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## **Implementing the Broadband Universal Service Obligation - Request for expressions of interest in serving as Universal Service Provider for broadband**

In response to the recent Ofcom call for expressions of interest in serving as a Universal Service Provider for broadband, please find below a response from Network Access Associates, (d.b.a. “OneWeb”), a UK-Headquartered and licensed global telecommunications provider that aims to bridge the global digital divide using a new generation of low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites providing low latency, high capacity, broadband access for everyone. Our vision is to connect the unconnected schools of the world by 2022 and to bridge the digital divide by 2027, making broadband Internet access available and affordable for everyone.

OneWeb do not intend to become a Universal Service Provider (USP) in the UK. Instead, we aim to partner with the appointed USPs be they Telecommunications Companies, Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Cable Operators, Service Partners, and others to provide coverage beyond the reach of existing terrestrial networks. Our satellite internet service will be supported by innovative low-cost user terminals that can provide 3G, 4G LTE, and Wi-Fi coverage, providing high-speed access to the surrounding area. Furthermore, we will be part of the 5G ecosystem when it arrives, enabling broadband connections at the highest speeds to every part of the United Kingdom.

The launch of our first satellites is scheduled for later this year and we will commence pilot services in 2019. Further launches will extend the coverage across the globe, with full commercial service throughout the world by 2023.

OneWeb's first generation of satellites are more than capable of meeting the Technical specification of the USO for "affordable broadband connections and services" to be provided throughout the United Kingdom with all the following characteristics:

- a) download sync speed of at least 10 megabits per second;
- b) an upload sync speed of at least 1 megabit per second;
- c) a contention ratio of no higher than 50:1;
- d) latency which is capable of allowing the end-user to make and receive voice calls over the connection effectively; and
- e) the capability to allow data usage of at least 100 gigabytes per month."

Additionally, the aggregated cost of a OneWeb connection will be well below the maximum £3,400 per connection threshold set out in the USO.

With our first generation of satellites OneWeb would be able to provide between 20,000 to 50,000 connections to UK premises.

OneWeb should be looked upon as wholesale, middle-mile, infrastructure that can be used by multiple partners to provide Gigabit per second speeds, lower latencies, and affordable self-installed terminals. These new capabilities will support both our 2022 goal of connecting every unconnected school and our 2027 goal of bridging the digital divide. At the same time, boundless low latency broadband access will be available for homes, connected cars, trains, planes and cellular backhaul applications.

OneWeb would appreciate being invited to participate in the next round of the consultation and to work with Ofcom to develop the USO for the UK.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Fry  
Director, Government Affairs  
OneWeb