

**AMENDMENT #1: 2021-11009A, SOUTH AFRICA: DARK FIBRE AFRICA PERI-URBAN AND RURAL FIBER EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY**

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Please note that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Feasibility Study for the Dark Fibre Africa Peri-Urban and Rural Fiber Expansion is amended, as follows:

The deadline for submissions for this RFP is still

- July 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM EDT/4:00 PM SAST/South Africa local time

**Questions, Answers and Clarifications:** This amendment consists of clarifying questions and answers submitted by potential Offerors regarding the RFP packet. Responses to submitted questions are below.

Question	Answer
On Subtask 2.2, in the light of the competitiveness and confidentiality of the fiber industry, can the Grantee provide additional guidance on what is meant by “comprehensive” when assessing the infrastructure coverage map to be provided in the deliverable?	Comprehensive means that the coverage map indicates the available infrastructure in the geographic scope of the study that can be availed for use to the extent possible. Infrastructure including POP sites, aerial fiber, ducted fiber, fiber over powerline, and fiber on rail coverage maps is relevant. Under the banner of enabling universal access and digital inclusion, the Contractor may approach agencies and entities that have this information available or potential users/customers to obtain this information. This includes state-owned enterprises as well as other telecommunications companies.
Can key team member roles be consolidated in cases where an individual meets the minimum requirements of each of those key personnel positions, and has sufficient availability during the contemplated Study period, especially where they are deemed especially well qualified to cover those multiple roles? For example, if there is a situation where a contemplated team member might be better qualified to fill both the Legal / Regulatory Expert and Local Regulatory	Key team member roles can be consolidated if the individual meets the requirements for both/all positions. That individual can be listed for each team member role for which they are being proposed.

<p>Expert positions rather than assigning an alternative but less qualified individual to one of those positions instead.</p> <p>And if so, how should that combined role then be presented in the RFP document in order to fully comply with the RFP team requirements and for the scoring (50 points) of the “Expertise and Skills of Proposed Staff?”</p>	
<p>The RFP document contains multiple references to “sites” throughout the document. In some instances the interpretation is clear due to the context of the scope within the Task. However when the RFP makes reference to “current or planned mobile sites” (Reference Sub Task 4.1) is this meaning of “sites” meant to be restricted to macro towers only, or may we interpret this more broadly to include other connectivity technologies especially given that this is a feasibility study for fiber expansion in peri urban and rural areas?</p>	<p>Reference to “sites” means any location that DFA can deliver a service to, such as mobile high sites and ICT Point of Presence sites, etc.</p>
<p>What type of GIS resources would be made available to the contractor and to what extent is DFA willing to share GIS data to enable the contractor to establish base data and build new data sets that will be used in the Analytical Model and other aspects of the feasibility study?</p>	<p>Planned map data will be made available to the contractor, subject to an NDA. Where third party infrastructure is not available, the contractors will have to source. The opportunity to utilize existing third party infrastructure must be evaluated to optimize the input costs.</p>
<p>Task 11 of the RFP requires both a qualitative and quantitative analyses of the potential development impact of fiber connectivity for this project. For the quantitative assessment component, where the USTDA invites the contractor to propose alternate indicators, can these indicators include for example (total and incremental subscribers, broadband penetration, revenues) and may these indicators be refined and agreed to during the project?</p>	<p>Proposed alternate indicators may be determined in consultation with USTDA and the Grantee based on the results of the Study, during the Contractor’s execution of the TOR.</p>

<p>Does Task 11 relate specifically to the Developmental Impact Assessment in the telecommunications sector and therefore applicable to the quantitative indicators to be defined as per the scope of Task 11, or can the contractor apply the Developmental Impact Assessment across other sectors? The latter may also influence the development of other meaningful quantitative indicators to measure and demonstrate the benefits of increased fibre connectivity in semi urban and rural areas in the Host Country across other sectors key to economic growth in South Africa.</p>	<p>Proposed alternate indicators may be determined in consultation with USTDA and the Grantee based on the results of the Study, during the Contractor’s execution of the TOR.</p>
<p>Reference is made to an estimated completion date for the study being “June 17, 2022” (Reference Item K, Annex II 10). Would the DFA &amp; USTDA be amenable to an alternate duration where there would be no compromise to the full scope of work and deliverables as set out in the Tasks and Deliverables contained in Annex I?</p>	<p>The projected timeline is an estimate based on the Terms of Reference. The experience of the contractor, resourcing capability, and efficiencies will influence delivery. However, quality cannot be compromised.</p>
<p>Annex II 3.C (2) defines all natural persons who perform any part of the Study as the Contractor, as a Subcontractor ,or as an employee of the Contractor or any Subcontractor, in each case, must be (a) U.S. citizens , b) non U.S. citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States, or (c) non U .S. citizens lawfully admitted to work in the United States .” Are resources with business visas, such as B1 visa, considered non-US citizens lawfully admitted to work in the United States?</p>	<p>B1 visas are considered to be temporary business visas. Holders of B1 visas are not considered to be non-U.S. citizens lawfully admitted to work in the United States.</p>