



## Consultation Paper on UAS Projects for 2022

30<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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## **1      Background**

The *National Information and Communications Technology Act 2009* (the Act) mandates the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) to establish a Universal Access and Service Fund (UAS Fund) to promote and extend ICT services in PNG. The Act also provides for the establishment of a Universal Access and Service Board (UAS Board) and Secretariat within NICTA to implement the government's universal access and service policy and administer the UAS Fund.

Pursuant to s.108 of the Act, the UAS Board is required to engage NICTA through the UAS Secretariat to prepare a Universal Access and Service Projects Report. The report should summarize the UAS Projects under consideration for the subject year, their respective indicative costs, their proposed ranking (and the reasons) and the proposed aggregate budget.

Prior to any decision as to its 2022 Projects Report, NICTA and the UAS Board may consult with stakeholders generally, soliciting suggestions and or proposals for the UAS Projects.

### **3 Introduction**

This consultation paper seeks comments and suggestions from stakeholders on the proposed UAS projects for 2022.

Taking into account factors relevant to the selection, costing and ranking of possible UAS Projects, the UAS Board through NICTA identifies four (4) strategic Programs that could form part of UAS implementation for 2022. For the purposes of this consultation, the four (4) programs form the basis of this consultation document.

The Government's Vision 2050 Strategy, the Medium-Term Development Strategy (2018-2022) and the Development Strategic Plan 2020 to 2030 provide further guidance in the development of projects for 2022.

### **4 Mobile Broadband Network Upgrade and Expansion**

The purpose of this program is to extend the coverage of advanced broadband wireless mobile communications services (at least 3G/HSPA+, 4G/LTE, or other advanced systems). The goal is to deliver reliable, high quality access to Internet and “smart” mobile applications and capabilities to as many PNG citizens as possible, where access to such services is not adequately available, and where existing licensed operators are unwilling or unable to expand their networks, due to commercial or other constraints.

There are three types of Projects included in this Program:

- New BTS sites in areas currently with no mobile service;
- Upgrade of existing 2G BTS sites; and
- Mobile Black Spot Project

#### **4.1 Proposed Greenfield Projects**

The proposed greenfield locations are tentative and may change following consultations with the operators and communities. The total budget to implement the proposed greenfield projects is K11.0 Million

#	Proposed Project Site (LLG)	Location	Population
1	Daga Rural	Alotau District, Milne Bay Province	7109
2	Bwanabwana Rural	Samarai-Murua, Milne Bay Province	12115

<b>3</b>	Yaleyemba Rural	Samarai-Murua, Milne Bay Province	13059
<b>4</b>	Duau Rural	Kiriwina-Good Enough, Milne Bay Province	16900
<b>5</b>	Kotidanga Rural	Kerema, Gulf Province	45385
<b>6</b>	East Kikori Rural	Kikori, Gulf Province	11512
<b>7</b>	Guari Rural	Goilala, Central Province	5602
<b>8</b>	Aua Wuvulu Rural	Manus Province	1459
<b>9</b>	Nigoherm Rural	Manus Province	1930
<b>10</b>	Oksapmin Rural	Telefomin, West Sepik Province	18629
<b>11</b>	Yapsie Rural	Telefomin, West Sepik Province	9146
<b>12</b>	Green River Rural	Vanimo Green, West Sepik Province	14266

## 4.2 Proposed Upgrade Projects

The proposed upgrade locations are tentative and may change following consultations with the operators and communities. The total budget to implement the proposed upgrade projects under this program is K3.0 million.

#	Proposed Project	Location	Population
<b>1</b>	Afore Rural	Ijivitari, Oro Province	18535
<b>2</b>	Kokoda Rural	Sohe, Oro Province	20925
<b>3</b>	Woitape Rural	Woitape, Central Province	21257
<b>4</b>	Cloudy Bay Rural	Abau, Central Province	15578

<b>5</b>	Ihu Rural	Kikori, Gulf Province	18360
<b>6</b>	Erave Rural 15952	Kagua Erave, Southern Highlands Province	15952
<b>7</b>	Yelia Rural	Obura Wonenara, Eastern Highlands Province	22065
<b>8</b>	Nembi Plateu Rural	Nipa Kutubu, Southern Highlands Province	25216
<b>9</b>	Lumusa Rural	Mul Baiyer, Western Highlands Province	13453
<b>10</b>	Maramuni Rural	Wabag, Enga Province	14177
<b>11</b>	Kol Rural	Jimi, Jiwaka Province	26405
<b>12</b>	Kome Rural	Menyama, Morobe Province	31043
<b>13</b>	Simbai Rural	Middle Ramu, Madang Province	18595
<b>14</b>	Karawari Rural	Angoram, East Sepik Province	14204
<b>15</b>	Amanab Rural	Vanimo Green, West Sepik Province	11869
<b>16</b>	Selau/Suir Rural	North Bougainville, AROB	15141
<b>17</b>	Bana Rural	South Bougainville, AROB	22457
<b>18</b>	Murat	Kavieng, New Ireland Province	4210
<b>19</b>	Sinivit Rural	Pomio, East New Britain Province	19103
<b>20</b>	Kandrian Coastal Rural	Kandrian/Gloucester	17073

#### **4.3 Mobile Black Spot Project**

Mobile Blackspots are locations well within coverage areas of mobile towers but do not have sufficient signal strength/coverage due topography/other restraints to signal propagation.

Proponents under for mobile blackspot projects are requested to complete and submit the Project Proposal Form which is attached to this paper.

## **5 Community and Institutional Broadband Networks**

The purpose of this program is to help deliver high-speed fixed broadband Internet connections to selected communities, with services and capacity widely available to public institutions as well as local businesses and households, on an affordable basis throughout each designated local service area. To achieve these outcomes, the Community Broadband Program will support projects in a limited number of designated locations. The program consists of three categories of projects:

- Broadband Network Access and Service;
- Institutional Connectivity; and
- Community ICT Centres (CICs)

Interested institutions are requested to complete and submit the Project Proposal Form (annexed to this paper as Attachment A) which will be considered for implementation in 2022. Target institutions include schools/learning centres, health centres, community resource centres or other public institutions.

The proposed budget for this program is K2 million.

## **6 ICT Platform for Future Growth**

This program focuses on the demand side of ICT development objectives, to ensure that citizens and communities are able to gain the most benefits from the installation and availability of advanced broadband ICT networks and services. Different groups of users will find value in different types of ICT applications, functions, devices, and services, but there will in all cases be a wide scope of potential uses for individuals, families, small businesses, and others to improve their livelihood through the use of advanced ICTs.

The purpose of this program is therefore to help develop a platform for the future, long-term development of ICT utilization and opportunities across Papua New Guinea society. Projects in this area will support the development of creative, innovative, and high value ICT activities within communities across PNG, which will tap into the resources and knowledge of the local populations. In turn, NICTA envisages that such Projects will encourage further investment in and development of innovative ICT networks and services throughout the country.

There are two (2) main components to this program, which can be implemented as independent UAS Projects or in combination with other Fund Programs.

- ICT Applications and Content; and

- Digital Literacy

Proponents are requested to complete and submit the Project Proposal Form (annexed to this paper as Attachment A) which will be considered for implementation in 2022. Local MSMEs particularly in the ICT space are encouraged to participate under this program.

The proposed budget for projects under this program is K1.0 million.

## **7 Expansion of Broadcasting Network Coverage**

This program addresses the objective of extending coverage of radio and digital television broadcasting to all citizens and communities in PNG. The UAS Board and NICTA aim to support growth of the broadcasting sector through targeted use of UAS Fund resources to close gaps and assist low-income consumers where the broadcasting market may not reach. Projects in this program would focus on support for infrastructure expansion, primarily through enhancement or installation of broadcast antennae on existing or new towers, in close coordination with the rollout of mobile telecommunications infrastructure under Program 1, as well as potential assistance for low-income households with the costs of the digital broadcasting transition, via discounts on set-top boxes.

This program could be implemented through projects extending coverage for

- Radio Broadcasting; and
- Television Broadcasting

The proposed project under this program will cost a total of K1 Million.

## **8 Other Projects**

### **8.1 Development Partnership Projects**

All projects proposed by development partners including International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and other interested parties may be considered under this category. K1 Million will be appropriated for this project.

### **8.2 Emergency Telecommunications**

NICTA also proposes to appropriate funds for Emergency Telecommunications response to support emergency operations for State of Emergencies related to natural disasters and pandemic disease outbreaks. NICTA also clarifies that this project will only be implemented in the event a State of Emergency has been declared with the need for an Emergency Telecommunications response. An amount of K1 Million has been earmarked for this project.

A total of K2 Million will be allocated for all projects under the Other Projects program.

## **9      Budget**

The total indicative budget for the proposed projects in all Programs as well as other Projects is set at K20.0 million. The total indicative budget and allocations for specific UAS Projects under each Program are estimates for initial planning purposes and subject to ongoing review and updating by the UAS Board and NICTA.

### **9.1 Implementation Schedule**

Following this consultation, NICTA will finalise the report for the proposed projects for submission to the UAS Board for consideration. The UAS Board will then prepare the 2022 UAS Projects Report for submission to the Minister for Information and Communications Technology for consideration.

Subject to obtaining timely approvals required in the Act, NICTA aims to have the UAS Projects for 2022 implemented in early 2022.

## **10     Consultation**

NICTA hereby invites stakeholders, licensed operators and the general public to submit comments on the proposed UAS Projects for 2022 and /or submit project proposals. Further, NICTA also invites proposals for potential UAS Projects not covered in the list of proposed projects for consideration to be implemented in 2022. In this connection NICTA has also prepared the proposal form which is available on the NICTA website at [www.nicta.gov.pg](http://www.nicta.gov.pg).

Copies of all submissions received will be published on NICTA's Public Register. Additional procedural information is set out in the Guidelines on the submission of written comments to public consultations and public inquiries, which are available on NICTA's Public Register.

## **11     Contact**

If you have any enquiries relating to this consultation, please address them to the following emails in the first instance; [viru@nicta.gov.pg](mailto:viru@nicta.gov.pg), [wsuti@nicta.gov.pg](mailto:wsuti@nicta.gov.pg) or [mkapal@nicta.gov.pg](mailto:mkapal@nicta.gov.pg).

## **Attachment**

UAS Projects Proposal Form 