



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND BUSINESS PLAN FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF WI-FI PILOT IN MAPELA AND MOKOPANE

RFP NO: DTR/2025/01/WIFI FES

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1. INTRODUCTION

Ditholwana Tsa Rona Community Development Trust was founded by Anglo American Platinum in 2017 with the aim of facilitating the development, promotion, implementation and maintenance of measures designed to enhance the sustainable social and economic development of Historically Disadvantaged South Africans living within the benefit areas within a 15km radius of the Anglo American Mogalakwena Platinum Mine. One of the Trust's strategic objectives focuses on connectivity to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusion and development, this is focused on delivery of a low-cost internet/Wi-Fi accessibility to 64 villages (42 in Mapela Traditional Authority and 20 in Mokopane Traditional Authority)

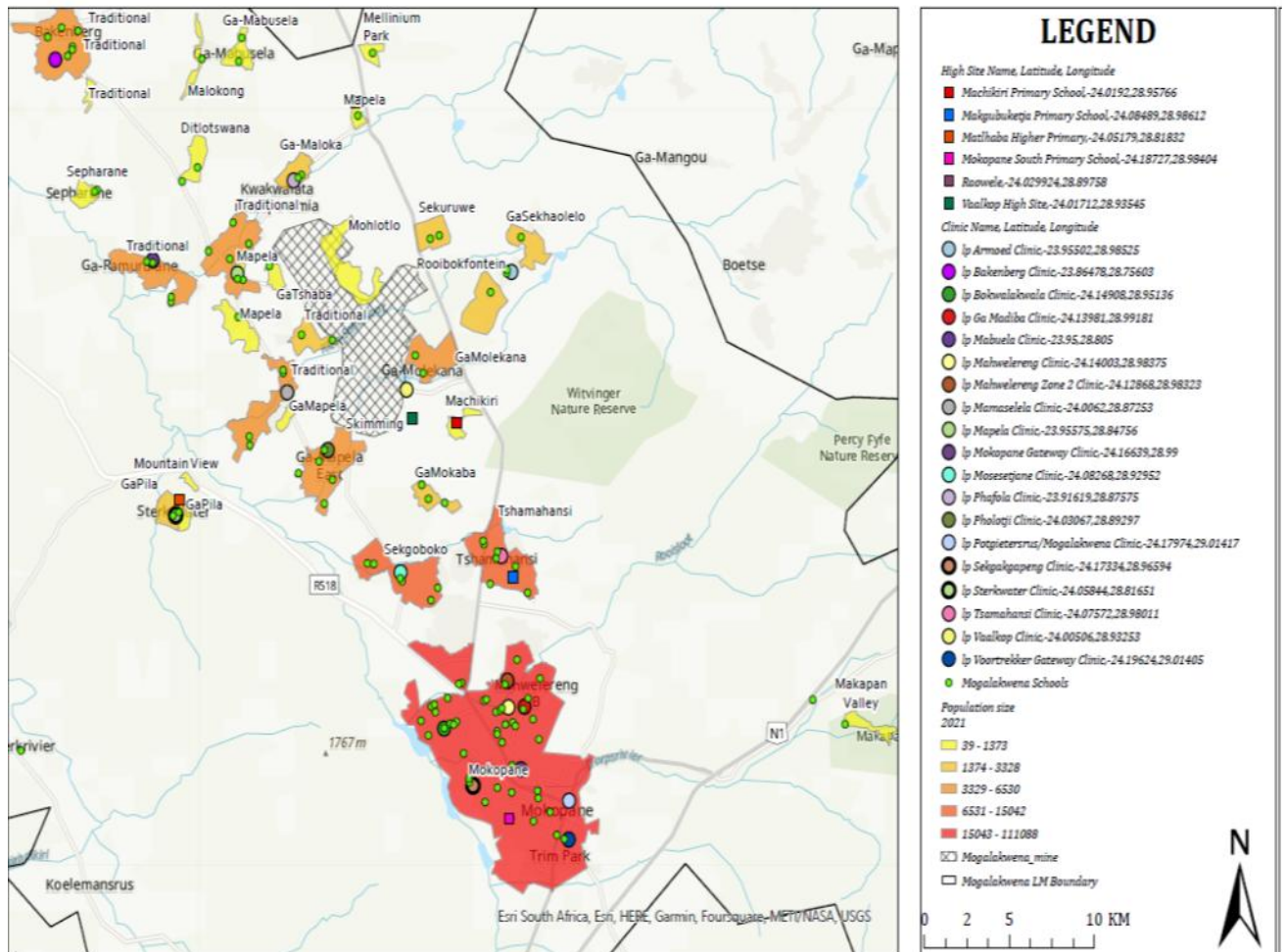
In rural communities, access to smart phones and in more instances access to connectivity hinder development and slow down the goal of achieving inclusion in a digital era. Furthermore, opportunities for job creation and skills development are lost. With internet access, people in rural and less developed areas can take online courses, learn new skills, and even find remote work opportunities. Implementing a low-cost community Wi-fi network could assist in bridging the digital divide and enhance access to a plethora of services and skills that contribute to the development of the community.

Currently, the current microwave infrastructure which connects all the schools exists on a project completed by Anglo Platinum covering villages of Mapela whilst Ivan Plats implemented a similar program covering the area of Mokopane Traditional Authority. As mentioned before, this physical infrastructure is available for passive network infrastructure sharing. Bidder(s) are welcome to utilise the facilities and space provided by this existing physical infrastructure for their network. This includes the facilities at the high sites and the physical conduits of the fibre.

However, the logical infrastructure of the existing network (like the schools, clinics, etc) is not available for further connectivity. The layout of the sites is already mapped in terms of GIS coordinates, and they are available for further analysis as per figure 1 above. It indicates the location of the current Microwave structures at the schools and the high site microwave points. This physical infrastructure is available for sharing and co-location of the cabling and network devices of the community Wi-Fi network solution.



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As such the Ditholwana Tsa Rona Community Development Trust has called for proposals from qualified service providers to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study and development of a scope of works for the full implementation of a low-cost Wi-Fi in Mapela and Mokopane Traditional Authority areas within the Mokgalakwena Municipal area. The objective is to assess the viability, costs, identifying available infrastructure, potential impact and sustainability of providing internet connection to underprivileged communities.

1.1. Objectives of the Feasibility Study

The overall objective of the project is to deliver a comprehensive feasibility study & develop a bankable business plan in consultation with key stakeholders and also develop its implementation framework. Proposals thus have to detail appropriate and effective ways in which to present an accurate analysis of information pertinent to achieving the specific objectives of the project.

The feasibility study of the proposed project will be done through an analysis of the current business and technical solutions to establish the viability of the WIFI in the DTRT benefit areas. An analysis of available models that are consistent with the DTRT & Government policies including the economic and financial,

management and environmental framework. The implementation plan should propose different models of managing & Implementing the WIFI and recommend suitable models. The implementation plan will also provide detailed architectural drawings and tender requirements.

1.2.1 Specific objectives of this project are as follows:

Conduct a Feasibility Study for the implementation of a sustainable Wi-Fi solution

- Evaluate the current state of internet and available infrastructure in the target communities
- A detailed assessment of potential sustainability of the project results after completion, based on factors ensuring sustainability of the proposed WIFI project
- To identify key challenges and gaps, and recommend mechanisms of addressing them.
- To identify best practice models in the development, implementation and monitoring of similar interventions in a similar environment.
- To conduct stakeholder workshops during the feasibility study and development of the business case. Identify potential technological solutions and infrastructure requirements
- Analyze the cost implications and funding options
- Assess the potential social and economic impact on the community
- Provide recommendations for implementation, including partnerships and sustainability plans
- The preparation of technical reports and business plan for approval, planning, preliminary design report (PDR), detailed design, drafting, construction specification, tender documentation and tender evaluation
- Development of scope of works which will result in the development of a tender document for the full implementation of the roll out program
- **Development of a Business Case or for resource mobilisation** The detailed plan for the project activities, including indicators for project objectives and results, design specifications, required resources, the institutional structure for implementation stipulating the responsibilities of various bodies, project timing/phasing, estimated costs and a logical framework planning matrix;
- Develop a strategic framework and support measures, appropriate technology, technical matters and technical assistance; economic and financial aspects.
- Identify appropriate private and public sector partnership roles, and outline key strategies and actions necessary to give effect to the above.

Development of a full operational Plan for the roll out of the program

- Details of engineering/architectural designs, technical specifications and tender documents for any physical works and supplies that will be required in executing the project;
- A draft Financing Proposal that will detail the viability of the proposed project.
- Recommendation for the next steps and any further actions necessary to secure project financing and implementation and, possibly, draft tender documents for the selection of consultancy services that will be required at implementation stage.

- In carrying out these objectives, it is expected that the Service Provider will observe the following protocols:
- To constantly communicate with the nominated project manager from the Department;
- Adherence to specific targets and timeframes.

2. SCOPE OF WORKS

The selected service provider will be responsible for:

- Conducting a detailed needs assessment in the target communities, which will determine the need for the community to browse the internet for general information i.e. Job adverts, University application etc
- Identifying available infrastructure that can be utilised and/or new points of connections to be established.
- Evaluating technological options for providing Wi-Fi.
- Estimating the costs of installation, operation, and maintenance.
- Analysing the regulatory environment and compliance requirements.
- Assessing potential funding sources and financial models.
- Engaging with stakeholders, including community members, local authorities, and potential partners.
- The preparation of technical reports and business plan for approval, planning, preliminary design report (PDR), detailed design, drafting, construction specification, tender documentation and tender evaluation
- Developing a comprehensive report with findings, analysis, and recommendations.
- Formulating a Request for Proposals for implementation of Wi-Fi connectivity in targeted communities.

Phase 2: Business Case

- To conduct wider consultation with various relevant key stakeholders in the province/locally, including private sector, government departments, municipality and traditional authority.
- Analysis of the alternative technical solutions consistent with the economic and financial, management, environmental and framework.
- Provide a detailed recommendation for the project design, which should be structured as follows:

The following critical indicators are to be assessed:

- Why is the project important to the target groups and beneficiaries?
- What is the desired economic, social and environmental development/impact?
- Project purpose: Why do the target groups and beneficiaries need the project?
- Project results: What products and services will the project deliver to the project purpose?
- Project activities: What is the precise scope of activities to be undertaken and what are the associated assumptions for achieving the project results.
- The project purpose and results should be measurable by other indicators, and project activities should be quantified wherever possible?
- What are the viable capacity levels?

Phase 3: Compiling Operational Plan

- The service provider will prepare an implementation work plan for the business case:
- Develop detailed network architectural designs, technical specifications and tender documents for physical works and supplies that will be required in executing the project;
- Draft a Financing Proposal;
- Compile recommendations for the next steps and any further actions necessary for the execution of the project;
- Identification of key indicators and systems for monitoring project progress, results, activities, assumptions; and
- Develop schedules of project reviews and post-implementation evaluation.
- Monitoring indicators: Identification of key indicators and systems for monitoring project progress, results, activities, assumptions, sustainability and impact.
- Review/evaluations: Schedules of project reviews and ex-post evaluation

2.1. Deliverables

The following are expected deliverables in order to meet the objectives of this initiative:

Inception meeting – to outline the deliverables and signing of Service Level Agreements

Phase 1: Project Inception Report

This report will set out the alternative technical solutions for the project in sufficient detail to enable an informed decision to be made on the preferred solution. Inception report will detail all deliverables including a work plan of activities to be achieved during the contract period.

Service provider is required to commence by drafting the inception report detailing the overall approach, methodology and expected timeframe in which each phase of the project activities costs will be completed.

The inception report will serve as a discussion document and will be the basis upon which the detailed approach to the project is agreed.

The inception report is an interim deliverable that is expected to be completed in two weeks from the date of appointment of the service provider.

Phase 2: Feasibility Study Report

The study conclusions should be presented in the feasibility study report. The report must be detailed and comprehensively cover all the objectives and scope of work outlined above

Phase 3: Business Case

A detailed and comprehensive Business Plan that covers all the objectives and scope of work outlined above.

Phase 4: Development of an Operational / Action Plan for the roll out

A detailed implementation plan that covers the objectives and scope of work outlined above.

Note: The reports must be presented in appropriate electronic as well as printed format, and must be easily accessible and user-friendly. Minutes and other documents emanating from all meetings are general deliverables throughout the duration of the project.

Phase 5 Cost Analysis Report: Detailed cost estimates and funding options, which will include the development and draw up preliminary designs and associated costs:

1. Develop a detailed cost estimate with an allowable margin of error of +/- 10%.
2. Develop project, site and functional requirements.

Advise on the list of required authorizations from the local authorities.

Development of Request for Proposals (RFP) for service providers for implementation of WI-FI: Use the findings from the feasibility study report to formulate a coherent Request for Proposals.

3. PROJECT TIMELINES

The project should be completed within three months from the date of signing the service level agreement.

Activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	TIMELINES
RFP published	1 Day
Appointment and contracting	
Feasibility Study	Six Weeks
Business Case & Implementation Plan	one week
Close out Report submission	

4. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Interested service providers should submit a proposal including:

- Company Profile and relevant experience.
- Detailed methodology and approach for the feasibility study.
- Proposed work plan and timeline.
- Team composition and qualifications.
- Budget and cost breakdown.
- References from previous similar projects

4.1. Mandatory Requirements

Bidders must provide the following:

- Company registration certificate
- Tax compliance certificate
- Contact details
- B-EEE compliance level
- Preferably from the Limpopo

Please note that these are critical criteria and failure to supply will lead to disqualification. Once the above information is provided and authenticated, the bidders will be scored according to the weightings specified in the technical section

4.2. Technical Requirements and Evaluating Criteria

	Element	Weighting	Document
1	Experience: Relevant experience and qualifications of the service provider and team.	35	CV and profiles of team members
2	Quality and feasibility of the proposed methodology	35	Feasibility proposal

3	Pricing	30	Quotation
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Minimum Score for this section is 70. Failure to meet this minimum, the bidder will be disqualified.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Element	Weight	Documents
B-BBEE	20	BBBEE Certificate
Pricing	80	Pricing Schedule

6. SCHEDULE

Bidders to supply high level schedule with target dates for each deliverable. Can be attached as a separate document. (NB: the schedule should speak to the deliverables)

7. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND AWARDING

- All proposals should be emailed to the email address mentioned above, no later than 17:00 on the closing date of 07 February 2025.
- Where a proposal is not received by the Ditholwana Tsa Rena's Implementation Unit, TEBA, by the due date and time in the stipulated email address, it will be regarded as a late submission. Late submissions will not be considered.
- All proposals must be submitted to the following email address Fikiswa.simelane@teba.co.za cc Elina.Mazibuko@teba.co.za
- Successful applicants will be contacted as soon as the evaluation process is completed. No regret letters will be sent out.

8. APPOINTMENT

Appointment of the service provider shall be subject to the parties agreeing to mutually acceptable contractual terms and conditions. In the event of the parties failing to reach such an agreement, Ditholwana Tsa Rena reserves the right to appoint the alternative applicant.



9. ENQUIRIES AND CONTACTS

Any enquiry regarding this RFP shall be submitted, in writing, to the Ditholwana Tsa Rena's Project Implementation Unit, TEBA, via email to Fikiswa.simelane@teba.co.za by **14 February 2025**.

Any other contact with the Ditholwana Tsa Rena personnel involved in this application is not permitted during this process, other than as required through existing service arrangements or as requested by Ditholwana Tsa Rena as part of this process.