Caribbean Telecommunications Union

Request for Expressions of Interest to Perform a Current State Assessment of Telecommunications and ICT Policies, Laws and Regulatory Frameworks In CTU Member States

1. Background

The CARICOM Heads of Government approved the Vision and Roadmap for the establishment of a Single ICT Space on 17th March 2017 with a view to to enhancing the environment for investment and production by building a CARICOM digital economy.

The CARICOM Single ICT Space is defined as an ecosystem of regionally harmonised ICT policies, legislation, regulations, technical standards, best practices, networks and services. It is envisioned to be **"an ICT-enabled space that fosters economic, social and cultural integration for the betterment of Caribbean citizens."**

The objective of the CARICOM Single ICT Space is to provide the ICT-enabled foundation for enhancing both CARICOM's functional cooperation and fulfilling the social, cultural and economic imperatives of the region.

To meet this objective, the CARICOM Single ICT Space will require:
    a. Regionally harmonised ICT Policy, legal and regulatory regimes;
    b. Robust national and regional broadband infrastructure;
    c. Common frameworks for Governments, ICT service providers and consumers; and
    d. Effective, secure technology and management system.

2. Expected Outcomes

The CARICOM Single ICT Space will provide a functional digital layer for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and advance the competitiveness of all CARICOM States. Accordingly, the anticipated outcomes include:
*   Creating an environment more conducive to investment;
*   Efficient delivery of e-Government Services to the public;
*   Greater opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship;
*   Emergence of a digital economy in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy; and
*   Eliminating roaming charges among the CARICOM States.

3. Overview of the Sector Development

The liberalisation of the telecommunication sector in the Caribbean began in 1999 when most of the countries had signed commitments with the World Trade Organisation to break the prevailing monopoly arrangements. Over the course of the next decade a wave of liberalisation to swept the Caribbean with different countries adopting diverse regimes and arrangements. Market liberalisation was essentially in the mobile market and the incumbent continued to dominate the fixed line market. Countries such as Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname established regulatory Authorities while 5 countries of the Eastern

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Caribbean jointly established the centralised Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority with a National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions in each participating country. Other countries maintain regulatory commissions for different disciplines in Telecommunications while others have a single regulator for all public utilities including telecommunications.

Typically the existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks were established to liberalise the telecommunications sector in the Caribbean not to deal with the more mature markets and the increasing trend towards consolidation. In addition, The pace of technological innovation has resulted in outmoded national legislative and regulatory frameworks l which are lagging behind the realities of new technological developments and the aspirations of the CARICOM Single ICT Space

4. Scope of Works

The scope of works shall comprise of the following elements:
- A review of the telecommunications policies, laws and regulations in each of the CARICOM States
- A review of the policy and regulatory practices in the CARICOM States
- A review of the spectrum policies, assignments and allocations having regard to the increasing demand for spectrum resources
- A critical assessment of the quality, reliability and speed of broadband services in the CARICOM States
- A critical assessment of the pricing of various services offered all ICT the service providers.
- A critical review of incentive offered for investment in the sector or for user uptake
- Critical assessment to determine the extent of the digital divide in CARICOM States
- Identification of key areas where the Telecommunication and ICT laws and regulatory policies and practices should be harmonised in CARICOM States
- Analysis of the gap between what exists and the goals of the CARICOM Single ICT Space and recommendations for addressing the gaps.

5. Methodology, Indicative Timeframe and Qualifications

The Consultant(s) must state clearly the methodology he will use to do this current state assessment. The Consultants submission must also contain a indicate timeframe estimated for the completion of the assignment. In addition, the consultations must include a summary of their experience and qualifications that are appropriate to this assignment.