Concept Note: NOFN

A2Z Infra Engineering Ltd.

1) The model of execution recommended for such a large project, based on the past experience as also the reasons for delay which have occurred in this erstwhile NOFN project is enumerated below:

   a) The complete NOFN Project being very large should be split into eight to ten packages wherein the total GPs are equitably distributed.

   b) The execution of each package should be based on a Hybrid EPC cum BOOT model wherein the OFC execution is done under open tendering while the equipments implementation under a BOOT model based on lowest VGF.

   c) The ownership of the assets needs to be with the **Central Government** to ensure end to end quality of service, interoperability as well as security through centralized NOCs to cater the need of National Security.

   d) A 48 core OFC be laid wherein up to 18 fibres be reserved for NOFN use, six fibres be allocated to each state for their internal use while 24 fibres be left with the Central Government for future expansion/emergencies.

   e) ROW being the most critical factor responsible for time and cost overrun must be ensured as a "Plug and Play" model wherein it is made available on day one to the execution agencies from all Central and State agencies by means of a Presidential Order.

   f) To take care of long term sustainability and fast obsolesce of technology a 15 years AMC should be built into the project at the time of bidding itself. This will ensure that the "skin of the executing agency is in the game" and would result in a good quality network.

2) The eligibility criteria for the executing agency should be for **Indian companies** only and be made as stringent as possible with both penalties and incentives to ensure that time overruns are eliminated. The NFS (BSNL) project is a good example for the same.

3) The tendering process should have two parts internally, EPC for execution of OFC along with a lowest VGF based BOOT for the equipment including a 15 year AMC to take care of maintenance as well as upgrades due to obsolesce. Now a days in Hardware/Software side one technology is not able to sustain for not more than 3 years.

4) Incase the ROI is beyond 24 % then there should be a sharing of the additional revenue between the Government and executing agency.