

Montserrat Submarine Cable Project RFP

Clarifications: 1 - 4

Last updated: 20/02/2019

The following questions related to the Montserrat Submarine Fibre Project RFP were received by the Government of Montserrat via the online Tenders Portal or via email. If you have questions, please send them via the portal or to the Head of Procurement at jutleh@gov.ms.

Question 1:

We have reviewed the information and are wondering whether there is any additional information; +DTS +Geophysical Surveys +Likely routes for the cable?

Answer 1:

The Government is not providing any specific guidelines on the exact Route of the cable. We will consider what the Suppliers propose as the optimal route(s) with regard to efficiency, cost and available redundancy.

Desk Top Surveys, Geophysical Surveys and Bathymetries, are the responsibility of the Supplier.

Question 2:

Would the Government be interested in an installation only proposal, with the opportunity to establish its own maintenance agreement with a maintenance organisation such as NASCA?

Answer 2:

At this time Government of Montserrat is entertaining proposals for the Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of a subsea cable system.

However, you are free to make any proposals that you think the government would find advantageous to fulfill its requirements for subsea fibre connectivity.

Question 3:

Is the station in Montserrat under the scope of the supplier?
If yes, is there available a selected land and/or an available building?

Answer 3:

Yes, the landing station in Montserrat falls under the scope of the Supplier.

The Supplier should indicate in their proposal, whether they would use a Beach Manhole only and connect to an existing telco facility; or if a purpose built landing station will form part of the proposal.

We are not insisting that the cable is to be landed at a predetermined location; therefore the availability of land for locating a landing station should form part of the Supplier's private surveys.

Question 4:

Do you consider as an acceptable offer to connect the Montserrat branch to a Branching Unit to be included in one of the neighbouring existing cable? As ECFS for example?

Answer 4:

It is up to the Suppliers to propose viable and practical solutions to implement the project.

Keep in mind that price is not the only factor in determining the preferred solution. It would be expected that all of the merits of implementing a Branching Unit into an existing cable would be highlighted.

To use your example. We are aware that the ECFS wet plant is already 24 years old. You would therefore need to present information that assures us that this would not be a disadvantage for Montserrat, with regard to the long-term durability of the link and/or future upgrades.

Additional Questions and Answers will be added to this document as they become available.