



UNIVERSAL ACCESS FUND
LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



Invitation to Bid

Upgrade of Fifteen Existing Rural 2G Base Stations to 4G LTE **Design, supply, installation, integration, testing, commissioning and support**

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), through the Universal Access Fund (UAF), invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified telecommunications firms, manufacturers, system integrators, contractors, consortia and joint ventures for the turnkey upgrade of fifteen (15) existing rural 2G base stations to 4G/LTE, including associated backhaul, central systems and power infrastructure. Bidders must demonstrate the capacity to pre-finance implementation and successfully complete a mandatory Proof of Concept before contract award.

Procurement particulars	Details
Reference number	LTA/UAF/ICB/005/2026
Procurement method	International Competitive Bidding
Funding source	UAF Approved Budget 2026
Issue date	13 October 2026
Submission date	24 November 2026.
Procuring entity	Universal Access Fund, Liberia Telecommunications Authority
Address	1st Floor, LTA Office, Menetama Road, Paynesville City, Liberia
Contact	Info@universalaccessfund.com +231 880 777 788
Website and office hours	www.universalaccessfund.com Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

1 Background and objective

The UAF seeks to expand reliable broadband access in underserved rural communities by upgrading fifteen existing GSM sites to standards-based 4G/LTE while preserving essential voice connectivity. The project will deliver an integrated, maintainable network with adequate backhaul capacity, resilient power, secure operations, and sustainable local support. The project is funded through the approved 2026 UAF budget.

2 Scope of the assignment

- Assess all fifteen sites and their associated central or teleport systems, including existing equipment, coverage, traffic, tower condition, access constraints, backhaul, power, and integration dependencies.
- Prepare site-specific engineering designs, network architecture, implementation drawings, equipment schedules, coverage and capacity plans, link budgets, power sizing, and a migration plan.
- Supply, install, and configure 4G/LTE radio, baseband, antenna, and transmission equipment. Maintain 2G voice service or implement an alternative voice solution expressly approved by UAF and the designated mobile network operators.

- Upgrade VSAT or approved alternative backhaul, hub or teleport capacity, IP networking and quality of service. Coordinate secure integration, addressing, interfaces and end-to-end service testing with designated mobile network operators.
- Upgrade solar generation, battery storage, power distribution, grounding, lightning protection and remote energy monitoring based on verified site loads and required autonomy.
- Provide network management, alarms, remote monitoring, cybersecurity controls, and the software and licensing required for the offered solution, along with operating procedures and access-control arrangements.
- Undertake the Proof of Concept, factory and site testing as applicable, commissioning, migration, defect correction, and final acceptance. Protect existing services through approved outage windows and rollback procedures.
- Provide training, as-built documentation, asset records, configuration backups, spares, warranty and technical support, including a credible local maintenance and escalation arrangement.

Rural Base Stations Inventory

Register ID	Site			County
UAF-R01	Parluken	5.11268	-8.21658	Grand Kru
UAF-R02	Gbanka Gborkota	7.2752	-10.06414	Gbarpolu
UAF-R03	Velleyen	6.706604	-9.949543	Bong
UAF-R04	Division #34B	6.47701	-10.2577	Margibi
UAF-R05	Sinyah	6.34244	-9.84112	Grand Bassa
UAF-R06	Vahun	6.11518	-9.45645	Lofa
UAF-R07	Zaih Town	6.621099	-8.946232	Nimba
UAF-R08	Mano Gorduah	7.16394	-10.8924	Grand Cape Mount
UAF-R09	Swen Mecca	6.83181	-10.5798	Bomi
UAF-R10	Yederobo Gbon	4.68995	-7.64251	Maryland
UAF-R11	Putu Tiama	5.64246	-8.14325	Grand Gedeh
UAF-R12	Jarproken	5.28891	-7.84733	River Gee
UAF-R13	Gleo-zohn	6.11518	-9.45645	Rivercess
UAF-R14	Dubiohville	5.32033	-8.99151	Sinoe
UAF-R15	Dweken	5.059733	-8.09687	Grand Kru

3 Eligibility and minimum qualification requirements

Participation shall be open to eligible **domestic and foreign firms**, including joint ventures and consortia, subject to the applicable procurement requirements. Bidders shall provide:

- Certificate of incorporation or registration, ownership information, current business license, tax clearance, and PPCC or e-GP registration evidence, as applicable to the bidder's jurisdiction and procurement requirements.
- Evidence of at least two similar telecommunications assignments successfully completed within the seven years preceding the bid deadline. Each example shall identify the client, location, dates, scope, technology, contract value and bidder's actual role, with completion or acceptance evidence.
- Names, organizations, contact persons, email addresses and telephone numbers for at least three recent clients or entities for which similar assignments have been undertaken. UAF may verify the references.
- OEM authorization, partnership or manufacturer support for the principal equipment and systems offered, together with evidence of interoperability, licensing and access to spares and support.
- A qualified team covering project management, telecommunications engineering, radio access, transmission and backhaul, power systems, network integration, cybersecurity and commissioning. CVs shall demonstrate relevant qualifications, technical expertise, comparable experience and availability.
- A local implementation and service plan covering personnel, field access, maintenance response, spare parts, escalation and knowledge transfer. A joint venture shall identify its lead member, work allocation and responsibility arrangements.
- Declarations concerning conflicts of interest, eligibility, accuracy of information and compliance with applicable anti-corruption requirements.

4 Capacity to pre-finance the project

The successful bidder shall have sufficient financial resources to pre-finance mobilization, procurement, logistics, installation, integration, and commissioning in accordance with the contractual payment milestones. Bidders shall not assume an advance payment unless expressly provided for in the final bidding documents.

Evidence shall include audited financial statements for the most recent three fiscal years, or for the available period for a newly established entity; recent evidence of cash resources and/or committed credit facilities; and a project cash-flow forecast showing expenditures, expected payments, and peak funding requirements. Any credit commitment shall identify the available amount, validity, conditions, and the issuing financial institution. Resources committed to other contracts shall be disclosed.

UAF shall assess available financing against the bidder's documented peak funding requirement and verify the supporting evidence. Final payment milestones, acceptance triggers, security requirements, and any financing threshold shall be specified in the bidding documents. Pre-financing does not relieve UAF of its contractual payment obligations.

5 Mandatory Proof of Concept

Technically responsive bidders whose qualifications and financing capacity are verified must demonstrate the proposed solution through a mandatory Proof of Concept (PoC) before contract award. Passing the

PoC is a condition of eligibility for award; it does not constitute an award or authorization for full deployment.

Each technical proposal shall include a PoC plan that describes the demonstration configuration, equipment, test location, mobilization requirements, dependencies, test methods, schedule, costs, and the evidence to be produced. The demonstration shall sufficiently represent the offered architecture and equipment to substantiate the proposed solution.

The PoC shall demonstrate, as applicable to the final test protocol:

- 4G/LTE connectivity, coverage and capacity performance against stated acceptance thresholds, using specified test conditions and measurement methods.
- Voice continuity or the approved voice migration solution, including integration with designated operators and any service fallback arrangements.
- Backhaul interoperability, throughput, latency and quality of service under representative traffic conditions.
- Power-system suitability, monitoring and resilience, including substantiated autonomy calculations and agreed operational tests.
- Network monitoring, alarms, cybersecurity controls, remote management, fault recovery and commissioning procedures.

The mandatory PoC shall follow the common protocol in the Quantified Acceptance Requirements attachment. Technically compliant and qualified bidders shall demonstrate the offered technology before award, in the sequence set out in the Bid Data Sheet. The protocol establishes the test environment, measurement methods, performance thresholds, verification evidence, cost allocation, and invalid-test rules.

UAF shall witness the demonstration and record the results in accordance with the published protocol. Bidders shall submit test logs, measurements, configurations, and a PoC report. A failed PoC shall be handled in accordance with the disclosed evaluation rules. Any demonstration costs and associated commercial assumptions shall be identified separately in the financial proposal.

6 Implementation outputs

The contractor shall provide an inception and survey report; approved site-specific designs and a bill of quantities; an accepted PoC report; installed and integrated systems; testing and commissioning records for each site; training and handover records; as-built drawings, asset registers, and configuration backups; and warranty and support arrangements. Each output shall be linked to the work schedule and the contractual acceptance process.

7 Required bid submission

Bids shall be submitted in English and signed by an authorized representative. The technical and financial proposals shall be submitted separately using the prescribed sealed-envelope or secure electronic arrangements. Prices shall not appear in the technical proposal.

7 1 Technical proposal maximum twenty pages

The technical narrative shall not exceed twenty (20) pages, including the executive summary, tables, and the work schedule. Supporting annexes, including CVs, corporate eligibility documents, financial-capacity evidence, OEM authorizations, project completion evidence, and references, are excluded from this limit. Annexes shall substantiate the narrative and shall not be used to extend it.

- Understanding of the assignment, rural operating conditions, objectives, existing-system constraints and integration dependencies.
- Proposed technical solution and methodology for surveys, design, procurement, deployment, integration, migration, quality assurance, cybersecurity and acceptance.
- Work plan and proposed work schedule showing the estimated duration of each phase, site sequencing, milestones, deliverables, dependencies, critical activities and overall completion period from contract commencement.
- PoC plan, team organization and responsibilities, deployment arrangements, service continuity measures, risk controls, training and local support.
- Compliance statement against the technical requirements, with assumptions, deviations and exclusions clearly identified.

7 2 Separate financial proposal

The financial proposal shall provide an itemized budget in United States dollars, identifying quantities, units, unit rates, and totals for surveys and design; equipment and software licenses; freight, insurance, customs, and taxes; installation and integration; power and backhaul; PoC; testing and commissioning; training; spares; warranty and support; and any financing costs. State one-time and recurring costs separately, indicate the tax treatment, and reconcile all subtotals to the total bid price.

Include the proposed payment schedule linked to deliverables and acceptance milestones, a cash-flow and pre-financing plan, price validity, and all commercial assumptions. Costs required for a complete operational solution shall be included or explicitly identified. Optional items shall be priced separately.

7 3 Supporting annexes

Attach CVs of key team members; at least two completed similar assignments within the last seven years with supporting evidence; at least three recent client references; legal and administrative eligibility documents; OEM support evidence; financial-capacity documentation; and any joint venture agreement or letter of intent and authorization required by the bidding documents.

8 Evaluation and award

Evaluation shall follow the criteria and sequence set out in the bidding documents, covering administrative responsiveness, technical compliance, comparable experience, personnel, schedule, OEM/local support, verified pre-financing capacity, and the mandatory PoC. Technical and financial proposals shall be separately packaged and opened in the same public session under the Bid Data Sheet; evaluation follows opening.

Evaluation shall be conducted for one complete lot, using the disclosed qualification and technical-compliance requirements and the evaluated cost. Award shall be made to the lowest evaluated, substantially responsive, and qualified bidder that passes the mandatory PoC, subject to required approvals. No new criteria shall be introduced after bid submission.

9 Submission and clarification arrangements

Bid label: “BID — UAF Upgrade of Fifteen Existing Rural 2G Base Stations to 4G/LTE — LTA/UAF/ICB/005/2026”. For physical submission, use separately sealed inner envelopes marked “Technical Proposal” and “Financial Proposal” within one outer envelope bearing the bidder’s name and contact details. For e-GP submission, use the designated separate secure submission fields.

Requests for the bidding documents and written clarifications shall be addressed to the UAF procurement contact listed on the first page. Material clarifications and amendments shall be communicated equally to all bidders via the designated procurement channel. The clarification deadline, site-visit arrangements, bid validity, bid security, and performance security shall be stated in the final bidding documents.

10 Procurement conditions

Procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the applicable Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act, 2026, the PPCC-amended regulations, the applicable standard bidding documents, and the Liberia e-GP procedures. Bidders shall bear their bid preparation costs, subject to any separately disclosed PoC cost arrangements. UAF may reject bids or cancel the procurement in accordance with the applicable law. This invitation does not constitute a commitment to award a contract.