
Draft

National Broadband Plan
for
the State of Qatar

ictQATAR Consultation Document

The Supreme Council of Information & Communication Technology 'ictQATAR'

May 9, 2013

Deadline for response: May 29, 2013

Introduction

The Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology (ictQATAR) is developing Qatar's first National Broadband Plan. The Plan reiterates Qatar's commitment to becoming a leading digital economy. It is aligned with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030, National ICT Plan 2015 and ensures Qatar maximizes opportunities arising from the FIFA World Cup 2022.

This Plan is the outcome of intense internal research, analysis and discussion while considering other best practices and benchmark studies. In addition, ictQATAR has collected views, opinions and plans through regular meetings and interactive workshops. Below is the list of sectors/entities consulted:-

- ICT industry
- Media
- Real estate
- Health
- Academia
- Utilities
- Culture
- Sport
- Banking
- Oil & Gas
- Energy

This consultation document contains an executive summary of the Plan outlining a general overview, followed by five specific questions to be addressed. Kindly use form provided any other comments/feedback.

All stakeholders and interested parties are invited to review and submit their comments on the document and provide their views on any relevant aspects by **29 May 2013, 14:00 QST**. Further, respondents are kindly requested to provide comprehensive justifications for comments/recommendations and reference the relevant policy actions.

Executive Summary

The National Broadband Plan's overarching objective is to support and promote broadband market development. This entails providing high-quality, affordable and high-speed broadband services to all, in order to support the creation of a knowledge-based economy, promoting economic diversification and enhancing innovation.

The National Broadband Plan fulfils the dual purpose of reflecting the Government's commitment to broadband, and to provide guidance to the market. It describes a set of four action areas, each containing short-term and long-term cross-sector policy actions, the implementation of which will be crucial to achieving the Plan's overarching objective. To track the fulfilment of these initiatives and to provide a catalyst for their achievement, the following set of targets is proposed:

1. All population will have access to at least two providers of broadband by 2016, irrespective of location
2. 95% of households will have affordable and high-quality access to at least 100Mbit/s effective download and 50Mbit/s effective upload speeds by 2016
3. 75% of households will have active broadband subscriptions of at least 8Mbit/s effective download and 4Mbit/s effective upload speeds by 2016 (which represents the definition of basic broadband in this plan)
4. All businesses, schools, hospitals and government institutions will have affordable and high-quality access to at least 1Gbit/s effective symmetrical speeds by 2016
5. All mainstream population to be digitally literate by 2022

The road ahead has a number of obstacles and challenges. By providing the required guidance, the National Broadband Plan is intended to remove a number of these obstacles to broadband development in Qatar. Disruptive technologies and market evolution will be continuously affecting the broadband landscape. Ultimately, however, it is the contribution of public and private institutions as well as individuals that will drive the success of this plan.

Consultation Questions

Objectives

1	Do you agree with the National Broadband Plan's overarching objective (page 4)?

Targets

2	Do you believe the 5 principle targets (page 9-10) are achievable? If not, please explain why. If yes, do you believe they could be more ambitious?

Policy Actions

3	Is your organization capable of fulfilling the policy actions for which it has been assigned responsibility? If not, please elaborate on what are the challenges for you.

Stakeholder Responsibility

4	Do you believe your organization should be involved in other policy actions that you haven't been identified for as a stakeholder?

Challenges

5	Do you believe this plan adequate in addressing the challenges of broadband development in Qatar?

Recommendations

1	
2	
3	

General Comments

1	
2	
3	

YOUR GENERAL INFORMATION

Name	
Job Title	
Organization	
Contact number	
Email address	

How to Respond

Comments or feedback in response to this Consultation should be sent to policy@ict.gov.qa on or before **Wednesday May, 29 2013**.

For any further questions concerning this Consultation or the draft Plan, please contact:
Hira Anwar (hanwar@ict.gov.qa; +974 44995373)
Ahmed Hefnawy (ahefnawy@ict.gov.qa; +974 44995508)

In the interest of transparency and public accountability, ictQATAR intends to publish the responses to the consultations on its website at www.ictqatar.qa. All responses will be treated as non-confidential unless confidential treatment of all or parts of the response has been requested with a comprehensive justification.

While ictQATAR will endeavor to respect the wishes of respondents, in all instances the decision to publish responses in full, in part or not at all remains at the sole discretion of ictQATAR.

By submitting responses to ictQATAR's consultations, respondents will be deemed to have waived all copyright that may apply to intellectual property contained therein.

ictQATAR shall carefully consider all feedback received as a result of this consultation however it is the sole direction of ictQATAR to act upon the feedback and ictQATAR is under no obligation to amend or modify the plan accordingly.

Next Steps

The draft plan shall be revised and updated in light of the received feedback. A final version of the National Broadband Plan will be published on the ictQATAR website.

Annexes

Draft National Broadband Plan