UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND SERVICE (UAS) PROJECTS REPORT FOR 2026

PREPARED BY NICTA FOR THE UAS BOARD

November 2025

Connecting

Our

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1. Executive Summary

NICTA recommends **four (4) UAS Projects** for 2026:

- Mobile Broadband Greenfield (MB-2026) – 14 districts.
- Fixed Broadband Institutional Connectivity (FB-2026) – 30 institutions.
- Radio Broadcasting Expansion (RB-2026) – 12 districts with DRM.
- Meaningful Connectivity (Digital Literacy & Devices) (DL-2026) – 20 ICT hubs.

These projects will deliver 4G+ mobile broadband to more than 150,000 rural residents, fixed broadband to 30 key institutions, FM/DRM radio to ~2 million listeners, and digital literacy training to 5,000+ individuals with 1,000 subsidized devices.

The projects are expected to be delivered with a **proposed aggregate budget of PGK 38,250,000** (which comprises one-time capital subsidies for all projects and an initial 3-year OPEX for remote mobile sites), funded primarily by UAS levies, supplemented by PPPs and donor contributions.

All projects are **ranked** (MB #1, RB #2, FB #3, DL #4) using a weighted scoring matrix (Attachment C) and are **fully compliant** with Section 108(4)(g) and (h) – no mandatory coverage overlap, no duplication of prior UAS Projects (Attachment F).

2. Background and Context

This report is submitted pursuant to Section 108(2) and (3) of the NICT Act 2009, following NICTA's September 19, 2025, Consultation Paper and November 4, 2025, Public Consultation Report.

Four written submissions were received from Digicel PNG, Vodafone PNG, PNGFM Ltd, and Kalang Advertising Limited (FM100), with additional stakeholder engagements. Key feedback incorporated includes:

- **Site prioritization** for road-accessible and high-impact areas (e.g., Menyamya, Kerema, Kandep added to broadcasting).
- **Technology flexibility** (Remote Base Transceiver Station (RBTS), UE-relays, Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM), solar VSATs).
- **Initial OPEX subsidies** (3 years for remote mobile sites).
- **Co-location and PPPs** (e.g., Manus Provincial Government).
- **Digital literacy expansion** (20–30% budget increase, youth programs, radio partnerships).

The projects align with Government Policy under Section 98, particularly MTDP IV (2023–2027) goals for digital transformation, rural connectivity, and meaningful access.

NICTA's 2025 coverage analysis confirmed all proposed sites as unserved or underserved. Feasibility assessments posit strong operator participation with planned prospective incentives.

NICTA has integrated stakeholder inputs to ensure efficiency, sustainability, and maximum development impact per Section 90.

3. UAS Projects Under Consideration

(Prepared by NICTA per Section 108(1)(f) and adopted/reviewed by UAS Board)

Project ID	Project Title	Geographical Area(s)	Expected Beneficiaries	Indicative Cost (PGK)	Subsidy Requested (PGK)	One-Time Capital Subsidy? (Y/N)
MB-2026	Mobile Broadband Greenfield	Various provinces	Over 150,000 rural residents, farmers, and communities in unserved/underserved areas	25,500,000	25,500,000 (including initial 2-year OPEX)	Y (with phased OPEX)
FB-2026	Fixed Broadband Institutional Connectivity	Various LLGs	30 schools/institutions, benefiting ~10,000 students, teachers, and staff	9,300,000	9,300,000	Y
RB-2026	Radio Broadcasting Expansion	9 districts	~2 million rural listeners, focusing on information access and emergency alerts	3,150,000	3,150,000 (inclusive of OPEX for project period)	Y

DL-2026	Meaningful Connectivity (Digital Literacy & Devices)	TBC across UAS project areas, prioritizing pilot hubs in proposed districts	Communities in ~20 locations, ~5,000 individuals trained, devices for schools/hubs	1,000,000 (increased 20-30% per feedback)	1,000,000	Y

Detailed project descriptions are included in Attachment A. Feasibility assessments indicate high operator participation potential, with the prospect of requested incentives (e.g., 900MHz spectrum for rural backhaul, co-location guidelines, PPPs with provincial governments like Manus, and donor engagement for sustainability), addressing concerns like high OPEX and logistics.

4. Project Scope and Objectives *(Per UAS Project)*

(Detailed in Attachment A – Summarized below for each recommended project)

4.1. Mobile Broadband Greenfield Project (MB-2026)

Scope of Work

- **Deployment**: Construction of 22 4G/LTE sites in 14 unserved/underserved districts (Kikori, Wosera Gawi, Usino Bundi, Alotau, Nipa-Kutubu, Samarai-Murua, Telefomin, Goilala, Manus, South Bougainville, Ambunti-Drekikier, Vanimo-Green, Wewak, Angoram).
- **Infrastructure**: Telecom towers, backhaul (microwave + solar VSAT), hybrid solar-diesel power systems, RBTS, UE-relay extensions for coverage optimization.
- **Services**: Minimum 10 Mbps download, voice, and data.
- **Pilots**: 6 RBTS sites in low-density areas; 900MHz spectrum priority for rural backhaul.
- **O&M**: Bidders responsible for operations; 2-year initial OPEX subsidy.

Project Objectives

- **Section 90 Alignment**: Promote long-term economic and social development by connecting **more than 150,000 rural residents**, enabling e-services (health, education, agriculture), and supporting market access in remote areas.
- **Specific Outcomes**:
  - Achieve **≥70% population coverage** per site within 5 km radius.
  - Leverage **PPPs** (e.g., Manus Provincial Government for passive infrastructure) and **donor partnerships** (EU STREIT-like) for sustainability.

4.2. Fixed Broadband Institutional Connectivity Project (FB-2026)

Scope of Work

- **Deployment**: High-speed fixed broadband (≥10 Mbps symmetrical) to **30 public institutions** (schools, health centers, MSME hubs, airstrips) across **10 LLGs** (Pobuma, Tinputz, Wakunai, Selau/Suir, Cloudy Bay, Umi Atzera, Balopa, Wain-Erap, Weraua, Ialibu Urban; another 20 locations to be determined via direct consultation).

- **Infrastructure**: Fiber-to-the-institution (where feasible), VSAT/microwave, **public Wi-Fi hotspots** (100+ users/site), offline content caches.
- **Digital Literacy Component**: 12-month training programs, device deployment, and community access facilities.
- **O&M**: Institutions manage ongoing operations via revenue-sharing; **one-time capital subsidy**.

Project Objectives

- **Section 90 Alignment**: Improve availability of ICT services in rural communities by connecting critical public facilities, fostering digital inclusion, and building local capacity.
- **Specific Outcomes**:
    - Benefit **~10,000 students, staff, and community members**.
    - Establish **10 operational community ICT hubs** by Q1 2027.
    - Enhance digital literacy to ensure **sustained service uptake**.

4.3. Radio Broadcasting Expansion Project (RB-2026)

Scope of Work

- **Deployment**: FM transmitters and **DRM pilots** in **12 districts** (Abau, Rigo, Karimui-Nomane, Nakanai, Nuku, Vanimo-Green, Delta Fly, Middle Fly, Central Bougainville, Menyamya, Kerema, Kandep).
- **Infrastructure**: **Co-location on MNO sites**, solar-powered repeaters, integration with national emergency broadcasting network.
- **Content**: Local language programming (Tok Pisin/Motu), emergency alerts, digital literacy via radio.

Project Objectives

- **Section 90 Alignment**: Expand information access in rural areas, supporting social development, disaster resilience, and community engagement.
- **Specific Outcomes**:
    - Reach **~2 million additional listeners**.
    - Increase national FM coverage from **34% to >50%** in target regions.
    - Establish **emergency broadcasting redundancy** via DRM pilots.

4.4. Meaningful Connectivity Project (Digital Literacy & Devices) (DL-2026)

Scope of Work

- **Deployment**: **30 community training** co-located with FB-2026 sites.
- **Training**: 6-month curriculum covering basic ICT, online safety, e-services; delivered via **youth ambassadors** and **radio-led awareness campaigns**.
- **Devices**: **1,000 solar-charged tablets** with preloaded local content, distributed to schools and hubs.

- **Partnerships**: Broadcasters, Department of Education, NGOs.

Project Objectives

- **Section 90 Alignment**: Enhance ICT utilization to contribute to social and economic development by building digital skills and enabling device access in underserved areas.
- **Specific Outcomes**:
  - Train **5,000+ individuals**.
  - Integrate training into national curriculum via ministry partnerships.

All projects are designed for **one-time capital subsidy** with clear sustainability pathways (OPEX responsibility on operators/institutions post-initial support). Detailed specifications, technical standards, and QoS requirements are included in **Attachment A** and will be finalized in **Project Agreements under Section 115**.

5. Project Timeline *(Per UAS Project)*

The timelines set out are indicative and will be finalised in Project Agreements under Section 115.

Milestone	Description	Duration
Planning & Design	Site assessments, tech selection (incl. pilots)	3 months
Procurement	Competitive bidding, incorporating streamlined processes	3 months
Construction/Deployment	Infrastructure rollout, with community consultations	6 months
Testing & Commissioning	QoS verification, training	3 months
Commercial Launch	Service activation, monitoring	1 month
Total Project Duration		12-15 months

Note: Gantt chart in Attachment B. Timelines accelerated per feedback to avoid delays to 2028.

6. Budget and Financial Analysis *(Per UAS Project)*

Project	CAPEX (PGK)	Initial OPEX Subsidy (Years 1–2) (PGK)	Total Subsidy Requested (PGK)	Funding Sources	Justification & Sustainability
MB-2026 *Mobile Broadband Greenfield*	22,200,000	3,300,000	**25,500,000**	UAS Fund (primary), PPPs (e.g., Manus Provincial Govt), donor co-funding	High CAPEX due to 14 macro + 6 RBTS sites, remote access (helicopter logistics), solar-hybrid power. OPEX covers fuel,

Project	CAPEX (PGK)	Initial OPEX Subsidy (Years 1–2) (PGK)	Total Subsidy Requested (PGK)	Funding Sources	Justification & Sustainability
					maintenance, technician access in remote areas. Sustainable post-Year 2 via operator revenue.
FB-2026 *Fixed Broadband Institutional*	7,500,000	1,800,000	**9,300,000**	UAS Fund, sectoral agency contributions (Education/Health)	Covers fiber/VSAT, Wi-Fi hotspots, offline caches for 30 institutions. OPEX supports 12-month digital literacy rollout. Institutions self-fund post-subsidy via community access fees.
RB-2026 *Radio Broadcasting Expansion*	3,150,000		**3,150,000**	UAS Fund, broadcaster co-funding (PNGFM: ~PGK 800,000 for 4 sites)	Includes FM transmitters, DRM pilots (2 sites), solar repeaters, co-location on UAS towers. OPEX for initial content production & emergency integration. Broadcasters assume full OPEX after Year 1.
DL-2026 *Meaningful Connectivity (Digital Literacy & Devices)*	1,000,000		**1,000,000**	UAS Fund, NGO/donor grants, broadcaster in-kind (radio campaigns)	Training curriculum, trainers, 1,000 tablets, hub setup in 20 locations. OPEX for youth ambassadors and monitoring. Hubs generate revenue via training fees post-subsidy.

6.1. Aggregate Budget Summary

(Per Section 108(1)(d))

Item	Amount (PGK)
Total CAPEX	**33,850,000**
Total Initial OPEX Subsidy (Years 1–2)	**5,100,000**
Total Subsidy Recommended	**38,950,000**
Proposed Aggregate Budget	**PGK 38,950,000**
Available UAS Fund Balance (as advised by NICTA, Nov 2025)	**TBC** (levy collections + interest + donor pipeline)
Budget Feasibility Assessment	**Feasible** – Within projected 2026 levy inflows; supplemented by PPPs, broadcaster co-funding, and donor commitments.

6.2. Financial Justification *(Per Section 108(4)(d))*

All projects are **commercially unviable without subsidy** due to:

- **Low population density** and **high deployment costs** (terrain, helicopter access, power unreliability).
- **Limited revenue potential** in rural areas.
- **Stakeholder-validated cost considerations** (Public Consultation Report, Nov 4, 2025).

6.3. Sustainability Confirmation *(Per Section 108(4)(c))*

- **One-time capital subsidy** for infrastructure.
- **Phased OPEX support** (Years 1–2) only for remote sites to ensure service continuity.
- **Post-subsidy viability** via:
  - Operator retail revenue (mobile/data).
  - Institutional/community access fees (fixed broadband).
  - Broadcaster advertising (radio).
  - Hub training revenue (digital literacy).

7. Ranking of UAS Projects

(Per Section 108(1)(e) and 108(2))

Rank	Project ID	Priority Score	Key Ranking Factors Applied
1	MB-2026	95/100	High alignment with objectives; broad net benefits; feasible with adjustments
2	RB-2026	85/100	Essential for information/emergency; sustainable with co-funding
3	FB-2026	80/100	Institutional focus; partnerships ensure viability
4	DL-2026	75/100	Demand-side critical; increased budget per feedback

Ranking Criteria Applied (Section 108(4)):

a) Promotion of UAS Fund objectives (Section 90)

b) Net benefits to Papua New Guinea

c) Sustainability with one-time capital subsidy

d) Project would not otherwise occur without subsidy

e) Efficiency, effectiveness, financial & technical feasibility

f) Other relevant information

g) **Exclusion:** No mandatory coverage services

h) **Exclusion:** Not duplicating pre-existing UAS Project

Detailed ranking methodology and scoring matrix is included in **Attachment C**. Matrix includes weighted scores (e.g., objectives 30%, benefits 25%, sustainability 20%), with explanations for each project (e.g., Mobile ranks highest due to coverage gaps and economic impact; Broadcasting elevated per stakeholder prioritization for emergency roles).

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

(Per Section 108(1)(g) and Section 108(4)(f) of the NICT Act 2009)

8.1. Objectives

NICTA will implement a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to:

- Track physical and financial progress of all 2026 UAS Projects against approved timelines and budgets;
- Verify achievement of outputs and outcomes;
- Ensure transparent and accountable use of the UAS Fund;
- Provide the UAS Board, the Minister, development partners and the public with regular, evidence-based reporting;
- Identify risks early and enable timely corrective action;
- Measure long-term development impact and sustainability.

8.2. Key Principles

- All monitoring provisions will be incorporated into Project Agreements under Section 115.
- Subsidy disbursements will be milestone-based and linked to independent verification.
- Quarterly reporting to the UAS Board commencing from the date of signing of Project Agreements.
- NICTA may appoint an independent verifier for major milestones (e.g., site on-air, speed tests, coverage verification).
- A public dashboard summarising progress will be published on the NICTA website.
- Post-project evaluation (12–18 months after completion) to assess sustainability and development outcomes.

8.3. Project-Specific Monitoring Framework

The detailed M&E framework is provided in **Attachment F** and is summarised below:

Project	Key Outputs Monitored	Key Outcome Indicators	Target Beneficiaries	Final Verification Timing
MB-2026 Mobile Broadband Greenfield	22 4G/LTE sites on-air (incl. 6 RBTS pilots)	≥150,000 residents with ≥10 Mbps 4G; ≥70% pop. coverage within 5 km radius	Rural residents in 14 districts	Q1 2027 + post-project survey
FB-2026 Fixed Broadband Institutional	30 institutions connected; 20 community ICT hubs operational	≥10,000 students/staff/community members using services	Schools, health centres, LLGs	Q1 2027
RB-2026 Radio Broadcasting Expansion	12 FM transmitters + 2 DRM pilots on-air; emergency integration	~2 million additional listeners; FM coverage increase from 34% to >50% in target areas	Rural population in 12 districts	Q4 2026 – Q1 2027
DL-2026 Meaningful Connectivity	≥5,000 individuals trained; 1,000 devices distributed; 20–30 training hubs	Measurable increase (≥25%) in digital service uptake in trained communities	Youth, women, community members	Q1 2027 + 2028 evaluation

8.4. Reporting Schedule to the UAS Board

Quarter	Report Due	Key Content
Q1 2026	30 April 2026	Procurement outcome, Project Agreements signed
Q2 2026	31 July 2026	First sites operational, initial disbursements
Q3 2026	31 October 2026	Mid-term progress report & risk update
Q4 2026	31 January 2027	Major construction complete
Q1 2027	30 April 2027	All projects fully operational, final disbursements
Q1 2028	30 April 2028	Post-project outcome evaluation & sustainability report

Risk Monitoring and Corrective Measures

High-risk activities (terrain, security, logistics, weather, supply chain) will be monitored monthly using a traffic-light dashboard. Material delays or cost overruns will trigger immediate notification to the UAS Board with proposed remedial actions.

8.5. Independent Verification and Audit

- Drive tests and coverage verification for MB-2026 and FB-2026
- Field strength measurements for RB-2026
- Training attendance certification and device tracking for DL-2026
- Annual audit of UAS Fund expenditure by external auditor

The full Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, including detailed KPIs, verification methods and disbursement-linked milestones, is attached as **Attachment F** and will form an integral part of each Project Agreement.

9. Recommendations to the Board

(Per Section 108(2) and 108(5))

The NICTA recommends the following UAS Projects for implementation within the proposed aggregate budget:

1. Mobile Broadband Greenfield – Rank 1 – Subsidy: PGK 25,500,000
2. Radio Broadcasting Expansion – Rank 2 – Subsidy: PGK 3,150,000
3. Fixed Broadband Institutional Connectivity – Rank 3 – Subsidy: PGK 9,300,000
4. Meaningful Connectivity (Digital Literacy & Devices) – Rank 4 – Subsidy: PGK 1,000,000
5.

Total Recommended Subsidy: PGK 38,950,000.00

Total Proposed Aggregate Budget: PGK 38,950,000.00

10. Certification by NICTA

I certify that this UAS Project Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 108 of the NICT Act 2009 and accurately reflects the deliberations and recommendations of NICTA.

Signature: ______________________________

Name: [Chairman/Acting CEO]

Date: __________________________________

11. Attachments

Attachment A: Detailed UAS Project Descriptions

Attachment B: Project Timelines (Gantt Charts)

Attachment C: Ranking Methodology and Scoring Matrix

Attachment D: Stakeholder Submissions and Consultation Report

Attachment E: Confirmation of Compliance with Section 108(4)(g) and (h) (no overlap with mandatory coverage or pre-existing projects)

Attachment F: Monitoring Framework

ATTACHMENT A: DETAILED UAS PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

A.1 Mobile Broadband Greenfield Project (MB-2026)

Project Description and Objectives

Mobile broadband is the cornerstone of digital inclusion in Papua New Guinea's challenging topography and dispersed population. This project deploys **4G/LTE and advanced wireless systems** (including **RBTS** and **UE-relay pilots**) in **14 high-priority unserved/underserved districts**, verified through NICTA's 2025 coverage analysis and stakeholder feedback.

Objectives:

- Deliver **minimum 4G data speeds (10 Mbps download)** to rural communities.
- Enable access to **e-government, e-health, e-education, and agricultural market platforms**.
- Support **EU STREIT-like partnerships** in agricultural zones (e.g., Kikori, Nipa-Kutubu).
- Pilot **low-cost Rural Base Transceiver Stations (RBTS)** in 6 low-density areas to reduce CAPEX/OPEX by up to 40% vs. macro sites.

Key Stakeholders

- Licensed mobile operators (Digicel PNG, Vodafone PNG)
- Provincial Governments (e.g., Manus, Gulf)
- Local communities and LLGs
- Development partners (EU, ADB, World Bank)

Project Scope

Component	Details
Sites	14 districts: Kikori, Wosera Gawi, Usino Bundi, Alotau, Nipa-Kutubu, Samarai-Murua, Telefomin, Goilala, Manus, South Bougainville, Ambunti-Drekikier, Vanimo-Green, Wewak, Angoram
Technology	4G/LTE macro sites + **RBTS pilots (6 sites)** + **UE-relay extensions**
Backhaul	Microwave + VSAT (solar-powered) + **900MHz spectrum priority**
Power	Hybrid solar-diesel with battery backup; **2-year OPEX subsidy** for remote sites
Coverage Target	**>150,000 beneficiaries** (population within 5 km radius)
Access Obligations	Open access, infrastructure sharing, minimum 70% population coverage per site

Implementation Approach

- **Procurement**: Competitive bidding (lowest subsidy or maximum coverage).
- **Incentives**:
  - Expedited **900MHz spectrum** for rural backhaul.
  - **PPPs** with provincial governments (e.g., Manus for passive infrastructure).
- **Sustainability**: One-time capital subsidy + **initial 2-year OPEX** to ensure viability.

Target Outcomes

- **150,000+ rural residents** with 4G access.

A.2 Fixed Broadband Institutional Connectivity Project (FB-2026)

Project Description and Objectives

Delivers **high-speed fixed broadband (≥10 Mbps)** to **30 public institutions** (schools, health centers, MSME hubs, airstrips) in **10 LLGs**, with **community Wi-Fi hotspots** and **digital literacy training**.

Objectives:

- Connect critical institutions to **national broadband backbone**.
- Establish **public ICT access facilities** for community use.
- Build **digital skills** to sustain usage.

Key Stakeholders

- Licensed broadband operators
- Department of Education, Health, and Community Development
- Local SMEs and LLG offices
- Development partners

Project Scope

Component	Details
Sites	30 institutions across: Pobuma, Tinputz, Wakunai, Selau/Suir, Cloudy Bay, Umi Atzera, Balopa, Wain-Erap, Weraua, Ialibu Urban (+20 TBD via consultation)
Technology	Fiber-to-the-institution (where feasible), VSAT, microwave
Services	10 Mbps symmetrical, public Wi-Fi (100 users/site), offline content caches
Digital Literacy	12-month training program per site (curriculum, devices, trainers)

Implementation Approach

- **Procurement**: Request for Proposals (RFPs) from licensed operators and SMEs.
- **Partnerships**: Co-funding with sectoral agencies (e.g., Education for school labs).
- **Sustainability**: One-time capital subsidy; institutions manage OPEX via revenue-sharing.

Target Outcomes

- **10,000+ students, staff, and community members** with broadband access.
- **20 community ICT hubs** operational by Q1 2027.

A.3 Radio Broadcasting Expansion Project (RB-2026)

Project Description and Objectives

Expands **FM and Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM)** coverage to **12 districts** (original 9 + 3 stakeholder-proposed), leveraging **tower co-location** and **solar-powered repeaters**.

Objectives:

- Increase FM coverage from **34% to >50%** of rural population.
- Enable **emergency broadcasting** and **local content in Tok Pisin/Motu**.
- Pilot **DRM** for digital radio in 2 sites.

Key Stakeholders

- Broadcasters (PNGFM Ltd, FM100, NBC)
- District administrations
- Emergency services (NDMO)

Project Scope

Component	Details
Sites	12 districts: Abau, Rigo, Karimui-Nomane, Nakanai, Nuku, Vanimo-Green, Delta Fly, Middle Fly, Central Bougainville, **Menyamya (Morobe), Kerema (Gulf), Kandep (Enga)**
Technology	FM transmitters + **DRM pilots (2 sites)** + solar repeaters
Co-location	8 sites on UAS mobile towers; PNGFM co-funds 4 sites
Content	Emergency alerts, local language programming, digital literacy via radio

Implementation Approach

- **Procurement**: Single integrated tender; co-funding model with broadcasters.
- **Partnerships**: MOU with broadcasters for content and maintenance.
- **Sustainability**: One-time subsidy; broadcasters cover OPEX.

Target Outcomes

- **~2 million additional listeners**.
- **National emergency broadcasting network** integration.

A.4 Meaningful Connectivity Project (Digital Literacy & Devices) (DL-2026)

Project Description and Objectives

Deploys **digital literacy training** and **subsidized devices** in **20 community hubs** co-located with UAS broadband sites, with **youth ambassadors** and **radio-led awareness**.

Objectives:

- Train **5,000+ individuals** in digital skills.
- Distribute **1,000 devices** (tablets, laptops) to schools/hubs.
- Drive **uptake** in digital services.

Key Stakeholders

- Training providers (universities, NGOs)
- Broadcasters (for awareness campaigns)
- Department of Education

Project Scope

Component	Details
Sites	20 hubs in MB-2026 and FB-2026 areas
Training	6-month curriculum: basic ICT, online safety, e-services
Devices	1,000 solar-charged tablets with local content
Awareness	Radio campaigns, youth ambassadors

Implementation Approach

- **Procurement**: Competitive grants to training partners.
- **Partnerships**: Broadcaster-led campaigns; education ministry curriculum integration.
- \

Target Outcomes

- **5,000 trained**, **1,000 devices deployed**.
- **Measurable increase** in digital service usage.

ATTACHMENT B: PROJECT TIMELINES (GANTT CHARTS)

Timelines are indicative and will be finalized in Project Agreements (Section 115)

Activity	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	Q4 2026	Q1 2027
Planning & Design	■	■			
Site Surveys & Tech Selection	■	■			
Procurement (Tender/RFP)		■	■		
Contract Award			■		
Construction/Deployment			■	■	
Testing & Commissioning				■	■
Commercial Launch					■
Monitoring (Year 1)					■

All projects follow this accelerated 12–15 month cycle to meet MTDP IV goals.

ATTACHMENT C: RANKING METHODOLOGY AND SCORING MATRIX

Per Section 108(1)(e) and 108(4)

Methodology

Projects ranked using a **weighted scoring system** (out of 100):

Criterion	Weight	Scoring Guide
(a) Alignment with UAS Fund Objectives (Section 90)	30%	25–30: High rural impact, economic uplift
(b) Net Benefits to PNG	25%	20–25: Large population, productivity gains
(c) Sustainability with One-Time Subsidy	20%	15–20: Viable post-OPEX phase
(d) Non-Commercial Viability	10%	8–10: Would not occur without subsidy
(e) Efficiency, Effectiveness, Feasibility	10%	8–10: Low risk, high operator interest
(f) Other (Innovation, Partnerships)	5%	4–5: Pilots, PPPs, donor leverage

Scoring Matrix

Project	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	Total	Rank
MB-2026	30	25	18	10	9	5	**97**	**1**
RB-2026	28	22	17	9	8	5	**89**	**2**
FB-2026	26	20	16	9	8	4	**83**	**3**
DL-2026	24	18	15	8	7	5	**77**	**4**

Rationale (Excerpt)

- **MB-2026 (#1)**: Highest reach, economic impact, and operator participation potential with RBTS pilots and 900MHz incentives.
- **RB-2026 (#2)**: Critical for information access and emergencies.
- **FB-2026 (#3)**: Institutional focus with strong sectoral partnerships.
- **DL-2026 (#4)**: Essential demand-side enabler; increased budget reflects stakeholder priority.

ATTACHMENT D: CONFIRMATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 108(4)(g) AND (h)

Template for Certification

CERTIFICATION Compliance with Section 108(4)(g) and (h) of the NICT Act 2009

I, **[Name]**, **Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, NICTA**, hereby certify that:

1. **None of the recommended UAS Projects** impose **mandatory coverage obligations** on any operator licensee under any individual or operator license.
   - *Verification*: All proposed sites are outside existing license coverage mandates (verified via NICTA Coverage Database, November 2025).
2. **None of the recommended UAS Projects** duplicate or overlap with **pre-existing UAS Projects** approved by the Minister.
   - *Verification*: Cross-checked against UAS Project Register (2020–2025); no active or completed projects in proposed 2026 sites.
3. **Site Selection**: All 2026 sites confirmed as **unserved or underserved** via:
   - NICTA's **2025 Network Coverage Analysis**
   - Stakeholder submissions (Public Consultation Report, November 4, 2025)
   - On-ground validation (where feasible)

ATTACHMENT F: PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for 2026 UAS Projects

1. Purpose

This Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework enables the UAS Board and NICTA to track progress, verify achievement of outputs and outcomes, ensure efficient use of the UAS Fund, and provide transparent reporting to the Minister, stakeholders and development partners throughout the 2026 project cycle (Q1 2026 – Q1 2028).

2. Overall Monitoring Principles

- Reporting frequency: Quarterly from award of Project Agreements (Section 115)
- Independent verification: NICTA may appoint an independent verifier for key milestones
- Public dashboard: Summary progress to be published on NICTA website
- KPIs tied to subsidy disbursement (milestone-based payments)

3. Common Indicators Applicable to All Projects

Indicator	Target	Verification Method	Frequency	Responsible
Project Agreement signed	100% (all 4 projects)	Signed Section 115 agreements	Once	NICTA Legal
Funds disbursed on schedule	≥95% of milestone payments on time	Financial reports + bank statements	Quarterly	NICTA Finance
Sites/projects completed on time	≥90% by contractual deadline	Completion certificates + site photos/GPS	Quarterly	Implementers + NICTA field teams
No material audit findings	Zero qualified findings	Annual UAS Fund audit	Annual	External auditor

4. Project-Specific Monitoring Framework

MB-2026 Mobile Broadband Greenfield (22 sites, 14 districts)

Output/Outcome	KPI	Target	Verification Method	Disbursement Milestone
Sites constructed & on-air	Number of 4G/LTE sites operational	22	Drive tests, OSS statistics, site acceptance certificate	40% on 10 sites, 40% on remaining 12
Population coverage	Residents with ≥10 Mbps 4G within 5 km radius	≥150,000	NICTA coverage modelling + household survey	Final 20% payment
RBTS pilot performance	Sites using low-cost RBTS	6	Technical report	Included in site acceptance
Minimum speed & availability	Download ≥10 Mbps, 98% availability	All sites	Independent drive/test reports	Final 20% payment
Sustainability	Operator assumes full OPEX after Year 3	Year 4 onward	Operator declaration + revenue data	Post-project audit

FB-2026 Fixed Broadband Institutional Connectivity (30 institutions, 10+ LLGs)

Output/Outcome	KPI	Target	Verification Method	Disbursement Milestone
Institutions connected	Fixed broadband ≥10 Mbps symmetrical	30	Speed tests + uptime logs	50% on 15 sites, 30% on remaining
Community Wi-Fi hotspots operational	Hotspots with ≥100 concurrent users capacity	30	Site visit + login records	Included above
Community ICT hubs operational	Fully equipped & open to public	20	Photos + visitor logbooks	Final 20% payment
Beneficiaries reached	Students, staff, community members using service	≥10,000 (cumulative)	Hub registers + sample survey	Final 20% payment

RB-2026 Radio Broadcasting Expansion (12 districts)

Output/Outcome	KPI	Target	Verification Method	Disbursement Milestone
FM transmitters on-air	New or upgraded FM transmitters operational	12	Field strength measurements	70% on 8 sites, 20% on remaining 4
Population reached	Additional listeners	~2 million	Coverage maps + listener survey (with NBC)	Final 10% payment
DRM pilots operational	Digital radio sites broadcasting	2	Technical verification	Included in final payment
Emergency broadcasting integration	Linked to NDMO alert system	100% of sites	Test alerts + MOU confirmation	Final 10% payment

DL-2026 Meaningful Connectivity (Digital Literacy & Devices)

Output/Outcome	KPI	Target	Verification Method	Disbursement Milestone
Individuals trained	Persons completing 6-month curriculum	≥5,000	Training attendance certificates	50% on 2,500, 30% on remaining
Devices distributed & in use	Solar-charged tablets/laptops deployed	1,000	Serial number register + photos	Final 20% payment
Training hubs operational	Co-located with FB-2026 sites	20–30	Site visit + class photos	Included above
Uptake of digital services	Measurable increase in data usage/e-service registration in trained communities	≥25% increase vs baseline	Operator data + survey	Post-project evaluation

5. Reporting Schedule to UAS Board

Period	Report Due	Key Contents
Q1 2026	30 Apr 2026	Procurement status, Project Agreements signed
Q2 2026	31 Jul 2026	First sites on-air, initial disbursements
Q3 2026	31 Oct 2026	Mid-term progress & independent verification plan

Q4 2026	31 Jan 2027	Major construction complete
Q1 2027	30 Apr 2027	All sites operational, final disbursements
Q1 2028	30 Apr 2028	Post-project outcome evaluation & sustainability report

6. Risk Monitoring

High-risk items (terrain, security, logistics) will be flagged monthly via a traffic-light dashboard presented at each Board meeting.

This framework will be incorporated into all Project Agreements under Section 115 and may be adjusted by the Board if required.