be conducted. The following would be checked at these nodes:

- Verification of operational status.
- Ensuring that there are no service affecting alarms on the nodes.

2.5. BSC / NOC Visit

BSC / NOC visit will be conducted at the end of Technical Audit of a Milestone or Monitoring visit.

- Operational status of USF BTS sites, TXN Repeaters, OFC Nodes etc. and alarm status shall be checked.
- If major alarms exist, these shall be conveyed to the Service Provider who shall rectify these alarms and send a report to USF.
- These snags shall be checked during subsequent monitoring visits.

3. Reporting

OPEX quarter will start immediately after completion of each of the Milestone and issuance of Project Implementation Milestone Certification. Once the OPEX quarter is due, OPEX quarterly report shall be submitted to USF within 30 days of quarter due date. Report shall contain data mentioned in section 2 above and Article 9 in RFA. In case any outage minutes are claimed under FM/sites inaccessibility, they shall be clearly mentioned in the report together with the duration and inaccessibility certificates validated by District administration/ relevant authorities.

LETTER OF LIEN

....., 20[YY]

Universal Service Fund
3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex,
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad
Sub:

LETTER OF LIEN TO THE EXTENT OF _____ [●¹]

Dear Sirs,

In consideration of you, Universal Service Fund, a company listed under the Companies Ordinance 1984 having its principal office at 3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad through its Chief Executive Officer, (hereinafter referred to as "USFCo"), providing/agreeing to provide subsidy to the tune of Rs. _____ to us under USF Services and Subsidy Agreement (SSA) dated _____, and as per Clause 6.02 of the SSA and Rule 26(6) of USF Rules 2006, we, _____ Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Ordinance 1984 and having its registered office at _____ (hereinafter referred to as the "USF Service Provider"), do hereby create Lien on the assets specified in Schedule-A hereto (the "Property under Lien") in your favour for the purpose of securing the provision of services in the USF area for a period of ten years from the Effective Date of SSA or repayment of the Subsidy Amount upto an amount of Rs. [●²] (Rupees _____ Only) and other moneys payable under the SSA.

We further, irrevocably and unconditionally, undertake, agree, covenant and confirm as follows:

ARTICLE ONE - LIEN

1.01 Property under Lien

We hereby create lien in favour of USFCo all our moveable and immovable properties mentioned in Schedule A to this Letter and our assets as may hereafter be acquired by us for deployment of the USF Network in the USF Areas, together with the benefits of all rights relating thereto (all such properties and assets herein to be collectively called the "Property under Lien") as security for provision of the USF Services in the USF Areas in accordance with the SSA, or repayment by us of the USF Subsidy and other moneys payable under the SSA.

1.02 No further lien

¹ Insert Value of USF Subsidy only as mentioned in SSA

² Insert Value of USF Subsidy only as mentioned in SSA

The Property under Lien shall be kept and held always distinguishable and as USFCo's exclusive property specially appropriated to the security and we shall not create any mortgage, charges, lien or encumbrance affecting the same or part with the Property under Lien except with the prior permission in writing of USFCo.

1.03 **Right to inspect**

We hereby permit USFCo, its agents, nominees and employees from time to time after giving reasonable notice to enter upon, during normal working hours, any premises wherein the Property under Lien or any part thereof may for the time being be and to view/inspect and value the same and take inventories thereof and shall render to USFCo, its agents, nominees and employees all facilities and reasonable assistance as may be required for any of the purposes aforesaid.

1.04 **Free from distress**

We shall punctually pay all rents, rates, taxes and other outgoing expenditures for the premises wherein the Property under Lien shall be stored and keep the same free from distress.

1.05 **Insurance**

During the validity of the SSA, we shall keep the Property under Lien insured in accordance with Article 7 of the SSA.

1.06 **No change**

We undertake that during the term of the SSA the listed machinery and equipment (as further defined in the USF Services and Subsidy Agreement) shall not be removed, disposed of or impaired in any manner whatsoever, except for repair, maintenance or replacement in the ordinary course of business.

1.07 **Information**

The USF Service Provider shall make and furnish to USFCo all statements and reports of the cost and market value of the Property under Lien and a full description thereof and produce such evidence in support thereof as USFCo may from time to time reasonably require.

ARTICLE TWO - REPRESENTATION AND INDEMNIFICATION

2.01 **Right to enter**

In the event of, we committing a breach of any of the terms and conditions of this letter or of the SSA, USFCo and its officers and agents shall be entitled without notice to us and at our risk and expense and if so required as attorneys for and in our name to enter and remain at any place where the Property under Lien shall be and to take possession or recover and receive the same and/or appoint any officer or officers of USFCo as receiver or receivers of the Property under Lien, confiscate the same, and/or sell by public auction or private contract or otherwise dispose off or deal with all or any part of the Property under Lien and to

enforce, release, settle, compromise and deal with any of aforesaid without being bound to exercise any of these powers or being liable for any loss in the exercise thereof, except where such loss is caused by the negligence or misconduct of USFCo or its officers, agents or receivers and without prejudice of USFCo's other rights and remedies including the right of legal action against us and to apply the net proceeds of such sale in or towards the repayment of the USF Subsidy and any other moneys that have become due under the SSA and have not been paid by us and we hereby agree to accept USFCo's account of sales and realization, except in case of any error or omission, and to pay any shortfall or deficiency therein shown. Provided, however, that the powers hereunder shall always be exercised to the extent of the Property under Lien.

2.02 Clear Title

We hereby declares that all the Property under Lien is our absolute property, at our sole disposal and free from any prior charges or encumbrance and that we have not done or knowingly suffered or been party or privy to anything whereby we are in any way prevented from creating lien over Property under Lien in the manner aforesaid. We shall do and execute at our cost all such acts and things for further and more particularly ensuring that the rights and remedies regarding the Property under Lien or any part thereof, under this letter, remain fully enforceable for the benefit of USFCo, as may be required by USFCo, and for giving better effect to this letter, we authorize and irrevocably appoint USFCo and/or its officers as attorney or attorneys for and in our name to act on our behalf and to execute or do any acts or things which we ought to execute or do under this letter and generally to use our name in the exercise of the powers hereby conferred.

2.03 Indemnification

- a) We hereby agree and undertake to comply with all provisions of the various laws, orders, regulations, rules and notifications, already promulgated or that may be promulgated hereafter by the Government or any other authority.
- b) Nothing herein contained shall prejudice any of USFCo's rights or remedies in respect of any present or future security, guarantee, obligation or decree for our any indebtedness or liability.
- c) We shall indemnify and keep USFCo safe, harmless and indemnified against all losses, damages, detriments, harms, claims, liabilities, demands, actions, proceedings, costs, charges and expenses that may reasonably be sustained by or be made against or incurred by USFCo or to which USFCo may become a party hereunder, provided the same have arisen solely and directly from and default or breach of our obligations under the SSA and this Letter.

2.04 Continued security

The security hereunder shall operate as continuing security for all our liabilities notwithstanding any partial performance that may be made from time to time and continue till we shall discharge our obligations under this letter and the SSA in accordance with their respective terms, whereupon this security shall stand discharged.

ARTICLE THREE - GENERAL

3.01 Remedies

Nothing herein contained shall extinguish, derogate from, curtail, prejudice, impair or otherwise affect all or any of USFCo's rights and remedies under the said SSA or that may otherwise be available to USFCo under any law in respect of the USF Subsidy or the SSA.

3.02 No Waiver

If USFCo does not enforce any of its rights hereunder in the event of breach or non-compliance by us with the terms and conditions herein contained, the inaction or omission of USFCo to take action shall not be treated as waiver or abandonment of any such rights.

3.03 Territorial Jurisdiction

This Letter shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Pakistan and the Courts at Islamabad shall have exclusive jurisdiction in all matters under this letter.

USF SERVICE PROVIDER

Per:

[insert name and title]

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED)
in the presence of:)

_____))
Witness (1))

_____))
[insert name]

_____))
Witness (2))

_____))
[insert name]

SCHEDULE "A"

(As per list attached and updated from time to time)

USF SERVICE PROVIDER

Per:

[insert name and title]

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED)
in the presence of:)

Witness (1))

[insert name]

Witness (2))

[insert name]

SCHEDULE N

Integrity Pact

**DECLARATION OF FEES, COMMISSION AND BROKERAGE ETC.
PAYABLE BY THE SUPPLIERS OF GOODS, SERVICES & WORKS IN
CONTRACTS WORTH RS.10.00 MILLION OR MORE**

Contract Number: XXXXXXXXXX
Dated: XXXXXXXXX
Contract Value: Rs:XXXXXXXXXXXX)
Contract Title: XXXXXXXXXX

M/s -----hereby declares that it has not obtained or induced the procurement of any contract, right, interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit from Government of Pakistan or any administrative subdivision or agency thereof or any other entity owned or controlled by it (GoP) through any corrupt business practice.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing **M/s** ----- represents and warrants that it has fully declared the brokerage, commission, fees etc. paid or payable to anyone and not given or agreed to give and shall not give or agree to give to anyone within or outside Pakistan either directly or indirectly through any natural or juridical person, including its affiliate, agent, associate, broker, consultant, director, promoter, shareholder, sponsor or subsidiary, any commission, gratification, bribe, finder's fee or kickback, whether described as consultation fee or otherwise, with the object of obtaining or inducing the procurement of a contract, right, interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit in whatsoever form from GoP, except that which has been expressly declared pursuant hereto.

M/s----- Certifies that it has made and will make full disclosure of all agreements and arrangements with all persons in respect of or related to the transaction with GoP and has not taken any action or will not take any action to circumvent the above declaration, representation or warranty.

M/s ----- accepts full responsibility and strict liability for making any false declaration, not making full disclosure, misrepresenting facts or taking any action likely to defeat the purpose of this declaration, representation and warranty. It agrees that any contract, right, interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit obtained or procured as aforesaid shall, without prejudice to any other right and remedies available to GoP under any law, contract or other instrument, be voidable at the option of GoP.

Notwithstanding any rights and remedies exercised by GoP in this regard, **M/s** ----- agrees to indemnify GoP for any loss or damage incurred by it on account of its corrupt business practices and further pay compensation to GoP in an amount equivalent to ten times the sum of any commission, gratification, bribe, finder's fee or kickback given by **M/s** ----- as aforesaid for the purpose of obtaining or inducing the procurement of any contract, right, interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit in whatsoever form from GoP.

USF Co (Buyer)

M/s ----- [Seller/Supplier]

Annex 7: Dispute Resolution Terms and Processes

- (1) USFCo and Applicant shall make every effort to resolve amicably by direct informal negotiation any disagreement or dispute arising between them under or in connection with participation in the RFA Process.
- (2) Neither party to the disagreement or dispute shall commence any appeal, action or arbitration proceedings for at least, twenty-eight (28) days after any unresolved disagreement or dispute has been notified to the Chief Executive Officer of USFCo and a similarly senior officer of the Applicant. These senior officers shall engage in further discussions in an effort to resolve the disagreement or dispute within the 28 day period.
- (3) If the parties have failed to resolve their disagreement or dispute using the processes described in paragraphs (1) and (2), then either party may give notice to the other party of its intention to commence appeal, action or arbitration in accordance with the laws of Pakistan and applicable procedures.

Annex 8: Tentative Time Schedule & Correspondence Contact

1. The timetable for the RFA events, beginning with publication of the pre-auction notice, is set out below.

Tentative Time Schedule – NG-BSD/Lot56-Kalat/2023	
Event	Calendar Date
Publication of Specific Procurement Notice	Sunday, 29 October 2023
Distribution of RFA Document	Monday, 4 December 2023
Deadline for submission of questions by bidders	Friday, 29 December 2023
Answers to questions	Friday, 5 January 2024
Deadline for Registration of Bidders	Friday, 12 January 2024
Deadline for Submission of Proposals	Monday, 29 January 2024
Opening of the Qualifications & Service Proposals	Monday, 29 January 2024
Complete evaluation of Qualifications & Service Proposals and announcement of Qualified Applicants	Tuesday, 13 February 2024
Opening of USF Subsidy Proposal of Qualified Applicants	Friday, 16 February 2024
Financial Evaluation and Issue of LOI to the Qualified Applicant with lowest subsidy offer	Friday, 23 February 2024
Receipt of Performance bond	Friday, 1 March 2024
Execution of USF Services and Subsidy Agreement and related transaction documents	Monday, 4 March 2024

2. The sealed Proposal package shall be delivered to USFCo at the address specified in clause 4 of this Annex no later than 1100 hrs on **Monday, January 29, 2023**.
3. If the scheduled day of an event falls on a gazetted holiday in Pakistan, the day of the event will be the next working day following the holiday.
4. All correspondence shall be addressed to:

Chief Technical Officer, USFCo.

3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex,
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1,
Islamabad, Pakistan

Telephone: 051-9212308 & 9212309

Fax: 051-9214261

e-mail: projects.tenders@usf.org.pk