



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI): RFI163/2025/26 Telecoms Microwave 17GHz License-Exempt Equipment Deployment

To assess available OEM equipment in the market for 17GHz license-exempt broadband deployment

1 Purpose

- 1.1. This Request for Information (RFI) seeks Telecommunication Microwave information in the 17GHz license-exempt band for the City of Cape Town's IS&T Broadband Infrastructure.
- 1.2. The City of Cape Town seeks information regarding the 17GHz license-exempt equipment for broadband use. The City of Cape Town is considering deploying the equipment in this frequency range to enhance its broadband deployment plans across the metro and need information on the range of available equipment and respective technical capabilities.
- 1.3. Interested service providers are invited to submit relevant equipment information to help the City by responding to information requested under functional requirements and product information and offerings.
- 1.4. This RFI aims to obtain indicative 17GHz license-exempt information of available equipment from suppliers/partners and to assess the viability of deploying 17GHz license-exempt solution.

2 Background

The City operates an MPLS Broadband Telecommunication Network serving the entire City of Cape Town Municipality utilising fibre and microwave transmission media. The microwave network currently uses 5GHz license-exempt, 60GHz and 80GHz light-licensed radio frequencies and the plan is to expand and incorporate other license-exempt bands to mitigate RF congestion. As a result, the City is exploring deploying 17GHz license-exempt to expand its microwave options.

3 Request for Information

- 3.1 This RFI is not a request for proposal, quotation, offer, or bid, nor does it limit the City of Cape Town in its future implementation activities.
- 3.2 Responses will provide the City with insights into market-available products supporting its required business capabilities.
- 3.3 The City may request additional information or demonstrations (proof of concepts) from respondents. Accurate and honest information is crucial.
- 3.4 This RFI aims to collect information on multiple products and solutions and is not restricted to the current product.

4 Timeline

- 4.1 The City is currently conducting research on available 17GHz license-exempt microwave equipment and support options, after which a decision shall be taken whether to publish a Request for Proposal.
 - **RFI Closing date:** 19 June 2026

5 Functional Requirements

5.1 17GHz License-Exempt 17GHz Equipment

Provide 17GHz license-exempt microwave equipment information as follows:

- Fill in the tables and share data sheets of equipment that is ICASA approved in the 17GHz license-exempt band. The ICASA requirements to be complied with are: 17.1 – 17.3 GHz, EN 301 489 – 1,3 EN 60950
- Any other notes/longer explanations/additional details can be added in the block below table 1.

Limitations and/or assumptions in answers must be disclosed.

Table 1: List of ICASA Approved Equipment

#	Equipment Name	ICASA Type Approved (Yes or No)	Datasheet attached (Yes or No)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Additional Notes/Explanations/Assumptions:

5.2. 17GHz License-Exempt Deployment Feasibility

- Present a planning tool simulation and Bill of Quantities (BoQ) with indicative pricing. The requirements are:
 - 50Mbps aggregate link for 99.9% availability. Coordinates Point A (34°03'30"S 18°28'06"E) and Point B (34°01'24"S 18°28'07"E). Heights Point A (8meters) and Point B (17meters)
 - Take into consideration the 100-mW maximum EIRP ICASA regulation. All other configuration parameters values and/or requirements can be assumed including antenna size, channel bandwidth etc. The assumptions must be shared and disclosed.
 - BoQ to include pricing for full-kit microwave equipment and planning. Assume a brown field project with existing towers on both sides, existing rack spaces and power on both sides. Limitations and/or assumptions in answers must be disclosed
 - Attach the simulation planning results and BoQ pricing to the response.

6 General Company and Product Information

- 6.1 **Company Background:** Provide equipment names for the 17GHz equipment approved by ICASA
- 6.2 **Product Hardware and Software Overview:** Provide details of the equipment offerings through data sheets or any other supporting technical docs.
- 6.3 **Product Lifecycle and Enhancement Process:** Explain how the hardware firmware is supported viz. ease of making available to user clients the new upgrades and versions.

7 Product Offering

- 7.1 **Additional Recommendations:** Feel free to make any additional recommendations or alternative proposals that meet the requirements and align with the overall intentions and purpose of the RFI.

8 Interaction with Respondents

- 8.1 The City of Cape Town reserves the right not to utilize information gathered during the RFI process to complete a specification for tendering.
- 8.2 For queries, please reference this RFI description and send to the email address: TBS.TenderQueries@capetown.gov.za

9 Proof of Concept

- 9.1 The City of Cape Town reserves the right to engage respondents to validate and test information provided in response to this RFI. This may include a request for a proof of concept or demo, without financial contribution towards proofing the concepts.

10 No Obligation

- 10.1 This RFI places no obligation on the City of Cape Town to proceed with any subsequent process to obtain any product or solution offering listed herein. Respondents will not gain preference or favour by responding to this RFI.
- 10.2 Responses to this RFI are voluntary. The City of Cape Town will use submitted information at its discretion and reserves the right to use any submitted information in public websites, reports, summaries, solicitations, grants, cooperative agreements, or future developments.

10.3 This RFI is for information and planning purposes only and shall not be construed as a solicitation, grant, cooperative agreement, or obligation on the part of the City of Cape Town. The City will not pay for the preparation of any information submitted or for the use of such information. No claims against the City shall arise from a response to this RFI or the use of such information.

10.4 The research obtained from this RFI will inform the technical and functional specification of the proposed goods and services, which may follow an open competitive bidding process. The City reserves the right not to proceed with any further process if the research/technology indicates it is not viable and feasible. The City also reserves the right to apply different procurement strategies while exploring methods to validate and test information provided in response to this RFI.

11 Submission Requirements

Please provide all inputs electronically on or before **10:00 on 19 June 2026**

All responses to be sent to: TBS.TenderQueries@capetown.gov.za

Email subject line: RFI163/2025/26 response from [Insert company name]

Response format: PDF or MS Word

Length: +/-20 pages including support documentation.
