CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE ICT INNOVATION SUPPORT PROJECT

1.0 Background

The Uganda Vision 2040 is conceptualised around strengthening the fundamentals of the economy to harness the abundant opportunities around the country. Among others, it identifies ICT Business and the abundant labour force as being under-exploited.

With this, the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has been identified as one of the key pillars to spur socio-economic transformation of the country especially in the drive to move the country from a predominantly peasant and low income country to a competitive upper middle-income country by 2020.

Indeed, this has been articulated in the overarching macro-economic development agenda (Vision 2040), the National Development Plan (NDP) II and the ICT sector Strategy and Investment Plan (SIP) 2015/16-2019/20. This was further emphasised in the NRM Manifesto.

In spite of this, a number of challenges e.g. inadequate public and private investment (funding), inadequate ICT infrastructure, limited public awareness of the potential and opportunity that the ICT innovations present, insufficient marketing framework for the ICT innovation products and services at the national and international level have hindered the remarkable growth of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector in the country.

Against this background, the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance has been directed by H.E. the President of Uganda to implement the Youth ICT Innovation Project (YIIP) through the ICT Innovation Fund, as one way of leveraging the potential of the ICT sector with specific focus on enabling the Ugandan ICT start-up and growth of ICT innovative, technology-enabled enterprises.

It is with this commitment in mind that UCC, under its collaborative research programme is seeking for research institutes, researchers in academic institutions or affiliated to academic institutes or universities to undertake a collaborative pre-feasibility and feasibility study for the ICT Innovation Support Project.
2.0 Objective of the Study

The overall purpose of the study is to undertake a pre-feasibility and feasibility for the ICT Innovation support Project.

More specifically the study will focus on the following:

1) Analysing the current and future demands for the ICT Innovation Project;
2) Determining and specifying in detail the technical parameters, investment and operational costs for ICT Innovation Project;
3) Determining and specifying the economic effects of environmental norms and possible compensations for ecological damages for the ICT Innovation Project;
4) Identifying the human resource requirements for implementation and operation, in terms of quantities and specialties, sources of the work force and the cost of employing them, management capacity and the functional structure of the operating entity of the Implementing agencies;
5) Study the institutional and legal restrictions that may obstruct or impede operationalisation of the ICT Innovation Project;
6) Conduct a financial analysis, involving assessing the project’s financial costs and benefits in order to:
   (i) assess the project viability;
   (ii) verify that the project cash flows are sufficient to implement the project (sustainability), and;
   (iii) Outline the cash flows which underpin the calculation of the socio-economic costs.
7) Determine the financial costs and benefits of the ICT Innovation Project at the current market prices;
8) Undertake a risk Analysis of the ICT Innovation Project, to establish its critical path, and;
9) Quantifying the costs and benefits as well as economic externalities from the various stakeholders’ perspective in the ICT innovation ecosystem.

3.0 Tasks to be performed

In undertaking this study, the research team shall among others be expected to:

1) Undertake compressive desk research review related to the study;
2) Employ both primary and secondary information collection mechanisms;
3) Design an acceptable, sound and reliable study methodology based on the development committee guidelines for the approval and review of the public investment plan projects developed by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED);
4) Jointly gather data and analyse collected information with the project coordination team;
5) Conduct one-day workshop, for the review and validation of the outputs of the assignment;
6) Make at least one Presentations to the Uganda Communications Commission Management, Technical Committee Meeting on ICT Innovations and MoFPED, and;
7) Produce reports (inception report, progress and final reports including cleaned datasets in both soft and hard form to the Commission.

4.0 Expected Deliverables

The deliverables to UCC:

1) An inception report which shall include a detailed work plan, allocation of team resources and indicators of performance;
2) Comprehensive (detailed) pre-feasibility and Project Feasibility Study reports, and;
3) Soft copies of the financial and economic models.

5.0 Eligibility, Duration and Funding Limit

Participation shall be open to Ugandan citizens that are academic staff and PhD graduate students in the social sciences and or finance at a University registered in Uganda. The principal investigator MUST, however, be a researcher or an academic staff with continuing appointment for at least two (2) years, having demonstrable experience in conducting economic analysis and feasibility studies.

The maximum duration for the assignment is 13 weeks.

Funding shall be provided to cover only research expenses that are directly associated with the research project. However, supplementary non-financial facilitation such as in kind contributions for other requirements associated with the research project may be considered.

6.0 Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the submitted proposals:

1) Clarity of the proposal: Are the objectives of the study clearly articulated?
2) Content relevance: Do the specific objectives proposed cover the required scope? To what extent does the proposal promise to advance knowledge and understanding of the study topic?
3) **Sound research methodology:** To what extent will the proposed methodology yield the desired results? Is there sufficient access to all required resources?

4) **Budget estimation and work plan:** How reasonable is the budget and work plan proposed for the study activities?

5) Skills and Competencies: Is the proposed team well suited to carry out the proposed tasks?

### 7.0 Copyright and disclosure

All data collected, field tools and other deliverables of the study shall remain the property of the Uganda Communications Commission during and after the contract implementation period and shall under no circumstance whatsoever, be disclosed/reproduced without the prior written consent of the Commission. Non-disclosure agreements shall be entered into as deemed appropriate.

### 8.0 Submission of Applications

Applicants are required to submit a detailed Research Proposal by **Friday, January 27, 2017**. The Proposal should clearly outline the proposed approach to the assignment, the specific research questions to be studied, proposed activities, required resources, work plan and the collaborative role proposed for UCC.

The Following information should be provided within the proposal

**Section 1: Researcher Profile Information and Contacts**

1) Principal Researcher
2) Team Members

**Section 2: Detailed Information on the study**

1) Title of the Research Study
2) An abstract of the proposed study and outcomes
3) Detailed description of research proposal
   - Background
   - Research problem
   - Specific objectives and research questions
   - Scope of the work
   - Methodology
   - Data Sources
   - Support required from UCC

I. **Budget**
   - Data Collection
   - Equipment and tools
   - Dissemination

II. **Timeline/Work plan**
Submissions may be emailed to research@ucc.co.ug or physically delivered to:

**Executive Director**  
**Uganda Communications Commission**  
**UCC House,**  
**Plot 42-44, Spring Road, Bugolobi**  
**P O Box 7376, Kampala**  
**Tel.:** +256-31-2339000  
**+256-41-4339000**  
**Fax:** +256-41-4348832

Please note that only successful applicants will be notified.