

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF FIJI

INVITATION TO TENDER

UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION PROGRAMME — PHASE 2

SOLAR-POWERED SATELLITE-BASED COMMUNITY WI-FI ROLLOUT

(Continuation from Phase 1 — Solar Power Mandatory | 100m Coverage Radius | 48-Hour Autonomy)

ITT Reference	ITT-TAF-USO-PH2-2026
Issuing Authority	Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (TAF)
Programme	Universal Service Obligation (USO) — Phase 2
Technology	Satellite Uplink + Solar Power (Mandatory at All Sites) + Community Wi-Fi
Coverage Requirement	100 metre radius from centralised installation point
Power Supply	Solar Power — Mandatory at ALL Phase 2 Sites Regardless of Grid Access 48-Hour Autonomy
Issue Date	29 th July, 2026
Submission Deadline	19 th August 2026 1600hrs — Fiji Standard Time
Submission Email	tenders@taf.org.fj
Classification	CONFIDENTIAL

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 About TAF

The Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (TAF) is the independent statutory body established under the Telecommunications Act 2008 to regulate Fiji's telecommunications sector. TAF's mandate includes permits, licensing, consumer protection, and driving universal access to telecommunications services. TAF's principal office is at Level 2, LIC Building, 11 Butt Street, Suva, Fiji.

1.2 The Universal Service Scheme

Pursuant to Division 4 of Part 3 of the Telecommunications Act 2008 (Sections 47–53), TAF administers the Universal Service (US) Scheme to promote access to telecommunications and ICT services in underserved and unserved communities. The Universal Service Fund (USF) — maintained as a trust fund under Section 53 of the Act, administered by the Ministry of Finance pursuant to the Financial Management Act 2004 — provides the financial foundation for programme delivery.

The intent of the USO scheme is for selected Service Providers to unlock market potential and establish commercially viable community telecommunications operations that become self-sustaining over time without requiring ongoing financial support from the USF.

1.3 Phase 1 and the Transition to Phase 2

Phase 1 of the USO Programme successfully deployed satellite-based Community Wi-Fi Centres (CWCs) at designated village locations. Phase 1 established the operational model, the Voucher Management System, the Smart Hands community manager framework, and the technical and service level standards that will continue into Phase 2.

Phase 2 builds directly upon Phase 1. The defining difference for Phase 2 is that every gazetted Universal Service Area site shall be equipped with a fully operational solar power system — without exception and regardless of whether the site has access to the national power grid. This is a deliberate position adopted by TAF for two reasons: first, to guarantee service continuity for communities in the event of grid power failures or disruptions; and second, to reflect TAF's commitment to continuous improvement and sustainable infrastructure deployment across all Phase 2 sites. All solar systems must be designed for 48-hour autonomous operations independent of any grid input.

1.4 Phase 2 Deployment Concept

- a. Each Phase 2 site consists of a satellite terminal, industrial-grade Wi-Fi access points, voucher management system and a solar energy system installed at a single centralised public location within the gazetted Universal Service Area.
- b. The installation shall provide wireless internet coverage within a radius of 100 metres from the centralised installation point, serving the surrounding community.

- c. Preferred installation sites are village community halls or Turaga ni Koro residence. Nursing stations and schools within the village parameters may be considered as alternatives, subject to TAF's prior written approval.
- d. Each site shall be assigned a unique Site Identifier formatted as 'village_province', consistently used across all commissioning reports, asset registries, and network configuration files.
- e. The Service Provider shall manage and administer the satellite internet service account(s) on behalf of TAF, ensuring service continuity, compliance with usage terms, timely renewals, and liaison with satellite provider for technical issues. TAF reserves the right to direct a change of satellite provider if deemed appropriate.

1.5 Purpose of this ITT

TAF invites suitably qualified and experienced Service Providers to submit comprehensive proposals for the supply, installation, commissioning, and ongoing operations and maintenance of solar-powered Satellite-based Community Wi-Fi Centres at all Phase 2 Universal Service Area sites listed in Annexure A. The selected Service Provider(s) shall enter into a contractual agreement with TAF for their services.

2. Scope of Work

2.1 Overall Scope

The selected Service Provider shall be responsible for the complete end-to-end delivery of Phase 2 Community Wi-Fi Centres, including:

- a. Pre-deployment site surveys and community engagement at each Phase 2 gazetted site.
- b. Procurement, importation (where required), and delivery of all equipment (the 'Kit') to each site.
- c. Civil works: pole/roof mount installation, mounting structures, earthing, lightning protection, security measures.
- d. Full system installation, configuration, integration and commissioning — Satellite uplink, Wi-Fi, solar, voucher management, monitoring.
- e. Submission of a TAF-compliant Commissioning Report within twenty (20) days of each site completion.
- f. Handover of the communications cabinet key to the Turaga ni Koro (village head), documented via a signed Handover Acknowledgement Form, copied to TAF with the Commissioning Report.
- g. Identification, appointment, and training of Community Wi-Fi Centre Technical Assistant.
- h. Identification, appointment, and training, deployment and ongoing management of the Voucher Management System at each site.
- i. Ongoing network monitoring, operations, and Annual Maintenance from Year 2 onwards.
- j. Monthly reporting and revenue reconciliation to TAF in the prescribed Excel format.
- k. Monthly reports per province to include, data on each site consolidated as per prescribed template.

2.2 Technology Platform — Satellite Based Uplink

Phase 2 exclusively utilises satellite technology as the internet backhaul, consistent with Phase 1. The bidder shall provide and maintain a satellite broadband service for each Universal Service Area for the duration of the Contract. To promote operational consistency, simplify support arrangements and leverage the experience gained under Phase 1, TAF's preferred satellite platform is Starlink. Accordingly, where a Starlink solution is proposed, the Starlink Impact Plan is preferred. Tenderers proposing an alternative satellite service provider shall demonstrate that the proposed platform and service plan provide equivalent or superior performance, service levels and overall suitability for the Community Wi-Fi service.

As part of its Tender, the Bidder shall clearly specify:

- the satellite service provider;
- the service plan or package proposed;
- the Monthly Recurring Charge (MRC) per site;
- the included monthly data allowance (or whether the service is unlimited);
- the advertised and expected download speeds;
- the advertised and expected upload speeds;
- the typical network latency;

- any traffic management, fair use policy, throttling or data prioritisation that may apply;
- any excess usage charges; and
- the availability and service level commitments applicable to the proposed service.

2.3 Access Point Coverage Requirement — 100m Radius

Each Phase 2 Community Wi-Fi Centre shall provide reliable wireless broadband coverage for community users within a minimum outdoor service radius of 100 metres from the designated Community Wi-Fi Centre under normal operating conditions. The proposed wireless solution shall, at a minimum:

- a. Provide not less than two (2) Enterprise-grade outdoor access points supporting IEEE 802.11ac (Wi-Fi 5) or later, with simultaneous dual-band (2.4 GHz and 5 GHz) operation.
- b. Coverage of at least 30 metres indoors and 100 metres outdoors from the access point.
- c. Support a minimum of 40 concurrent active users while maintaining acceptable service quality for normal internet applications, including web browsing, messaging, e-learning and voice/video communications.
- d. Support WPA2-Enterprise and/or WPA3 security.
- e. Captive portal with voucher/token-based authentication, usage tracking, and session management.
- f. Be centrally manageable, with support for remote configuration, firmware updates, monitoring and diagnostics

2.3.1 Preferred Wi-Fi Solution Model and Alternative Proposals

Preferred Solution: TAF's preferred deployment model for Phase 2 Community Wi-Fi Centres is a fully managed Wi-Fi solution, whereby the Service Provider assumes end-to-end responsibility for the supply, installation, configuration, network management, monitoring, and ongoing maintenance of all Wi-Fi infrastructure at each site. A managed Wi-Fi solution provides TAF and the communities with a single point of accountability and is strongly preferred under this ITT.

Alternative Proposals: TAF acknowledges that some Service Providers are actively exploring alternative connectivity technologies for rural and remote community coverage, including light-footprint rural 4G/LTE solutions. TAF is open to reviewing well-considered alternative proposals provided they demonstrably meet or exceed all coverage, capacity, reliability, and service continuity requirements set out in this ITT. Alternative proposals must clearly articulate:

- a. The specific technology platform proposed (e.g. rural 4G/LTE, hybrid LEO+4G) and its deployment model.
- b. How the alternative meets or exceeds the 100m coverage radius, 40 concurrent user, and 48-hour autonomy requirements.
- c. A comparative cost-benefit analysis versus the standard managed Wi-Fi model.
- d. Detailed cost breakdown of all components of the alternative solution.
- e. Evidence of successful pilot or commercial deployment of the proposed alternative technology in comparable rural Pacific environments.
- f. Compliance with all applicable Fijian telecommunications regulations, spectrum licensing requirements, and TAF directives for the proposed technology.

NOTE: Alternative proposals will be evaluated on their technical merits and value for money. TAF reserves the right to accept or reject any alternative proposal at its sole discretion. Tenderers may submit both a standard managed Wi-Fi proposal and an alternative proposal, clearly labelled as separate volumes.

2.3.2 Disaster Response Communication Capabilities — SIP Phone and Emergency Calling

Given the remote and often isolated nature of Phase 2 Universal Service Area communities, disaster response communication is a mandatory and specifically required capability under this ITT. Each Community Wi-Fi Centre must be equipped with 1x SIP-based telephone capable of supporting emergency communications during and after disaster events (cyclones, flooding, seismic events, and other national emergencies).

Mandatory SIP Phone Requirements:

- a. **SIP Phone Provision:** One (1) SIP-compliant prepaid telephone shall be installed and operational at each Phase 2 Community Wi-Fi Centre. The SIP phone must be pre-configured, registered, and maintained on an active VoIP platform for the duration of the contract.
- b. **Outgoing Emergency Calls:** The SIP phone must have a 7 digit number assigned and support outgoing toll-free calls to emergency services and government disaster response agencies. Tenderers must confirm the ability to route emergency calls to Fiji Police Force (917), Fire & Rescue (910), and Health Emergency (911) without call barring or routing restrictions.
- c. **Call Termination:** The SIP phone must support full call termination capability, allowing incoming calls to reach the community site from any originating party. The assigned SIP number must be documented in the Commissioning Report and registered with TAF.
- d. **Customer Support Access:** The community must be able to reach the Service Provider’s technical customer support team directly via the SIP phone at all times.
- e. **Pre-Loaded Bundled On-Net Minutes — Disaster Preparedness:** Tenderers must indicate whether they have the technical capability to remotely pre-load bundled on-net calling minutes to community SIP phones, should TAF or the Government of Fiji require this facility in future disaster response situations. This capability is not a current contractual obligation but TAF requires confirmation of technical readiness to activate this feature on short notice after a declared national emergency, without requiring physical access to the site. Tenderers must respond “Yes — Capable” or “No — Not Capable” and provide supporting technical justification.

NOTE: Failure to include a fully operational SIP phone at each commissioned site, or failure to demonstrate outgoing emergency call and call termination capability at commissioning testing, will be treated as a non-compliance finding. The disaster response pre-loaded minutes capability will be a scored technical evaluation criterion.

2.4 Firewall and Network Security Requirements

Each Phase 2 Community Wi-Fi Centre shall include an enterprise-grade firewall and security gateway providing secure internet access and network protection. The proposed solution shall, at a minimum:

- a. Support stateful firewall inspection with configurable security policies.
- b. Support network address translation (NAT), VLANs and DHCP services.
- c. Support secure remote administration by the Service Provider.

- d. Content filtering to block access to prohibited material as defined by Fijian law or directed by TAF. The filtering solution shall be capable of implementing category-based filtering and rapid deployment of blocklists supplied by TAF or other competent authorities without requiring hardware replacement or significant service interruption. Pornography shall be blocked from day 1.
- e. Support captive portal authentication with voucher/token-based access, user session management and bandwidth management.
- f. Maintain system logs and usage records in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements.
- g. Support automatic firmware and security updates throughout the Contract period.
- h. Be sized appropriately for the proposed solution and capable of supporting the anticipated number of concurrent users without becoming a network bottleneck.

2.5 Solar Power System — Mandatory Requirements

All Phase 2 gazetted sites shall be installed with a complete solar power system as a mandatory requirement, regardless of whether the site has access to grid electricity. This policy ensures service and access continuity in the event of grid power failures and demonstrates TAF's commitment to on-growing improvement in the delivery of universal telecommunications services. The solar power system must be fully capable of sustaining all site operations independently for a minimum of 48 hours.

2.5.1 Power-System Sizing and 48-Hour Autonomy

The solar power system for every Phase 2 site **MUST** be designed and sized to power all telecommunications and ancillary equipment continuously for a minimum of 48 hours without any solar generation input (i.e., under fully overcast or adverse weather conditions).

The Tenderer shall submit detailed load and energy calculations demonstrating that the proposed solar power system is appropriately sized to support the complete installed load and provide a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours of continuous power autonomy without solar generation.

The calculations shall, at a minimum, identify:

- a. Every connected item of equipment, including the satellite terminal, modem/router, firewall, network switch, PoE equipment, access points, VoIP equipment, monitoring devices and all ancillary loads.
- b. The rated and expected operating power consumption of each item in watts, the quantity installed, expected daily operating hours and resulting daily energy consumption in watt-hours or kilowatt-hours.
- c. The total peak connected load and total estimated daily energy requirement.
- d. Inverter conversion losses, cable losses, controller losses, standby consumption and any other system losses.
- e. The proposed battery-bank voltage, rated capacity and usable capacity, based on the specified maximum depth of discharge.

- f. The battery capacity required to provide at least 48 hours of autonomy, including an appropriate engineering design margin and allowance for battery ageing and reduced performance under expected site temperatures.
- g. The proposed solar-array capacity and the assumptions used for available solar irradiation, system efficiency and battery recharge.
- h. The ratings and sizing of the MPPT charge controller, inverter, cables, protective devices and associated components.
- i. Manufacturer datasheets supporting the power-consumption figures and equipment ratings used in the calculations.

TAF may reject any proposed design where the submitted calculations do not adequately demonstrate compliance with the 48-hour autonomy requirement.

The load calculation shall include all equipment intended to operate at the site and shall not exclude ancillary, standby or conversion loads.

2.5.2 Solar Array

- a. High-efficiency monocrystalline photovoltaic (PV) modules suitable for tropical and maritime environments, with UV-resistant construction and corrosion-resistant frames.
- b. PV modules shall be certified to IEC 61215 and IEC 61730 (or equivalent international standards).
- c. Junction boxes shall be rated IP67 and fitted with weather-resistant connectors suitable for outdoor installations.
- d. Mounting structure: hot-dip galvanised steel or marine-grade aluminium.

2.5.3 Battery Energy Storage System

- a. Battery Type: Valve Regulated Lead Acid (VRLA), Absorbent Glass Mat (AGM), deep-cycle, maintenance-free.
- b. The battery bank shall provide a minimum of 48 hours autonomy under the specified design load and environmental conditions. Battery monitoring system capable of monitoring battery voltage, current, temperature (where supported), state of charge (where supported), alarms and historical performance data.
- c. The battery enclosure shall be shaded, adequately ventilated and protected from direct solar radiation. All batteries shall have a minimum design life of ten (10) years and a minimum cycle life of 1,200 cycles at 50% Depth of Discharge (DoD), supported by the manufacturer's technical datasheet. All enclosures, mounting structures, fasteners and associated hardware shall be manufactured from corrosion-resistant materials suitable for tropical and maritime environments.

2.5.4 Power Control and Conversion

- a. MPPT solar charge controller and pure sine wave inverter, appropriately sized to continuously support the proposed system load
- b. Distribution board incorporating appropriately rated MCBs, RCDs, and DC and AC surge protection devices.

- c. The solar power system shall include integrated monitoring capability capable of measuring and recording key operational parameters, including battery state of charge, battery voltage, solar generation, inverter status, load, alarms and historical performance data.

2.4.5 Remote Solar Monitoring

- a. The Bidder shall implement and maintain a remote monitoring system for all solar power systems throughout the Contract period. Automated SMS/email alerts to Service Provider upon fault detection.
- b. The monitoring system shall, at a minimum, monitor battery state of charge, battery voltage, solar generation, system load, inverter status, equipment temperature and system faults.
- c. The Bidder shall continuously monitor the operational status of all sites and promptly investigate and rectify alarms and faults in accordance with the Service Levels specified in the Contract.
- d. The Contractor shall provide periodic performance reports to TAF in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Contract.

2.6 Standard Phase 2 Kit — Bill of Materials

Tenderers shall provide complete and itemized BOM for their proposed Solution.

Tenderers shall submit an itemised Pricing Schedule in Microsoft Excel format. Unit rates for all equipment, materials, labour, software licensees and other goods and services shall be provided as standard rates applicable across all Project Sites. All software licenses, subscriptions and recurring platform fees necessary for the proposed solution shall be included in the Tender. Transport, mobilisation and logistics costs shall be separately identified and priced on a Province-by-Province basis, recognising the differing accessibility, terrain, shipping requirements and site conditions across Fiji.

The Pricing Schedule shall clearly identify:

A. One-off (Capital) Costs including, but not limited to:

- Satellite user terminal, modem/router and associated accessories
- Mounting hardware and brackets
- Firewall and security appliances
- Network switches, PoE injectors/switches
- Outdoor Wi-Fi Access Points
- Cabling, connectors, surge protection and associated networking hardware
- Solar photovoltaic panels
- Battery bank

- MPPT solar charge controller
- Inverter
- Mounting structures
- Monitoring equipment
- Enclosures and cabinets
- Civil works and installation materials
- Transport, mobilisation and logistics
- Labour, installation, testing and commissioning
- Community training
- Any other capital equipment necessary for a fully operational site

B. Recurring Costs Including, where applicable:

- Satellite service subscription
- Firewall licensing
- Software subscriptions
- VoIP subscriptions
- Any other recurring operational charges

For each item, Bidders shall provide:

- Item description
- Manufacturer
- Model number (where applicable)
- Unit of Measure
- Quantity
- Unit Price (FJD VEP)
- Total Price (FJD VEP)
- Whether the item is a One-off (CAPEX) or Recurring (OPEX) cost.

Tenderers shall ensure that the Pricing Schedule includes all costs necessary to deliver, install, commission, operate and maintain the proposed solution in accordance with this Specification. No additional costs will be accepted for items omitted from the submitted Pricing Schedule.

3. Operational Expenditure and Annual Maintenance

3.2 Annual Maintenance Costs — Year 2 Onwards

Following the initial 12-month workmanship guarantee and hardware warranty period, the Service Provider shall perform one (1) mandatory annual maintenance visit per site. Annual maintenance costs will be reimbursed from the USF subject to prior written TAF approval. Maintenance activities must be consolidated and coordinated across multiple sites within each province to achieve economies of scale. Maintenance costs shall be priced on a Province-by-Province basis, recognising the differing accessibility, terrain, shipping requirements and site conditions across Fiji.

Each annual maintenance visit must include and the maintenance report must confirm: voltage readings of backup battery systems; solar panel cleaning and confirmation panels are unobstructed; Satellite dish alignment verification and removal of vegetation/debris obstruction; results of general system health check (network connectivity, signal strength, equipment status); record of faults, corrective actions taken, and components replaced; and recommendations for further preventive action.

4. Tenderer Eligibility and Qualification

4.1 Mandatory Eligibility Criteria

- a. Legally registered business entity in Fiji.
- b. Valid FNPF, FRCS, FNU Levy compliance letters.
- c. Minimum three (3) years' documented experience in design, supply, installation, and maintenance of solar power and telecommunications systems of comparable scale.
- d. The Bidder shall be an authorised reseller, installer or service partner of the proposed satellite internet service provider and shall provide documentary evidence of such authorisation as part of its Tender submission.
- e. The Bidder shall demonstrate experience in the supply, installation, commissioning and ongoing support of enterprise satellite broadband systems of a similar scale and complexity.
- f. Minimum two (2) verifiable reference projects for comparable solar-powered satellite or community Wi-Fi deployments.
- g. Capability to implement and manage a Voucher Management System (VMS) meeting TAF's requirements.

4.2 Technical Capability

- a. Demonstrated experience in the design, installation, testing and commissioning of off-grid solar photovoltaic power systems of similar size and complexity, supported by suitably qualified and competent personnel.
- b. Logistics capability to mobilise to remote maritime, highland, and interior sites across all Fijian provinces.
- c. Details of workshop or service depot in Fiji for equipment staging, testing, and maintenance support.
- d. Centralised network monitoring dashboard accessible by TAF in real time.

4.3 Financial Capacity

- a. Bidders that are not existing telecommunications service providers licensed by TAF shall submit audited financial statements for the preceding two (2) financial years.
- b. Bidders shall demonstrate sufficient financial capacity and working capital to procure equipment, mobilise resources, implement the Works and perform the Contract on a reimbursement basis.
- c. Bidders shall disclose any insolvency proceedings, receivership, administration, liquidation or similar proceedings commenced against the bidder within the preceding four (4) years.

Bidders acknowledge that payments under the Contract will be made upon achievement of the applicable milestones or completion of the approved services, and that no advance payment or mobilisation payment will be made by TAF. Tenderers shall satisfy themselves that they possess adequate financial resources to perform the Contract on this basis

5. Submission Requirements

Proposals must be submitted in three (3) Volumes. All submissions must be in English, in PDF (electronic) or excel based. Incomplete submissions may be disqualified.

5.1 Volume 1 — Technical Proposal

5.1.1 Company Profile, Qualifications and References

- a. Company registration, ownership, years of operation, organisational chart for Phase 2.
- b. Any relevant licences, certifications, and professional registrations.
- c. Minimum two (2) project case studies with verifiable client references (contact name, organisation, phone, email).

5.1.2 Technical Solution

- a. Detailed narrative for the proposed Phase 2 Community Wi-Fi Centre kit and Satellite-based subscription plan.
- b. Clearly identify how many teams will be deployed and composition of each team.
- c. Equipment Bill of Material, specifications and manufacturer datasheets for all proposed components. All proposed hardware shall be supported by the manufacturer with current firmware, security updates and technical support throughout the Contract period.
- d. Tenderers shall identify the availability of spare parts for all critical equipment and confirm that replacement parts will remain available in Fiji, or through established supply channels, for a minimum period of five (5) years following commissioning.
- e. Clear warranty period for each major equipment category, including but not limited to satellite terminals, solar panels, batteries, charge controllers, inverters, network equipment, and associated accessories. Defects during the warranty period repaired at Service Provider's expense. All manufacturer warranties shall be fully transferable to TAF upon request.
- f. Excel based Load calculation methodology and battery sizing workings demonstrating 48-hour autonomy — include a worked example for any one site.
- g. Single-line electrical diagram for the standard Phase 2 site design.
- h. Single-line Network diagram for the standard Phase 2 site solution.
- i. Satellite subscription plan details.
- j. Voucher Management System description with demonstration screenshots or access.
- k. The bidder shall provide TAF with secure web-based portal access to the proposed network management platform, enabling real-time monitoring of each USO site. At a minimum, the portal shall provide site availability and operational status, internet data consumption (GB), traffic categorisation by application or service type (where technically supported), voucher/recharge transactions by denomination, and associated usage and revenue statistics. The platform shall retain historical operational and transactional data for a minimum of forty-five (45) days and provide TAF with the ability to download such data in commonly used formats (including CSV and Microsoft Excel) for reporting, audit and analysis purposes.

- l. Quality Assurance plan and Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) plan.
- m. Tenderers must clearly declare whether the Phase 2 deployment will be executed entirely by in-house personnel or whether any component(s) of the deployment will be outsourced to a third-party subcontractor. Where any element of the work is to be outsourced, the Tenderer must specifically identify: (a) which component(s) of the deployment will be outsourced; (b) the name, qualifications, and relevant experience of each proposed subcontractor; (c) the nature of the contractual arrangement between the Tenderer and the subcontractor; and (d) how the Tenderer will maintain oversight, quality assurance, and accountability for all outsourced work.

5.1.3 Deployment Plan

The Tenderer shall submit a proposed deployment timeline outlining the planned implementation approach, sequencing of activities, key milestones and indicative completion timeframes for the delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of the Works. The proposed deployment timeline will form part of the Tender evaluation. Following contract award, the successful Tenderer shall be required to develop and submit a detailed Deployment Plan for TAF's review and approval prior to commencement of the Works. The proposal must include:

- a. Project Gantt chart from contract execution, procurement, mobilization, installation, commissioning, through final acceptance of all Phase 2 sites.
- b. Resource plan: personnel allocation, staging depot, and equipment mobilisation schedule.
- c. Tenderers shall clearly submit procurement, mobilization and delivery timeline for solar and other inventories not readily available locally.

5.1.4 Smart Hands and Community Wi-Fi Centre Manager Plan

- a. Bidder shall identify, appoint and train a minimum of two (2) suitably capable persons within each community to provide first-line technical support for the Community Wi-Fi Centre.
- b. Bidder shall identify, appoint and train women-led and/or youth-led groups/cooperatives within each community to undertake local voucher sales and basic customer assistance.
- c. Submit as part of tender the proposed commission structure payable to women-led and/or youth-led groups/cooperatives.

The Bidder shall acknowledge that the collection, reconciliation and management of all voucher sales revenue remains the sole responsibility of the Service Provider. The Service Provider shall be responsible for all cash handling arrangements, fraud prevention measures, financial reconciliation, revenue collection, accounting and any losses arising from fraud, theft, misuse or non-collection of voucher sales revenue. TAF shall have no responsibility or liability for the collection, handling or recovery of voucher sales revenue.

5.1.6 Commissioning Report Framework

The Commissioning Report for each completed site must include:

- a. Site Identifier (village_province format), Province, Tikina/District, Village Name, GPS coordinates, date of commissioning.
- b. Photographs demonstrating compliance with installation quality standards.
- c. Scope of Work, network configuration details, inventory data (brand, model, serial numbers), security settings.
- d. Performance test results: bandwidth, latency, jitter, packet loss.
- e. Solar power system data: panel Wp, battery kWh, MPPT settings, and 48-hour autonomy design and test results.
- f. As-built network diagrams, Wi-Fi coverage heatmaps, and satellite signal quality data.
- g. Signed workmanship guarantee certificate and Handover Acknowledgement Form signed by the Turaga ni Koro.

5.2 Volume 2 — Commercial Proposal

5.2.1 Pricing Principles

All costs stated in FJD exclusive of VAT in excel.

5.2.2 Required Cost Categories

#	Cost Category	Description	Format Required
1	CAPEX — Kit Supply	All solar and Satellite/Wi-Fi equipment per Phase 2 standard kit BOM, itemised by component.	Per unit + Per site total one-off
2	Mobilisation Cost	All costs to deploy from Suva depot to site per province.	Per province one-off
3	Installation & Commissioning	Labour, pole/structure installation, earthing, cabling, security, commissioning, acceptance testing per site.	Per site one-off
4	Monthly OPEX	All monthly recurring costs per site: Satellite monthly subscription, firewall licence, VOIP licence, other.	Per site per month
5	Annual Maintenance	Fully inclusive annual maintenance cost per site and per province from Year 2. Travel, labour, consumables, minor spares.	Per site/yr + Per province/yr
6	Total Contract Value	Aggregate of all above for the full Phase 2 programme over the 2-year initial contract term.	Lump sum

5.2.3 Mobilisation Duration — Provincial Declaration

For each province, Tenderers must state: (a) procurement timeline, (b) mobilisation lead time in working days from contract signing to commencement of physical works; (c) installation duration in working days per site; (d) total programme duration for all Phase 2 sites in the province for each province;

5.3 Volume 3 — Stock Level Declaration and Supply Chain Plan

TAF requires all Tenderers to declare current and committed inventory levels for all Phase 2 components. This is a scored evaluation criterion. TAF may audit stock levels declared at any time before or after contract award. Misrepresentation is grounds for disqualification or contract termination.

Component	In-Country Stock (Fiji)	Committed / On Order	Lead Time (weeks)	Primary Supplier / Source Country (Supplier Name, Country of Origin)
Satellite User Terminal Kits and accessories				
WiFi Outdoor Access Points				
Routers / Firewalls and other electronics				
Battery Banks				
Solar PV Panels				
MPPT Charge Controllers				
UPS / Inverter-Charger Units				
Poles and mounts				
DC & AC wiring accessories.				
Cable Assemblies, Connectors & BOM Hardware				
Voucher Management Gear				
Others				

6. Cost and Mobilisation Templates by Province

6.1 Kit CAPEX Summary by Province

Tenderers shall complete this table for all provinces. The number of Phase 2 sites per province is provided in Annexure A.

Province	Phase 2 Sites	CAPEX per Site VEP (FJD)	Mobilization per site per Province (FJD) VEP	Total Provincial CAPEX (FJD) VEP	2 nd Yr Maintenance cost per site per Province FJD VEP
Ba	3				
Bua	10				
Cakaudrove	44				
Macuata	7				
Nadroga	4				
Navosa	14				
Naitasiri	17				
Namosi	3				
Rewa	2				
NATIONAL TOTAL	104	FJD VEP _____	FJD VEP _____	FJD VEP _____	FJD VEP _____

6.2 Mobilisation Duration by Province

Bidder must provide the duration (working days) to procure, mobilise, install and complete the full delivery.

Province	Transport Mode	Procurement Duration (Working days)	Mob. Lead Time (working days)	Install Duration / Site (working days)	Total Project Duration (Working Days)
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Ba	<i>Specify</i>				
Bua	<i>Specify</i>				
Cakaudrove	<i>Specify</i>				
Macuata	<i>Specify</i>				
Nadroga-Navosa	<i>Specify</i>				
Naitasiri	<i>Specify</i>				
Namosi	<i>Specify</i>				
Rewa	<i>Specify</i>				
TOTAL					_____

6.3 Annual Maintenance Cost by Province — Year 2 Onwards

Province	Sites	Total Annual Maint. Cost Per site Per Province (FJD) VEP
Ba	3	
Bua	10	
Cakaudrove	44	
Macuata	7	
Nadroga	4	
Navosa	14	
Naitasiri	17	
Namosi	3	
Rewa	2	
PROGRAMME TOTAL	104	FJD _____

7. Evaluation Criteria and Process

7.1 Evaluation Process

- Stage 1 — Mandatory Compliance Check: proposals assessed for mandatory eligibility and technical compliance. Non-compliant proposals rejected without further evaluation.
- Stage 2 — Technical and Commercial Scoring against the weighted criteria below.
- Stage 3 — Clarification, presentations, and demonstrations as required. TAF may split the award across multiple providers by province or lot.

7.2 Scoring Criteria

Evaluation Criterion		Weight	Key Assessment Factors
Technical Solution Quality		20%	Solar design quality, 48hr autonomy methodology, equipment specs, 100m Wi-Fi coverage, Satellite Uplink integration, VMS capability, Dashboard Reporting.
Experience and Capability		15%	Authorised dealer of Satellite provider, solar/satellite project history, key personnel qualifications, financial capacity, local presence.
Delivery and Mobilisation Plan		25%	Credibility of project schedule, logistics plan, resource plan, provincial mobilisation timelines.
Commercial Proposal — Value for Money		20%	CAPEX competitiveness vs Phase 1 benchmark, OPEX and maintenance value, life-cycle cost transparency.
Supply Chain Readiness and Stock Levels		20%	In-country stock levels, supplier relationships, lead time risk mitigation, quality of evidence provided.
TOTAL		100%	

12. Procurement Process and Submission Instructions

12.1 ITT Timeline

Milestone	Indicative Date
ITT Issue Date	29/07/26
Deadline for Written Clarification Requests	07/08/26
TAF Consolidated Responses to Clarifications	14/08/26
Proposal Submission Deadline	19 th August 2026 1600hrs — Fiji Standard Time
Evaluation Period	31/08/26
Notification of Preferred Service Provider(s)	September 2026
Target Completion — All Phase 2 Sites	Bidder to provide

12.2 Submission Instructions

- Three (3) Volumes: Technical, Commercial, and Stock Level.
- Electronic PDF and excel to tenders@taf.org.fj
- Email subject line: 'ITT-TAF-USO-PH2-2026 — [Telecommunication Authority of Fiji]'.
- Files exceeding 50MB: submit via shared link (Google Drive, Dropbox, or equivalent) with full TAF access.
- Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.

12.3 Contact Details

Contact	Information
Issuing Authority	Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (TAF)
Office Address	Level 2, LICl Building, 11 Butt Street, GPO Box 14222, Suva, Fiji
Procurement Email	tenders@taf.org.fj
ITT Queries	llimeleki.lomani@taf.org.fj & prit.chand@taf.org.fj
TAF Notices Contact	llimeleki.lomani@taf.org.fj & prit.chand@taf.org.fj
Website	www.taf.org.fj
Office Hours	Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM (Fiji Standard Time, GMT+12)

Annexure A — Phase 2 Universal Service Area Sites

Refer to Annexure A for Phase 2 Site Details.

Annexure B — Tenderer Declaration Form

Must be completed by an authorised signatory and included as the first page of Volume 2 (Commercial Proposal).

TENDERER DECLARATION — ITT-TAF-USO-PH2-2026

I, the undersigned, being duly authorised to act on behalf of [Tenderer Company Name], hereby declare that:

- h. All information provided in this proposal is accurate, complete, and not misleading.
- i. The Tenderer has not engaged in any collusion, price fixing, or anti-competitive conduct in connection with this ITT.
- j. The Tenderer meets all mandatory eligibility criteria specified in Section 4 of this ITT.
- k. The stock levels declared in Volume 3 are accurate and verifiable as at the date of submission.
- l. The proposed solar power system is designed and sized to provide a minimum of 48 continuous hours of autonomous operation without solar generation input at each Phase 2 site.
- m. The Tenderer has no undisclosed conflict of interest in relation to this procurement.
- n. The Tenderer accepts the terms and conditions of this ITT and will execute the contract in accordance with this proposal if awarded.

Authorised Signatory Name: _____ Date: _____

Position / Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Company Seal / Stamp:

Annexure C — Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System.
BMS	Battery Monitoring System — electronics protecting and managing battery operations.
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure — one-off infrastructure supply and installation costs.
CWC	Community Wi-Fi Centre — the centralised installation providing community internet within 100m radius.
DoD	Depth of Discharge — percentage of battery capacity discharged.
FRCS	Fiji Revenue and Customs Service.
FJD	Fijian Dollar.
LEO	Low Earth Orbit , providing low-latency broadband.
MPPT	Maximum Power Point Tracking — charge controller technique maximising solar energy harvest.
OPEX	Operational Expenditure — ongoing monthly operating costs.
PV	Photovoltaic — technology converting solar radiation into electrical energy.
ITT	Invitation to Tender — this document.
SLA	Service Level Agreement — minimum performance and response standards.
STC	Standard Test Conditions — 1000 W/m ² , 25°C, AM1.5 for PV panel ratings.
TAF	Telecommunications Authority of Fiji.
Turaga ni Koro	Village head — designated community leader receiving the cabinet key at commissioning.
US Scheme	Universal Service Scheme under Division 4 of Part 3 of the Telecommunications Act 2008.
USA	Universal Service Area — declared under Section 49 of the Telecommunications Act 2008.
USF	Universal Service Fund — trust fund under Section 53 of the Telecommunications Act 2008.
USO	Universal Service Obligation — obligation under Section 50 of the Telecommunications Act 2008.
VAT	Value Added Tax — as applicable under Fijian tax legislation.
VMS	Voucher Management System — digital platform for voucher generation, tracking, and redemption.

— END OF INVITATION TO TENDER —