

REQUEST TO BID AUCTION FOR RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM 703-788 MHZ AND 790-862 MHZ

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SPECTRUM AUCTION

703-733 MHz paired with 758-788 MHz (700 MHz)

and

791-821 MHz paired with 832-862 MHz (800 MHz)

REQUEST TO BID

1. INTRODUCTION

The spectrum bands 694-790 MHz and 790-862 MHz are allocated to IMT services on a primary basis. These spectrum bands are commonly referred to as the 700 MHz and 800 MHz spectrum bands and can be used for 4G and 5G services in Namibia. These two spectrum bands are also referred to as the "digital dividend" spectrum.

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia ("the Authority") assumes full responsibility for spectrum assignment based on the principles of independent decision-making and impartiality. It is the Authority's primary and legislative objective to promote competition in the telecommunications sector through efficient spectrum management. To this end, the Authority adopted a holistic approach in determining a roadmap for the release of spectrum for the period 2022-2024. This was designed to provide licensees with regulatory certainty on which spectrum will be made available for assignment to facilitate the rollout of telecommunications and broadcasting networks and implementation of emerging technologies, platforms, and applications to the benefit of the end user.

ICT networks and services plays a vital role in the socio-economic development and digital transformation of Namibia. Therefore, the Authority will make spectrum available subject to the imposition of licence conditions to attain the following national strategic objects-

- (a) Allowing the implementation of new technologies to promote innovation and availability of a wide array of high-quality services to all Namibians as per the objects of the Communications Act and national development plans.
- (b) Ensuring access to broadband networks as per the targets set out in the National Broadband Policy.
- (c) Ensuring that spectrum is utilised to provide broadband services in unserved and underserved areas at prescribed broadband speeds and quality of service minimum parameters.

(d) Ensuring that spectrum is utilised to foster digital transformation beyond the delivery of broadband, through implementation of e-education, e-health, e-agriculture, e-government, and other use cases to realise the true benefits of new technologies.

Further, telecommunications licensees were consulted in respect of the preferred assignment method. It was concluded from the said consultations that the spectrum be made available for assignment via spectrum auction.

2. LEGAL CONTEXT

The Authority was established in terms of the Communications Act, 2009 (Act No. 8 of 2009) ("the Act"). The Authority's mandate in respect of spectrum management is set out in sections 99(1) and (2) of the Act-

- "(1) The Authority is vested with the control, planning, administration, management, and licensing of the radio spectrum.
- (2) In controlling, planning, administering, managing, and licensing the use of the radio frequency spectrum, the Authority must comply with the applicable standards and requirements of the International Telecommunication Union and its Radio Regulations, as agreed to, or adopted by Namibia"

The Authority is also vested with the powers to prescribe a Frequency Band Plan, which defines how radio spectrum must be used, ensuring that such utilisation is managed in an orderly, efficient, and effective manner and providing opportunities for the introduction of the widest range of telecommunications services. Section 101 of the Act empowers the Authority to issue spectrum licenses conferring on the licensee the right to use or cause any person in his or her employ or under his or her control to use a transmitter for any prescribed purpose.

The Authority's Spectrum Assignment Strategy of 2022-2024 sets out the following key objectives for the management of spectrum-

- (i) Facilitate the availability of spectrum to be used as a tool to develop communications services and access to ICT infrastructure as a basis for social and economic development to benefit from the digital transformation and opportunities presented by the 4th industrial revolution (4IR).
- (ii) Promote competition through minimisation of constraints on spectrum use within a service and technology neutral license regime allowing similar services to be offered on different technology platforms.

- (iii) Promote the effective and efficient use of spectrum within the digital divide, and to address gaps in communications services and access to ICT networks and utilisation of these services.
- (iv) Set conditions for spectrum use to ensure efficient use of a scarce resources and prevent anti-competitive practices such as hoarding of spectrum.
- (v) Promote and if necessary, enforce freeing up spectrum space for assignment to emerging technologies and service by phasing out ageing technologies.
- (vi) Ensure fair distribution of spectrum between market players to provide services in conjunction with the category of service licences awarded.
- (vii) Set fees for spectrum use through an appropriate fee system that support the activities of the Authority in a sustainable manner and ensure efficient use of spectrum.
- (viii) Monitor, investigate and enforce adherence to the spectrum management regulatory framework as set out by the Authority.

3. TIMELINES

The planned timelines for key steps of the spectrum auction process are indicated below-

ACTIVITY	DEADLINE	
Publication of the Request to Bid inviting public	15 May 2023	
comments		
Deadline for submission of comments	29 May 2023 at 16h00	
Provision of reply to comments by the Authority	09 June 2023	
Issuance of final Request to Bid document	16 June 2023	
Deadline for Bidders to submit applications	18 July 2023 at 16h00	
Confirmation of Bidders and Gazette Notice	21 July 2023	
Consideration of bids subject to round 1 criteria. 24 – 28 July 2023		
Consideration of monetary bids received (Round 2)	31 July 2023 - 01	
	August 2023	
Notification of results 31 August 2023		
Payment deadline	30 September 2023	
Granting of Spectrum Licence	16 October 2023	

Note to bidders: Kindly acquaint yourselves with submission dates and times. No late submissions will be considered. No condonations will be considered.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE REQUEST TO BID

The Request to Bid sets out the-

- (a) The date, time and place for Spectrum Auction
- (b) Bidder qualification and spectrum auction criteria
- (c) The spectrum to be assigned.
- (d) Licence conditions subject to which the spectrum licence will be issued.
- (e) Publication of Request to Bid.
- (f) Application to participate in spectrum auction.
- (g) Qualification process for Bidders.
- (h) Communications during the spectrum auction process.
- (i) Notification and publication of spectrum auction results.
- (i) Payment of spectrum licence.
- (k) Issuance of spectrum licences.
- (I) Cancellation and return of spectrum licences awarded by spectrum auction.

5. DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF SPECTRUM AUCTION

The spectrum auction will take place as follows-

- Round 1 from 24 July 2023 to 28 July 2023 at CRAN's Head office, Unit 4 &
 5, Moth Centre, Peter Muller St, Windhoek; and
- Round 2 from 31 July 2023 to 1 August 2023 at CRAN's Head office, Unit 4 & 5, Moth Centre, Peter Muller St, Windhoek.

6. BIDDER QUALIFICATION AND SPECTRUM AUCTION CRITERIA

6.1 Bidder Qualification

Participation in the spectrum auction process will be limited to those Bidders that meet the bidder evaluation criteria as set out by the Authority. Participation in the application and qualification process and the spectrum auction process should not be construed, in any way whatsoever as an acceptance or approval of any proposals made by the Bidder in its Request to Bid.

In terms of regulation 7 of the Spectrum Licensing Regulations, the Authority will consider the following evaluation criteria during the Bidder qualification process-

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA	YES/NO
a. The Bidder complied with the procedures and way to submit a B	id
referred to in regulation 6 of the Spectrum Licensing Regulation?	
b. The Bidder has paid the applicable application fee? (N\$ 10,000)	Ś
c. Is the Bidder an established licensee in Namibia or the holder of	а
telecommunications license?	
d. Does the bidder comprise a consortium which may include the	
holder of a telecommunications service licence or broadcastin	-
licence or comprise of the holders of telecommunications service	
licences or broadcasting licences or a combination of suc	
THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF	or
telecommunications services. A consortium involvin	0
broadcasting licensees will be allowed, on condition that the telecommunications service licensee will be providing the	ne ne
services)	
e. Has the bidder demonstrated its ability to –	
(i) meet applicable network coverage and quality of service	e
obligations by the provision of an appropriately detaile	ed
technical network roll-out plan; and	
(ii) provide telecommunications services or broadcasting	ng
services in Namibia through the provision of an appropriate	·ly
detailed business plan.	
f. Has the bidder duly completed and signed the Solvency ar	
Financial Declaration set out in Annexure A , duly completed, an	nd
signed by the Applicant's authorised signatory?	
g. Has the Bidder demonstrated its ability to meet the financi	al
requirement of -	
(i) paying at least the reserve price for the radio frequence spectrum band, in respect of which it submitted a Bid;	Sy
(ii) building and operating a telecommunications network be	24
providing:)
I. an appropriately detailed financial plan which indicate	20
the annual and total funding requirement for the bui	NI .
and operation of the telecommunications network ar	
provision of telecommunication services or broadcastir	1
services until the business operation concerne	
becomes self-funding;	
II. appropriately detailed financing plan which	ch
demonstrates the amount and timings of the sources	of

funds which will be used to meeting the funding requirement referred to in paragraph I; and

III. independent evidence of the availability of the funds identified in the financial plan.

Note to bidder: Please pay attention to the requirements of paragraphs (I)-(III) above when crafting your business plans.

h. Is the bidder in good standing with CRAN; in that all spectrum fees, numbering fees, and all regulatory levies must be paid. Licensees with payment plans, must be up to date. (NB: Please attach a letter of good standing issued by the Regulator).

6.2 Disqualification of Bidder

A Bidder will be disqualified from the bidding process where such Bidder -

- (a) Did not comply with the Bidder Criteria set out in section 5.1 and will not participate in the auction;
- (b) Submitted a Bid and is an affiliate or business associate of another Bidder or has an ownership or financial interest in respect of another Bidder who submitted a Bid relating to the same Request to Bid;
- (c) Has been granted a spectrum licence conferring the right to use radio frequency spectrum under the Frequency Band Plan within the designated frequency range stipulated in the Request to Bid, unless the Bidder has less than the maximum bandwidth made available in terms of the aforesaid Request, in which case the Bidder will only be allowed to Bid for the right to use additional radio frequency spectrum resulting in a total conferment not exceeding the maximum bandwidth available;
- (d) Submitted more than one Bid relating to the designated range of radio frequency spectrum stipulated in the Request to Bid;
- (e) Submitted a Bid containing false or misleading information;
- (f) Is colluding or attempting to collude with another Bidder in order to distort or manipulate information;
- (g) Obtained or acquired confidential information regarding another Bidder;

- (h) Failed to comply with the terms and conditions relevant to the Request to Bid; or
- (i) Failed to comply with a request by the Authority relating to a material aspect of the Bid.

The spectrum auction will take place from **24 July 2023 to 1 August 2023** at CRAN's Head office, Unit 4 & 5, Moth Centre, Peter Muller St, Windhoek.

The spectrum auction will be based on multiple rounds as set out below-

Round 1:

Evaluation of business cases submitted by the respective Bidders will be conducted as per the criteria set out below-

- (a) Deployment of a 4G and 5G network;
- (b) The network must provide broadband services with a minimum downlink data speed of not less than 20 Mbps;
- (c) The bidder must demonstrate adherence to the technical conditions set out in section 7.3 of this bid document;
- (d) The bidder must demonstrate the ability to deploy a network that will meet the rollout obligations set out in section 7.4 of this bid document. The more regions covered, the better the score for this criteria;

 Submission and implementation of a 5G use case over and above providing broadband services aimed at the health, digitalisation of any identified public services, education or agricultural sector as set out in section 8.1;
- (e) Demonstrate the financial ability to build and operate a telecommunications network, through an appropriately detailed financial plan which indicates the annual and total funding requirement for the provision of telecommunication services until the business operation concerned becomes self-funding. The bidder must also submit an appropriately detailed financing plan which demonstrates the amount and timings of the sources of funds which will be used to meeting the funding requirement and independent evidence of the availability of the funds identified in the financial plan.
- (f) Demonstrate how the envisaged business case is aligned to national development goals and milestones as set out in Vision 2030, Universal Access and Services Policy, National Development Plan (NDP) 5, and the Harambee Prosperity Plan II etc;
- (g) Existing spectrum held by operators and efficient utilization thereof, will be considered to avoid the concentration of spectrum in one entity;
- (h) Reliability and sustainability of envisaged business case and network rollout.

 Applicants must demonstrate their ability to construct and operate a

- network, either through previous experience or by partnering with an entity that has the technical knowledge to construct and operate such a network;
- (i) Demonstrate the availability of adequate financial resources to defray the cost of network construction, deployment and roll out, as the case maybe. The bidder must also submit independent proof of fund availability; and
- (j) Any other additional considerations that the operator believes will set their business case apart will be considered as an added advantage.

Note to bidder: Please refer to the weights allocated for each criterion on "Annexure B" to this bid document. Only bidders that score 80% will be considered for Round 2.

Round 2:

Bidders that score more than 80% upon evaluation of their business case in the first round will qualify to participate in Round 2 of the spectrum auction. The reserve price for each lot is set out in section 6. The final auction fees payable will be determined by the auction process during the second round of competitive bidding.

Note to bidder: The bidder submitting the highest financial offer per Lot, will be awarded the license.

SPECTRUM TO BE ASSIGNED

This section should be read together with the following regulatory notices-

- (a) The Frequency Band Plan of Namibia as published in Government Gazette No. 7617, General Notice No. 448 dated 31 August 2021;
- (b) The Frequency Channeling Plan for 800 MHz as published in Government Gazette No. 6160, General Notice No. 423 as published on 28 October 2016;
- (c) The Frequency Channeling Plan for 700 MHz as published in Government Gazette No. 7613, General Notice No. 444 as published on 30 August 2021; and
- (d) The Regulations prescribing Procedures regarding Application for, and Amendment, Renewal or Transfer of Spectrum as published in Government Gazette No. 6888, General Notice No. 105 dated 29 April 2019 (hereinafter referred to as "the Spectrum Licensing Regulations").

The Authority intends to assign spectrum in the spectrum bands 694-790 MHz (FDD) and 790-862 MHz (FDD) for IMT services. The spectrum blocks to be assigned are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2 on the next page-

Figure 1: 694-790 MHz

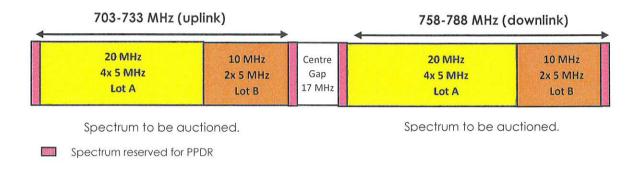
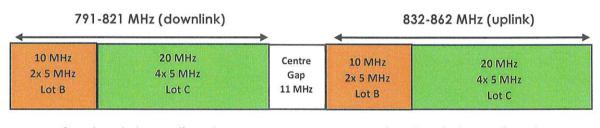


Figure 2: 790-862 MHz



Spectrum to be auctioned.

Spectrum to be auctioned.

The Authority will assign the rights-to-use of the spectrum on a competitive basis, by means of a spectrum auction as indicated below-

- (a) **Lot A:** 703-723 MHz paired with 758-778 MHz
- (b) Lot B: 723-733 MHz paired with 778-788 MHz and 791-801 MHz paired

with 832-842 MHz

(c) Lot C: 801-821 MHz paired with 842-862 MHz

The spectrum will be assigned continuously in two blocks of 4 x 5 MHz (20 MHz) indicated as Lot A and Lot C above and one block will be assigned non-continuously in two blocks of 2×5 MHz (10 MHz each) indicated as Lot B above.

A spectrum cap will be applied in the spectrum auction process and therefore no Bidder, will be allowed to bid for multiple lots.

The spectrum cap is applied to prevent a licensee that already holds spectrum licences below 1 GHz to gain access to all spectrum in the spectrum bands below 1 GHz. This is primarily to ensure fair and equitable access to spectrum for promotion of effective competition in the telecommunications market.

The Authority will only consider the assignment of one lot per Bidder.

The reserve price is the minimum price that the Authority will accept for a specific lot in the spectrum auction process as set out hereunder-

(i) Lot A: N\$ 4,394,250.00 per year (ii) Lot B: N\$ 5,126,625.00 per year (iii) Lot C: N\$ 6,510,000.00 per year

The following methodology was used in setting the reserve price:

• The spectrum price was set in accordance to the formulae as set out in General Notice No 417, Government Gazette No. 7359 as follows:

BWFx FBFx CFx SRHFx GEO x TF

Where BWFx refers to the bandwidth factor, FBFx to the frequency band factor, CF to the coverage factor, SRHFx to the sharing factor, Geo to the geographical factor and TF to the base value. The frequency band factor was set at 2.25 to take into consideration the value and scarcity of the specific frequency band under consideration. Lots A and B used a sharing factor of 0.75 to take into consideration the spectrum currently held by NBC.

 A Bidder is required to apply to participate in the spectrum auction indicating the lot it intends to bid for on its application form. The utilisation of spectrum offered under Lots A and B is limited due to the sharing of spectrum with the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) until 30 June 2024.

Considering the sharing factor with the NBC, the reserve price for Lots A & B is set lower.

The spectrum fees for year 1 will be the auction price in round 2. The prices for years 2-10 will be set by CRAN upon review of the spectrum fees regulation following a rule-making process.

The application fee is N\$ 10,000. This fee is non-refundable.

8. LICENCE CONDITIONS SUBJECT TO WHICH THE SPECTRUM LICENCE WILL BE ISSUED

8.1 General spectrum licence conditions

The spectrum licence is subject to all relevant provisions of the Communications Act, and any amendments thereto, and the Spectrum Licensing Regulations. The holder of the spectrum licence is duly authorized to-

- (a) Transmit any signal by radio waves, use radio apparatus to receive any signal transmitted by radio waves or instruct, permit, or prohibit any person(s) in their employ or under their control to perform any of these actions.
- (b) Use or cause any person in their employ or under their control to use a transmitter for any prescribed purpose or to use a radio frequencies or radio receiver for any purpose and in the manner prescribed or determined in the spectrum licence concerned.

Further-

- (a) The spectrum licence awarded shall not confer any ownership rights of the frequencies indicated on the spectrum licence certificate, but only grant the licensee a right-to-use the spectrum assigned subject to these conditions.
- (b) The spectrum licence awarded authorises the Licensee to utilise the frequencies specified on the spectrum licence certificate within the borders of the Republic of Namibia or any part thereof.
- (c) The Authority reserves the right to amend the spectrum licence after the award thereof, if it finds that the spectrum is not used in accordance to the conditions attached to the licence and re-assign unused spectrum to another licensee following due regulatory process.
- (d) In respect of the 700 MHz band, the authorisation is subject to the sharing of spectrum with the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) in the following sites: Gibeon (762 MHz), Shamvura (786 MHz), Andara (754 MHz) and Nkurenkuru (730 MHz) until 30 June 2024. The Licensee awarded spectrum in the 700 MHz spectrum band may engage the NBC to prevent interference.
- (e) The Authority will monitor the efficient use of the spectrum assigned and may request the licensee to provide evidence of the use of the assigned spectrum.

- (f) The spectrum use licence is awarded for the sole use of the licence holder. The trading or subleasing of the spectrum licence awarded, is strictly prohibited.
- (g) Hoarding of spectrum is strictly prohibited.
- (h) Transfer of the spectrum licence without prior approval by the Authority is strictly prohibited.

The Licensee shall utilise the assigned frequencies specified to provide international mobile services (IMT) maintaining a downlink data speed of not less than 20 Mbps and in compliance with the Quality-of-Service Regulations.

The Licensee shall utilise the assigned frequencies specified to provide 4G and 5G mobile services in accordance with the frequency channeling plans gazetted for the spectrum bands assigned. The utilisation of assigned spectrum to provide 2G or 3G services is strictly prohibited.

All equipment utilised must be type approved prior to importation, implementation, sale or use thereof within the borders of Namibia as provided in section 80 of the Communications Act.

8.2 Licence Term and Renewal

The spectrum licence is valid for a period of ten (10) years from the date of publication of the award in the Government Gazette.

The Authority may renew the spectrum licence for a further period of ten (10) years in terms of regulation 13 of the regulations prescribing Procedures regarding Applications for, and Amendment, renewal, Transfer and Cancellation of Spectrum Licences contained in Government Gazette No. 6888, General Notice No. 104 of 29 April 2019.

The spectrum license fees payable on renewal will be as prescribed in the Gazette published at the time of renewal.

8.3 Technical Conditions

The Licensee shall comply, in its use of the assigned frequencies, to the Frequency Band Plan for Namibia as published in the Government Gazette from time to time.

The Licensee shall comply in its use of the frequencies specified on the spectrum licence certificate to ITU Regulations and Recommendations pertaining to typical technical and operational characteristics of IMT systems as published from time to time which includes amongst others-

- (a) Recommendation ITU-R M.2012-5 (02/2022): Detailed specifications of the terrestrial radio interfaces of International Mobile Telecommunications-Advanced (IMT-Advanced).
- (b) Recommendation ITU-R M.2150-1 (02/2022): Detailed specification of the terrestrial radio interfaces of International mobile Telecommunications-2020 (IMT-2020).

Utilisation of the assigned radio frequency spectrum is subject to maximum radiated power as set out hereunder-

- (a) Mobile stations transmissions must not exceed 23 dBm E.I.R.P.
- (b) The in-block base station power limit is 64 dBm/5 MHz E.I.R.P.
- (c) A higher E.I.R.P. may be permitted if technical justification has been provided. Approval of such a concession will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Authority prior to any implementation thereof.
- (d) Subscriber terminal stations should comply with technical specifications as outlined in the latest version of 3GPP specifications (TS 36.521-1 for 4G(LTE) and TS 38.521-1 for 5G New Radio (NR)

The Licensee must prevent harmful interference with other licensees in the same or adjacent spectrum bands on a national level.

The Licensee must prevent harmful interference with other licensees across international borders, in line with the coordination distances set out below. Coordination distances may be reviewed by the Authority from time to time.

To this end, the use of the spectrum as assigned will require coordination with neighboring countries within the coordination zones setout hereunder-

- (a) 6 km in case of coordination carried out for 4G-to-4G technology from the neighbouring country.
- (b) 9 km in case of coordination carried out from 4G-to-other technologies from the neighbouring country.

The Licensee is required to inform the Authority in advance of its intention to construct and operate its network within the perimeters set out above, to allow for conclusion of coordination process pertaining to the use of frequencies between

the regulatory bodies of the affected countries prior to the provision of telecommunications services.

8.4 Rollout Obligations

The spectrum to be assigned must be utilised for mobile services and the broadband services with a download speed of not less than 20 Mbps to ensure meaningful connectivity. The Authority reserves the right to revise the speed to ensure compliance with future policy reforms.

The Authority is cognisant of universal broadband connectivity goals for availability of broadband services set out in the Harambee Prosperity Plan II and the National Broadband Policy. Amongst others, these goals are set to ensure connectivity at primary and secondary schools, health facilities, public sector agencies and marginalized inhabitants within the Republic of Namibia in support of these goals. The status of 4G connectivity is shown in **Table 1** on the next page.

Table 1: 4G Population Coverage

	Population	4G Population coverage	Policy Objective of minimum of 80%	People not covered by 4G
!Karas	88,477	81%	Above	17,194
Erongo	216,727	94%	Above	12,630
Hardap	96,016	77%	Below	22,157
Kavango East	163,061	83%	Above	28,330
Kavango West	91,834	59%	Below	38,005
Khomas	472,107	97%	Above	12,346
Kunene	109,021	41%	Below	64,320
Ohangwena	273,209	93%	Above	20,378
Omaheke	79,370	57%	Below	34,020
Omusati	268,337	95%	Above	12,964
Oshana	200,565	98%	Above	3,468
Oshikoto	214,012	80%	Below	42,687
Otjozondjupa	163,536	75%	Below	41,515
Zambezi	107,692	78%	Below	23,508
Namibia	2,543,965	85%	Above	373,524

Source: CRAN Market Report, 2022, www.cran.na

All Bidders are required to submit a detailed business case, inclusive of rollout plans for the next 3 years aimed at expanding broadband connectivity in those regions with less than 80% 4G population coverage to meet the national objective of 80% population coverage. Furthermore, this plan will be considered as one of the bidder's criteria contained in section 8.1 in determining eligibility of applicants to participate in this auction.

Evaluation will be carried out of the business plan as submitted with the application to participate in the contest and no amplification of the business case submitted after the due date will be considered. The Authority may however, request for clarity on aspect of the business case, during evaluation, if need be. The criteria for evaluation of the business case are set out in section 5.

The spectrum licence will be awarded subject to licence conditions. These conditions will amongst other include network roll-out plans as proposed by the licensee and accepted by the Authority. License conditions will be enforced in terms of the provisions of the Communications Act, and the Spectrum licensing Procedure Regulations.

The Licensee is under no obligation to construct its own infrastructure to meet the abovementioned rollout obligations and may enter infrastructure sharing agreements with other licensees or utilities as provided in terms of the Communications Act and the Infrastructure Sharing Regulations.

Note to bidder: To score a high mark for this criterion, a business case must be designed to increase coverage in all the regions below 80% as reflected above in table 1. The less the number of regions, the less your score. Please also stick to the coverage data contained in this section and the referenced market report. The utilisation of any other coverage data may negatively affect your score. Speeds below 20 Mbps will also negatively affect the score.

8.5 Payment of Spectrum Fees

The spectrum licence will be issued subject to payment of the price in full as follows-

- (a) Licence fees will be payable over a period of ten (10) years from date of issuance.
- (b) The licence fee will be payable annually in advance for each calendar year within 30 days from the invoice date, except for the first year's payment that will be due prior to the spectrum licence coming into effect through publication of the final notice to be published in the Government Gazette
- (c) The spectrum fees payable for years 2-10 will be calculated in accordance with the Regulations setting out Fees for Spectrum Licences, Certificates and Examinations as published in the Government Gazette from time to time.
- (d) The Licensee may pay the spectrum fees upfront for the initial 3-year period, in which case the Licensee will receive a discount of 10% on the fees payable.

In case of no payment, delayed or incomplete payment received by the deadline(s) as set out in the results notification, the Authority reserves the right to cancel the results notification and spectrum licence.

Should the spectrum licence be renewed after the initial 10-year licence period, the Licensee will be required to pay the annual spectrum fees as set out in the Spectrum Fee Regulations at the time of renewal.

8.6 Reporting, Monitoring and Compliance

The Licensee must report quarterly to the Authority on its progress to meet the rollout obligations as set by the Authority. All reports must be submitted utilising the CRAN portal.

The Authority may, while carrying out its obligations under the Act and regulatory framework, require the Licensee to provide access to their transmitter sites and submit information when requested, to enable it to -

- (a) To assess efficient use of spectrum.
- (b) Monitor and enforce quality of service and compliance with licence conditions.
- (c) Investigate harmful interference.
- (d) Monitor and enforce any provisions of the Act or other regulations.

8.7 Cancellation

The Authority reserves the right to cancel the spectrum licence due to non-payment of spectrum fees, contravention of the license conditions, provisions of the Act or the Spectrum Licensing Regulations. If the licensee fails to make payment of the spectrum price or part of the spectrum auction price as per the payment schedule set out in the result notification the Authority will cancel the licence in terms of regulation 19 of the Spectrum Licensing Regulations.

If a licensee has their spectrum licence cancelled, the spectrum fees paid and any other payments relating to the spectrum licence, will not be refunded by the Authority.

9. BIDDER'S CONDUCT

Bidders and Applicants, collectively referred to as "Participants" includes any additional entity or person who has knowledge of a Participant's confidential information. Such entities or persons may include financiers, consultants, legal advisors, and vendors. Participants must provide a list of such entities or persons in their application and must notify the Authority of any change to the list.

Participants must refrain from any activity which may compromise the integrity of the spectrum auction process, including the sharing of confidential information and rules of conduct as set out below.

9.1 Confidential information

Confidential information means any information which, if known to another participant, may influence its conduct during the spectrum auction process.

Confidential information relates to –

- (a) Participation in the spectrum auction process itself; and
- (b) The participant's business case, financial information, spectrum lot and bid value.

It is possible that a Participant is unaware that it has an entity or person with knowledge of confidential information in common with another Participant. If the Authority identifies that two (2) or more Participants have an entity or person in common, it shall-

- (a) Notify in the Applicants concerned and provide a deadline by which they may apply for an exemption from the Rules of Conduct relating to such entities or persons.
- (b) Require one or more of the Applicants to end the involvement of such persons or entities in their participation in the spectrum auction process.
- (c) Exclude the affected Applicants from the spectrum award process.

Participants seeking an exemption must demonstrate to the Authority that measures have been put in place to ensure that no confidential information is shared between Participants.

The Authority may take appropriate actions to verify that such measures exist and are effective. The Authority may, at its sole discretion, grant an exemption form the Rules of Conduct relating to common persons or entities with access to confidential information.

If the Authority does not grant an exemption, and the Applicants do not rectify the breach of conduct to the satisfaction of the Authority, the Authority will exclude the Participants from further participation in the spectrum auction process.

If it is not possible to rectify the situation by the deadline set by the Authority and no exemption has been granted, then one or more of the Participants may withdraw from the spectrum auction process prior to the deadline so that it is not necessary for the Authority to exclude all affected parties.

If the commonality is identified later in the spectrum auction process, the Authority may take whatever action it deems necessary to ensure the integrity of the spectrum auction process.

Information submitted by the licensees will be treated as confidential, provided the operator has complied with the provisions of section 28 of the Communications Act, and will not be shared with other licensees or the public.

Operators are however invited to note that the outcome of the contest (i.e. the fact that an award has been made to the operator) and the rollout and coverage obligations will be made public.

9.2 Rules of Conduct

The Rules of Conduct governing the behavior of Participant are applicable from the date of publication of the draft Request to Bid to the date on which the Authority publicly announce the award of spectrum licences.

Participant must refrain from any activity which may result in compromising the integrity of the spectrum auction process. Such activities may include, but are not limited to-

- (a) Submitting false or misleading information as part of its application.
- (b) Failing to update the Authority in a timely manner of any material changes to information provided as part of the application process.
- (c) Submitting more than one application relating to the same lot stipulated in the Request to Bid.
- (d) Communicating confidential information to any other Participant either by making such information public or by communicating such information directly or indirectly via a third party to another Participant and/or seeking to obtain confidential information in relation to any other Participant.
- (e) Communicating with other Participants or undertaking any activity with the intention to collude or attempt to collude with another Bidder to distort or manipulate information.
- (f) Entering into any agreement with another Participant in respect of the spectrum award process or the subsequent use or sharing of any spectrum licence which may be granted because of the spectrum auction process.

- (g) Seeking to communicate directly or indirectly with the Authority's staff, management and board members or advisors in relation to the spectrum auction process other than by the mechanisms described in the Request to Bid.
- (h) Any other breach of the spectrum auction rules.

A participant must notify the Authority in writing if it has evidence to believe that it or another Participant has or may have breached the Rules of Conduct.

9.3 Penalties

If the Authority finds a Participant to be in breach of the Rules of Conduct, the Authority may, at its sole discretion, apply a penalty to that Participant. Penalties may include, but are not limited to, one of the following-

- (a) Exclusion of the spectrum auction process.
- (b) Suspension or revocation of the Participant's spectrum licence assigned *via* spectrum auction.

The Authority may also seek penalties for breach of the Rules of Conduct under regulation 28 of the licensing procedure regulations.

If a breach of the Rules of Conduct occurred due to the actions of other entities and persons then the Authority may, at its sole discretion, waive or limit the penalties if it can be shown that the breach occurred without the Participant's knowledge, or that the Participant had taken all reasonable steps to avoid the breach or that the breach has not materially damaged the integrity of the spectrum auction process.

10. PUBLICATION OF REQUEST TO BID

The Authority will publish the draft Request to Bid on the Authority's website (www.cran.na) and publish a regulatory 6(1) notice in the Government Gazette, which will be send via email to all telecommunications service licensees. Notification of the publication of the final Request to Bid and any additional information will also be sent directly to any interested party or telecommunications service licensee that registered with the Authority.

Any telecommunications service licensee interested in participating in the spectrum auction process may submit, in writing, submit comments to the Authority in respect of any aspect of the Request to Bid by **16h00 on 9 June 2023**.

The Authority will respond collectively to comments by **16 June 2023** without identifying the party that submitted the question by email to all entities that submitted comments.

Any party not wishing any part of its comments to be communicated to all parties, should clearly mark the relevant part as "confidential" and the Authority will take this into account in terms of section 28 of the Communications Act when deciding whether to communicate such comments and responses.

11. APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN SPECTRUM AUCTION

11.1 Application Procedure and Deadline

The application must consist of the following-

- (a) One (1) duly completed application form as set out in Annexure A.
- (b) One (1) hard copy of the application information listed in section 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, and 10.5 of the Request to Bid.
- (c) One (1) electronic copy on USB or CD included with hard copies of the same information requested in (b).
- (d) A completed copy of the application checklist as set out in **Annexure C**.

The application documents, must be delivered in a sealed package and marked only with the words "APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN 700 MHZ and 800 MHZ SPECTRUM CONTEST"

addressed to:

The Chief Executive Officer
Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia
Moth Centre | Unit 3 – 5 Peter Müller Street Windhoek
Namibia

The application deadline is **16h00** on **18 July 2023**. No late applications will be accepted, and no condonations applications will be considered after the due date.

Applications must be delivered by hand or courier. All applications will be dated, and time stamped. Applicants will be given a receipt acknowledging the submission of their application.

No applications will be opened by the Authority before 16h00 on 18 July 2023.

Applicants are obliged to inform the Authority of any material change in their circumstances which affect the information provided in their application as soon as reasonably possible.

11.2 General information

Applicants must provide all general information as set out hereunder-

- (a) Application form, attached hereto as **Annexure C**, duly completed, and signed by the Applicant's authorized signatories.
- (b) Appropriate evidence that the two (2) persons signing the application form are duly authorized by the Applicant to do so. Appropriate evidence may include-
 - (i) A board resolution from the Applicant; or
 - (ii) An irrevocable power of attorney.
- (c) The declaration to abide by the Rules of Conduct including restrictions on confidential information and spectrum auction rules as set out in **Annexure** B, duly completed, and signed by the Applicant's authorized signatory.
- (d) Proof of payment of the application fee of ten thousand Namibian Dollars(N\$10,000.00) to the following bank account-

Account Name: Communications Regulatory Authority of

Namibia

Bank Name: Bank Windhoek Account Number: 8002848071

Branch: Capricorn Branch Code: 486-372

Type of Account: Cheque Account **REF**: 700 & 800MHZ-Name of entity

- (e) Certified copies of the following documents of the Applicant-
 - (i) Memorandum and Articles of Association for registered companies
 - (ii) Certificate of incorporation for registered companies
- (f) The Authority reserves the right to request any further information in respect of the application, at its sole discretion, to determine whether the participation of the Applicant complies with the laws of the Republic of Namibia and the spectrum auction rules.

11.3 Information related to associates, affiliates, entities, and persons.

Applicants must provide the following information-

- (a) Complete ownership structure of the Applicant with sufficient information to identify the ultimate owner and controlling interest in the Applicant.
- (b) The identity of any person or entity that the Applicant knows to be or reasonably believe to be also associated or affiliated with another Applicant.
- (c) Ground for exemption should an Applicant wish to seek exemption on the Rules of Conduct based on an association or affiliation with another Applicant.
- (d) The identity of persons or entities who have knowledge of the Applicant's confidential information. The Applicant must provide the following information in respect of identified person or entities-
 - (i) Name.
 - (ii) Position; and
 - (iii) Organization.

11.4 Technical and Operational Information

Applicants should submit-

- (a) Certified copies of their telecommunications service licence certificate.
- (b) Evidence that it is in good standing with the Authority in respect of all spectrum fees including 2023. In the event of licensees that have entered a payment plan with the Authority, such licensee should be up to date on the payment plan.
- (c) A duly signed undertaking by the Licensee to comply with all technical conditions set out in section 7.3.
- (d) A detailed business plan inclusive of an annual technical network rollout plan which demonstrates its ability to meet the network rollout obligations and other licence conditions as specified in section 7.4. This plan should as a minimum include-
 - (i) The number of sites to be implemented at the end of each year.
 - (ii) Coverage maps in respect of each site.
 - (iii) Transmission and backhaul plan.
 - (iv) Network equipment cost assumptions.
 - (v) Total annual network related capital expenditure.
 - (vi) IMT-2020 use case/application to be implemented.

All Applicants must provide a financial plan demonstrating their ability to meet the financial requirements to pay, as a minimum, the spectrum fees for the 1st 3 years for the spectrum licence to be awarded via spectrum auction, construction and operation of the network and providing telecommunications services. This plan should include, as a minimum-

- (i) Indicate the annual and total funding requirement for the build and operation of the network and telecommunications services utilising the spectrum licence as awarded.
- (ii) A business plan with financial projections setting out at least the revenue forecast, detailed OPEX and CAPEX per annum for the first 5 years, any loans or capital requirements to indicate how the plan will be funded.
- (iii) Latest annual financial statements or any other financial information that would assist the Authority to determine the probability of the licensee succeeding and implementing the business plan.
- (iv) Independent evidence of availability of funds identified in the financing plan.

11.5 Demand for lots

The Applicant must specify the lot which it is legally bound to make a Bid for during the spectrum auction. The lot specified on the application form cannot be changed once the auction process commenced.

The Applicant may indicate an alternative lot, that may be considered by the Authority, should no successful bids be received for all lots offered.

12. QUALIFICATION PROCESS FOR BIDDERS

The Authority will consider all applications submitted by the application deadline. Applications will first be reviewed based on compliance to application requirements. Applicants will be deemed non-compliant if-

- (a) The Applicant has not adhered to the application requirements set out in section 10.
- (b) The Applicant has not paid the application fee.
- (c) The Applicant is not in good standing with the Authority.

The Authority will secondly review all compliant applications against the Rules of Conduct in respect of associated and affiliated Applicants.

If the Authority found an Applicant to be associated or affiliated with another Applicant, the Authority shall notify the Applicants affected and set the deadline by which time the Applicants must-

- (a) Apply for an exemption form the Rules of Conduct in respect of associates and affiliates.
- (b) Nominate a single entity to participate in the spectrum auction.
- (c) Bring the relationship to an end; or
- (d) Refrain from further participation in the spectrum auction.

Applicants, who remain non-compliant with the Rules of Conduct in respect of associates and affiliates by the deadline specified above, may be disqualified at the sole discretion of the Authority. Such an Applicant will not be permitted to participate in any further stages of the spectrum auction process.

At the same time as the review of the Rules of Conduct in respect of associated and affiliated Applicants, the Authority will also review all compliant applications to identify whether two or more Applicants have an entity or person in common. The Authority will notify the Applicants affected and set the deadline by which time the Applicants must-

- (a) Apply for an exemption form the Rules of Conduct in respect of such entities or persons.
- (b) End the involvement of such entities or persons in the spectrum auction process; or
- (c) Refrain from further participation in the spectrum auction.

Applicants, who remain non-compliant with the Rules of Conduct in respect of common entities or persons by the deadline specified above, may be disqualified at the sole discretion of the Authority. Such an Applicant will not be permitted to participate in any further stages of the spectrum auction process.

Lastly, the Authority will review all compliant applications that conform to the Rules of Conduct on associates, affiliates and common entities or persons against the Bidder qualification criteria set out in section 11 of the Request to Bid. The Authority may request additional information from the Applicant, if required, to decide whether the Applicant has met all qualification criteria.

The Authority will individually inform Applicants that have qualified as Bidders in the spectrum auction. The Authority will also notify Applicants that have not met the qualification criteria.

If, at any time during the spectrum auction, a Bidder is found to have submitted information that is materially incomplete or incorrect, the Authority will take whatever measures deemed necessary. Necessary measures may include terminating the Bidder's participation in the spectrum auction or nullifying the results of the spectrum auction.

The notice to Applicants informing them that they have qualified as Bidders, will also include the spectrum auction model to be followed and any additional instructions given by the Authority.

13. COMMUNICATION DURING THE SPECTRUM AUCTION PROCESS

13.1 Communication before and after the spectrum auction

The Authority will email all relevant information, documents and updates to Applicants and Bidders.

Prior to the spectrum auction start date and after the spectrum auction, Applicants and Bidders can contact the Authority either via email or in writing-

Chief Executive Officer

Communications Authority of Namibia

Moth Centre | Unit 3 – 5 Peter Müller Street, Windhoek Windhoek

Namibia

Email: SpectrumAuction@cran.na

13.2 Communication during the spectrum auction process

The Authority may use phone or email to send individual messages to Bidders. Bidders should not need to contact the Authority during the auction process except in exceptional circumstances. In an exceptional circumstance, Bidders can communicate with the Authority via email, SpectrumAuction@cran.na.

14. NOTIFICATION AND PUBLICATION OF SPECTRUM AUCTION RESULTS

The Authority will notify all successful Bidders in writing, after conclusion of the spectrum contest. The notification will set out-

- (a) The spectrum lot that has been awarded to the Bidder;
- (b) The total amount payable that the Bidder is required to pay to the Authority prior to the publication of the licence award in the Government Gazette, which date will give effect to the issuance of the spectrum licence;
- (c) The deadline by which the initial payment is to be made as well as subsequent annual payments until the auction price is paid in full to the Authority.

The Authority will publish the results of the spectrum auction in terms of regulation 9 of the Spectrum Licensing Regulations in the Government Gazette. The public notice will contain the following information-

- (a) The number of Bidders that participated in the spectrum auction.
- (b) The identity of the successful Bidder(s).
- (c) The spectrum assigned to each successful Bidder.

Participants in the spectrum auction are prohibited from announcing or publishing information pertaining to the spectrum auction, until such time that the Authority has made the spectrum auction results public.

15. PAYMENT OF SPECTRUM LICENCE

Bidder(s) are required to make payment in full by the payment deadline(s) as set out in the result notification from the Authority. The due amount(s) will be stipulated in Namibian Dollars. Payments should be made to-

Account Name: Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

Bank Name: Bank Windhoek Account Number: 8002848071

Branch: Capricorn **Branch Code**: 486-372

Type of Account: Cheque Account

REF: 700 and 800 MHz auction – Name of bidder

In case of no payment, delayed or incomplete payment received by the deadline(s) as set out the in the results notification, the Authority has the right to

give notice of cancellation of the spectrum licence in terms of regulation 19 of the Spectrum Licensing Regulations.

16. ISSUANCE OF SPECTRUM LICENCES

The Authority will award the spectrum licence in accordance with the spectrum auction results provided that the successful Bidder has paid the applicable spectrum fees.

17. CANCELLATION AND RETURN OF SPECTRUM LICENCES AWARDED

Without limiting any other grounds on which the Authority may cancel a spectrum license in terms of the Communications Act, 2009, the Authority may cancel the awarded spectrum licence due to a material breach of the licence condition as envisaged by regulation 18, and in terms of the procedure set out under regulation 19 of the Spectrum Licensing Regulations.

If a Licensee intends to permanently discontinue providing the services for which the licence was issued, it must request the Authority to withdraw the licence by submitting to the Authority an application provided under regulation 16 of the Spectrum Licensing Regulations.

When a spectrum licence is cancelled by the Authority or withdrawn by the licensee, any fees due and paid will not be refunded by the Authority. The licensee remains liable for any fees due and payable at the time of application for withdrawal of a spectrum licence.

ANNEXURE A

SOLVENCY AND FINANCIAL DECLARATION

l	, d	uly authorised, hereby declare that I
have m	nade a full inquiry into the affairs of	
having	g done so, have formed the opinion tho	t the Bidder is solvent and is not-
(i)	in default of loan payments or in neg proceedings;	gotiations regarding debt settlement
(ii)	insolvent or the subject of a liquidati	on or winding-up application; or
(iii)	in the process of passing or in the parties for a voluntary winding up.	- · · · ·
Applico	ant Name	
Signed	l for and on behalf	
of the A	Applicant	
	ure of those persons who are empowered to bir ed to bind the Applicant)	nd the Applicant or are otherwise
Date		

ANNEXURE B

ROUND 1 BIDDING EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria	Weight
(a) Deployment of a 4G and 5G network and provisioning of broadband services with a minimum downlink data speed of not less than 20 Mbps	25
(b) Adherence to the technical conditions set out in section 7.3. This includes: i. Recommendation ITU-R M.2012-5 (02/2022): Detailed specifications of the terrestrial radio interfaces of International Mobile Telecommunications-Advanced (IMT-Advanced). (Contributes 50%) ii. Recommendation ITU-R M.2150-1 (02/2022): Detailed specification of the terrestrial radio interfaces of International mobile Telecommunications-2020 (IMT-2020). (Contributes 50%)	10
(c) Deployment of a network that will meet the rollout obligations set out in section 7.4 of the bid document. The more regions below 80% that will be covered, the better the score	20
(d) Implementation of a 5G use case over and above providing broadband services aimed at the e-health, digitalization of any identified public services, e-education or e-agriculture as set out in section 8.1;	10
(e) Demonstrate the financial ability to build and operate a telecommunications network, through an appropriately detailed financial plan which indicates the annual and total funding requirement for the provision of telecommunication services until the business operation concerned becomes self-funding. The bidder must also submit an appropriately detailed financing plan	15

which demonstrates the amount and timings of the sources of funds which will be used to meeting the funding requirement and independent evidence of the availability of the funds identified in the financial plan.	
(f) Demonstrate the amount of spectrum that the bidder holds below 1 GHz. Existing spectrum holdings with the least spectrum below 1 GHz will score the highest. (The more spectrum held below 1 GHz, the lower the score)	5
(g) Reliability and sustainability of envisaged business case and network rollout. Bidders must demonstrate their ability to construct and operate a network either through previous experience or by partnering with an entity that has the technical knowledge to construct and operate such a network.	15
	100

ANNEXURE C

APPLICATION FORM

In terms of section 101(2) of the Communications Act, No. 8 of 2009, read with regulation 6 of the Regulations prescribing Procedures regarding Application for, and Amendment, Renewal Transfer and Cancellation of Spectrum Licences, as published in Government Gazette No. 6888, General Notice No. 104 dated 29 April 2019, a licensee intending to participate in the spectrum auction to be held from 24 July 2023 to 1 August 2023 is required to complete this application form.

The application form must be submitted together with the application fee and all supporting documentation as set out in the Request to Bid by the submission deadline of 16h00 on 18 July 2023.

APPLICANT:

Applicant

(Full and official		
names)		
Company		
Registration No.		
CONTACT PERSON:		
Contact Person:		
(Full and Official No	ame(s))	
<u>'</u>		
Physical Address		

Postal Address	
Telephone Number(s)	
Facsimile Number(s)	
Email Address(s)	

SIGNATORIES TO APPLICATION FORM

Name and Position of	Person 1:
the two (2) persons who	
will sign the application	Name
form	Position
	Person 2:
	Name
	Position
	1 Camon

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR BIDDING

Three (3) authorised	Person 1:
persons whom will be	
responsible for bidding	Name
	Address
	Email
	Phone
	Person 2:

	Name
	Address
	Email
	Phone
	Person 3:
	Name
	Address
	Email
	Phone

LOTS BEING BID FOR

Lot to be bidder for during the	
spectrum auction	
Alternative lot (if so preferred by	
the Applicant	

ANNEXURE D

DECLARATION

		and	, having
beer	n appointed as authorize		hereby
unde	ertake, warrant and decla	re on behalf of the Applicant,	that:
(a)		to participate in the spectrum sary approval in this regard.	auction process and
(b)	The information containe	ed in the Applicant's application the Authority of any mater	
(d)	To its knowledge, the Ap	oplicant confirms that it is not as tor another entity which m	
(e)	The Applicant will take o	all reasonable measures to ens sed to another party other th	
(f)		from any action that could ha	ive an adverse effect
(g)	•	ply with the Spectrum Auction	Rules as contained in
(h)	The Applicant confirms obligations under the ter	s that it has the financial re rms and payment schedule and Authority were it to be awarded action process.	d to meet the licence
Signe	icant Name ed for and on behalf e Applicant		
	(Signature of those persons	who are empowered to bind the Apauthorised to bind the Applicant)	plicant or are otherwise
	e of Signatory in capital letters		
Date			

ANNEXURE E

APPLICATION CHECK LIST

All Applicants are required to complete the checklist to confirm all information is included in the application.

1	Completed and signed Annexure A			
2	Completed and signed Annexure C			
3	Completed and signed Annexure D			
4	1 hard copy and 1 electronic copy of the following documents			
	(a)	Evidence of authorization to sign the application form as set		
		out in section 10.2		
	(b)	Proof of payment of the application fee		
	(c)	Certified copies of memorandum and articles of association, certificate of incorporation or certificate of compliance		
	(d)	Information relating to associates, affiliates, entities, and person if applicable as set out in section 10.3		
	(e)	Technical and operational information as set out in section 10.4		
	(f)	A duly signed undertaking by the Licensee to comply with all technical conditions set out in section 7.3		
5	Completed checklist			