

State agencies & electric utilities in the State for the NOFN Project during installation as well as operation and maintenance phase i.e. life cycle of the project.

- 6.5 The blanket approval for RoW should be applicable to the all State Government agencies like PWD/ RES/ Forest\* / Municipality/ Panchayat authorities / Electricity Boards / Irrigation / Private Electricity Distribution Agency etc. as applicable.  
(\* subject to adherence to provisions of Forest Conservation Act wherever applicable)
- 6.6 **State Government**, will provide space and power at Gram Panchayat Bhawan or any other suitable location on cost basis for equipment placement and smooth operation of the NOFN project as required.
- 6.7 **State Government**, will provide unhindered access to BBNL's staff or its representative in Panchayat Bhawan or any other suitable location for operation/maintenance.
- 6.8 This agreement will be valid for operation and maintenance of the OFC Network.

#### 7.0 Advantage to State Government

- 7.1 Panchayats are the constitutionally mandated 3<sup>rd</sup> tier of government and key institutions for local self government in the rural areas. Coverage of Panchayats with Broadband internet connectivity has a great potential for empowering rural masses by giving them access to information, public services including those of education, health and financial inclusion.
- 7.2 Bandwidth requirement for Panchayats will be higher due to sharing of connectivity and extensive use of audio / video applications
- 7.3 The network can be used for service delivery platform for payment, enrollment and registration for targeting benefits to BPL category, MNREGA, PDS, certificates for birth/ death/ income, land records and registration effectively and efficiently by electronic means.
- 7.4 State government can develop e-office for delivery of document management system, collaborative messaging, e-file, record management, project and task management, RTI, Parliament Questions, court cases, public grievances, inventory and stores, administration, Human resource, budget monitoring, circulars, events, notices, etc taking into consideration of Panchayats and rural citizen.
- 7.5 Other applications for the Panchayats are Government schemes, Planning, Management, Monitoring, Payments, Education, Health, Employment, Agriculture and Commerce.
- 7.6 Further with the help of central government standardized ICT Systems & Services state government can get robust & reliable National Network, improved efficiency & reduced costs, improved Centre-State co-ordination, improved co-ordination among states, sharing of best practices, better planning, visibility & monitoring of development, enhanced Cyber Security & Data Control, improved public service & delivery at Panchayats and improved productivity, efficiency & reduced cost.

#### 8.0 Benefit to Panchayats.



Chief General Manager (Project)

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भारत ब्रॉडबैंड नेटवर्क लिमिटेड

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)

BBARAT BROADBAND NETWORK LIMITED

(A Govt of India Enterprise)

No: CGM (Project) / BBNL / UP / NOFN / 2014 / 5

16.01.2014

To,

Shri Jiresh Nandan,  
Principal Secretary (IT & Electronics),  
Govt Of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow.

Subject: Tripartite MoU among (1) Department of Telecommunications, Government of India & (2) Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) & (3) Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding National Fibre Optic Network (NOFN) project for providing broadband to Gram Panchayats.

Your kind attention is invited to the Tripartite MoU No: NOFN/RoW-27 dated 26.10.2012 (Copy enclosed for ready reference) signed among Department of Telecommunications, Government of India & Bharat Broadband Network Limited & Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding National Fibre Optic Network (NOFN) project for providing broadband to Gram Panchayats.

It is reiterated that the Central Government has proposed to establish an Optical Fibre based network for Broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats for universal services to rural population of the country and accordingly National Fibre Optic Network (NOFN) project has been created for providing broadband to Gram Panchayats. The objective is to extend the existing optical fibre network to panchayats by utilizing Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) and creating an institutional mechanism for management and operation of NOFN for non-discriminatory access to all service providers. The work of Phase -1 of NOFN project is now in advance stage of execution and the target for completion is 31.03.2014.

Whereas the State Government vide clause 6.2 of the subject MoU has agreed that "No RoW charges including reinstatement charges will be levied by any State Government, their local bodies, companies or agencies as the information highway proposed to be created through NOFN for broadband connectivity to Panchayats and State Governments." It is to mention that various State Governments have issued Notifications to this effect to their subordinate offices / agencies that the State Government is pleased to allow BBNL for implementation of NOFN in all the Gram Panchayats of State with the support of Government of India & that No RoW charges including reinstatement charges will be levied by any State Government, their local bodies, companies or agencies from BBNL as the information highway proposed to be created through NOFN for broadband connectivity to Panchayats and State Governments. Copy of Notification issued by Orissa Government is enclosed for example. There is urgent need for issuing similar notification in Uttar Pradesh.

On similar grounds, it is therefore requested to kindly arrange to issue suitable Notification in Uttar Pradesh as it is the State containing largest number of Gram Panchayats ( about 52,000) out of total 2.5 Lakh Panchayats in the country. The success of this NOFN project thus depends too much on the performance in Uttar Pradesh. An early action shall be highly appreciated.

Encls: As above.

(S.C. KAUSHAL)

CGM (Project), BBNL, UP, Lucknow /  
CGM North Central Zone (UP & UKD)

Copy to the following for kind information please:

1. Shri P.K. Agarwal, Director (Planning), BBNL, New Delhi.
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