

Press Release

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SCT WILL PUBLISH THE INTERNATIONAL TENDER RULES OF THE “RED COMPARTIDA”

- Tomorrow SCT will publish the International Tender Rules for the largest telecommunications project in national history.
- “*Red Compartida*” will expedite the availability and access to broadband services throughout the country.
- It will be the first Public-Private Partnership project that will adopt the Open Contracting Data Standard.
- The submission of proposals is scheduled for August 8, 2016 and the Tender results will be noticed on the 24th of that same month.

The Ministry of Communications and Transportation (SCT), Gerardo Ruiz Esparza and the Federal Telecommunications Institute (IFT) President, Gabriel Contreras Saldívar, announced last Friday January 29th, that the Rules for the international tender for awarding the Public-Private Partnership project for the installation and operation of the *Red Compartida*, which will allow to expedite the availability and access to broadband services throughout the country, will be published.

In a joint press conference, the Ministry of Communications and Transportation, Gerardo Ruiz Esparza stated that the *Red Compartida* is the most important project of the telecommunications reform, seen from the Federal Executive’s public policy perspective. The project will transform telecommunications in Mexico and in the world by leading the country at the forefront of innovation and access to the information and communication technologies. He also noted that the *Red Compartida* will increase telecommunications services coverage, will promote competitive prices and will raise the quality of services up to international standards.

In turn, the President of IFT, Gabriel Contreras Saldívar, stated that in order to provide legal certainty to the incumbent competitors, there will be reference standards for the *ex ante* identification of the disabled operators to influence the *Red Compartida* operation. He also pointed that the Tender Rules will be based on the models for concession titles for the frequency bands of the radio spectrum for commercial use and the wholesale *Red Compartida* telecommunication services for the same use.

The publication of the International Tender Rules is the result of a joint work between the SCT and the IFT, as well as a result of the active participation of a large number of firms, academic institutions, organizations and general public who, through three public consultations, contributed to conform the Rules that will be available to every interested party as of January 29.

The call will be published on January 29 in the Official Gazette and full documentation will be available on the CompraNet site and in www.redcompartida.gob.mx.

The criterion for the *Red Compartida* allocation will be the coverage. The winner will be the firm that fulfills a 4G mobile network coverage to the largest percentage of population. Thus, it is expected that the *Red Compartida* reach more than twice the average population than the current average 4G networks do. The last means that more than 40 million Mexicans will have this important service, additional to those who already enjoy it.

Officials stressed the innovative scheme of the *Red Compartida*, which is the first self-financing Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the country. The Government will contribute with the rights of 90 MHz in the 700 MHz band use and a pair of Backbone optical fiber network strands. The successful bidder will provide the resources for its construction and operation.

The *Red Compartida* International Tender will be held following the best international practices in terms of transparency, accountability and citizen participation.

To do this, we will collaborate with Transparencia Mexicana as a social witness in the process and will implement the Open Contracting Data Standar (OCDS), driven by the Open Contracting Partnership, along with the National Digital Strategy Coordination and the National Institute for information Access and Personal Data Protection (INAI).

The aim of the OCDS is to increase the access to public information generated during the different stages of the project, from planning to implementing, by timely opening information in every stage of the project. The objective is to encourage participation of more sectors of society in the contracting processes.

As of January 29, 2016, the information will be available in www.datos.gob.mx/redcompartida. From this site, people will be able to learn, read and download opened data from the different project stages according to the phases of the OCDF including planning, bidding, awarding, contracting and implementing the project. Information will be updated during the whole process.

As the first PPP project in the world that adopts this standard, Mexico becomes a leader in the field by promoting greater citizen participation and better accountability in the governmental processes.

On the other hand, the Minister of Communications and Transport said that Bank of America Merrill Lynch joined the project as an exclusive financial adviser in order to assist in attracting national and foreign investors.

The officials said that the submission of proposals is scheduled for August 8, this year, while the awarding of prizes will be on the 24th of the same month.

The innovative and pioneering approach of the project will transform telecommunications in Mexico and even in the world by leading the country to the forefront of innovation and access to information and communication technologies.