

Selection of Least Subsidy bidders

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Outline

- Formation of the RCDF
- Position of RCDF in the UCC Structure
- The ERT project
- Invitation for proposals for RCDF Startups
- Criteria for selection of bidders
- Conclusion

Formation of RCDF

- A result of the Communications Act of 1997. Has 2 staff members
- RCDF policy guides the Fund management
- A Project Officer(PO) administers the Fund
- PO reports to Executive Director of UCC
- RCDF board oversees Fund activities
- Gets funds from 1% levy on all communications service providers

The ERT Project

- Manages ERT project of the World Bank
- Project worth US\$5 Million for:-
 - Role out of phone infrastructure in 154 counties
 - 30 Internet POPs
 - 7 Multipurpose Community Telecentres
 - Allocation of funds. WB consultant has already been in Uganda for study

Determination of Areas

- Under license obligations, operators indicated areas they will not reach before end of exclusivity period
- The services to be extended to these areas include:- Internet POPs, ICT Training centers, and pay phones

Invitation for proposals

- RFP with process rules was published in the newspapers
- Potential bidders given a month to respond
- Queries were made about the advert
- Workshop held to rectify queries
- Extra time and more info was provided
- Bids were submitted for consideration

Criteria of Selection

- Technical team was chosen to evaluate bids
- Evaluation was based on:-
 - Least amt of subsidy
 - Economic viability and sustainability
 - Social impact
 - Location of target population
 - Qualification of bidders(capital base,etc)
 - Technical expertise

Actual Selection

- Some bids were eliminated
- Marks were allocated and pass mark set
- Successful bidders were selected
- UCC met with the successful bidders
- Ceremonial handover of cheques done
- Will result into content creation for the districts, 20 Internet POPs, 26 Internet POPs, and 26 ICT Training Centers

Conclusion

- This is a learning process. I reckon that countries yet to get where we are stand to learn a great deal from our experience.