

Q1

There are a few points that this document does not cover.

The first point being that if it is an open shared platform, then there need to be controls regarding timelines to allow other providers access for implementation. There can be no delays between the primary provider and any other providers to implement their solution. An example is ADSL provision where there are serious time differences for customers between Telecom and Telstra providing similar solutions over the same copper wire.

The second point is that there are no penalties being applied if either provider breaks their obligations. Penalties are required to ensure fair access is delivered. (in other words an agreed service level agreement backed with stiff penalties)

The third point relates to the ongoing maintenance of any RBI funded equipment. Who has responsibility for maintenance in the short and long term? Who has ownership of the towers? Does RBI (MED) hold majority share holding if so, MED takes responsibility for all maintenance and resource issues.

The last point is that there needs to be provision for independent auditing of any technical installations. Perhaps MED could use a third party to ensure that the technical specifications on each and every site are not breached or bent. Any auditing of the network and site equipment must be carried out by appropriately qualified Engineers.

Q2

We cannot answer this question due to time constraints.

Q3

If this document is delivered to the letter then it is ok. However care needs to be taken to ensure that lines are not deliberately blurred when the contracts are delivered in the real world. Both main providers will exploit any loop holes to their maximum advantage given half a chance. This means that contracts will need to be written for maximum clarity and be able to be enforced.

Controls and penalties need to be rigidly applied to the pricing structure to ensure that the RBI objectives are met and fair access is provided.