

Replies to Bidder's Queries (Batch-1)
Tender ID: USF/SP/OPTICFIBER/2024-25/01

8-April-25

S. No.	Queries	Document Ref:	USF Response
1	There will be some sections where distance will be too large to meet optical power threshold in case of passive devices, in this case we have understanding that extra active nodes should be added in the same cluster?	Schedule A (Part-1) of SSA	Yes. Service provider may propose more than one Active node in cluster as per their network design.
2	Passive nodes surveillance shall be managed through Field Maintenance Center (FMC) teams. Please confirm understanding.	Schedule A (Part-1) of SSA	Yes, operations, maintenance and safe upkeep of all nodes, active/passive is the responsibility of the USF SP and SPs have to plan, design and implement processes to ensure this.
3	In case a served node in a cluster is an active ring node, please confirm if an additional active node from unserved nodes within the cluster would still be required?	Schedule A (Part-1) of SSA	A serving node can act as a ring node, provided that it meets the ring node interface, capacity, backhaul etc. requirements. An existing node can also be upgraded as per USF specifications to act as a ring node.
4	Passive Optical node is not capable to provide metro ethernet services. Pls clarify.	Schedule A (Part-1) of SSA	The SP may choose to add active elements at the passive nodes, as per their choice of technology, network topology, distances involved, business case etc.
5	Kindly clarify if an active device is required at BTS towers or only dark fiber connectivity with ODF is sufficient?	Schedule C of SSA	It is USF SP's responsibility to follow best industry practices and assess and negotiate active/passive equipment required at BTS sites with the prospective Cellular operator, based on CMOs preferences. USF shall pay on a per connection basis as per Schedule D.
6	For nearest passive unserved nodes, BTS termination should be active or passive?	Schedule C of SSA	Service provider may choose as per design best suitable option
7	Pls confirm if service migration to fiber network is mandatory?	Schedule C of SSA	BTS connectivity and other USF services have to be through USF Network at USF defined tariffs
8	BTS towers are restricted to district boundaries or we can add from outside district boundaries	Schedule C of SSA	USF Service provider may choose BTSs from within districts or adjoining areas, as per their network design, reach, suitability and business case. The traffic has to traverse USF network and this should be verifiable and accountable during USF audits.
9	As per Annex-6 Schedule-A part-I, Duct buried solution is mandatory. Hence we understand that Aerial solution shall be deployed only in exceptional cases where buried solution is not feasible. Pls confirm this understanding?	Schedule A (Part-1) of SSA	Yes, duct buried cable is the preferred and mandatory solution to be offered. Aerial deployment is an exception for challenges where buried cable cannot be laid. For such exceptional cases, the SP has to justify with proofs.
10	USF to confirm that the purpose of this part is just to get the Unit price of Aerial deployment?	Annex 5 to RFA	Yes, the purpose is to have the unit price for Aerial cable, to be used for exceptional cases where a certain length/segment of buried cable is not possible.
11	Please clarify that USF advertised OFC-UC-SD-LOT30 for two different areas creating confusion.	Annex 5 to RFA	Typo error. OFC-UC-SD-LOT30 (Sujawal, Tando Muhammad Khan) may be read as OFC-UC-SD-LOT32. Information package with correct project ID's is uploaded on USF website.