Republic of Mauritius

Ministry of Education and Human Resources and Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

Market Sounding Exercise

School IT Programme – Tablet Computer to Form IV students

1. Project Proposal

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, is implementing a project for the distribution of Tablet Computers to Form IV Students and Educators of **157** publicly-funded Secondary Schools in Mauritius and Rodrigues for educational purposes. Necessary network connectivity would also be provided to the schools to ensure a smooth connectivity of the tablets to the internet.

The purpose of this Market Sounding Exercise is to:

(i) Inform interested parties and Service Providers about the project proposal
(ii) Invite interested parties for a dialogue on the project
(iii) Use the comments and feedback received to further refine the project's key aspects

The objectives of the project are:

(i) To induce a paradigm shift in teaching and learning process at Secondary Level.

(ii) To improve students' learning by providing them with anytime, anywhere opportunities to become independent learners through technology

Expected Outcomes of the Project are:

(i) An improved pass rate of students at Cambridge SC/GCE 'O' Level through a diversification of pedagogy making use of multimedia tools.
(ii) Increase in completion rate of first cycle of Secondary Education and thereby an increase in the transition rate to upper Secondary Education and ultimately to higher education and further training.
(iii) Better preparedness of students and Educators for 21st Century Skills.

2. Project Description

The project proposal consists of the following key components:

- **Component A : Hardware, Software and Capacity -building**

A1-Tablet Computers

(i) Provision of approximately 20,000 Tablet Computers to Form IV students and Educators in all 157 publicly funded Secondary Schools. The tablets should be provided with case covers and have a battery autonomy of at least 8h, with touch-screens of size of at least 8-inch.

A2- Pedagogical Content

(ii) The Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) will be responsible for the development of learning resources for students to access on the tablet computer. Any potential Service Providers that may also be owners or hosts of pedagogical content material are expected to provide information on how assistance could be provided to the MIE for the production of online/offline interactive learning resources on the tablet computer.
(iii) The Tablet Computers should also cater for sufficient storage space for any relevant e-books and allow access to additional on-line learning resources and structured lessons.

A3- Other Requirements

(iv) Provision of classroom management software.

(v) Provision of classroom storage facilities

(vi) Capacity building of Educators to act as trainers in the use of Tablet Computers and resources.

- **Component B – Network Connectivity**

(i) Provision of connectivity for access by students and Educators to learning materials and open educational resources in each of 157 schools, on the basis of an average of three Form IV classrooms per school (157x 3) and around 40 students per classroom.

(ii) The connectivity provided should cater for at least 130 concurrent connections per school.

(iii) Appropriate security measures should be provided for access to Internet whether the Tablet Computer is used at or outside the school.

Important Notes:

(i) The Service Provider would be expected to propose a Service Level Agreement that caters for performance, warranty and maintenance of the proposed system over a term period of at least two years.

(ii) The Service Provider would be expected to work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications and the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) in the implementation of the project.

3. Market Sounding Exercise

With a view to starting this project, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, is carrying out a Market Sounding Exercise, in view of exploring and guiding the feasibility of the initiation of a procurement process.

Potential Service Providers are accordingly invited to propose solutions which comprise of ***only*** Component A ***or*** subcomponents thereof, ***or*** Component B, ***or both*** Component A and Component B. They should clearly specify which component(s) and/or sub-component(s) is/are being proposed.

Potential Service Providers are encouraged to refer to any other component that could contribute to make the project more successful.

Proposed solutions should be submitted to the E-Education Directorate of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources (email e-education@mail.gov.mu) **at latest by 31st January 2013.**

Potential providers may be called upon for a presentation of their solutions.

Disclaimer: This dialogue with Service Providers is meant to take cognizance of solutions available in this new market that may best respond to the objectives of the project proposal.

This process is not a procurement proceeding for shortlisting of potential Service Providers, or to identify a particular solution.

10 January 2013

Ministry of Education & Human Resources
Ministry of Information and Communication Technology