



Board of Investment  
Mauritius



**Information and communication  
technology**

**Rodrigues**

## INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Except for the sale of computer supplies, there are no companies operating in the ICT-BPO industry in Rodrigues. Rodrigues has the potential of becoming the ideal complement for Mauritian ICT-BPO companies wishing to focus on higher end processes in Mauritius and outsourcing remaining tasks to Rodrigues. However the ICT-BPO industry cannot be developed without the deployment of the undersea cable which will bring enhanced internet connectivity to Rodrigues. Dedicated and high speed connections such as the *International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC)*, *Internet Protocol Virtual Private Network (IP VPN)* and *Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS)* are essential for ICT and BPO activities.

One of the main rationale for outsourcing remains cost reduction and in this regard, Rodrigues is more competitive than Mauritius. The table below compares the cost of doing business between the island of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

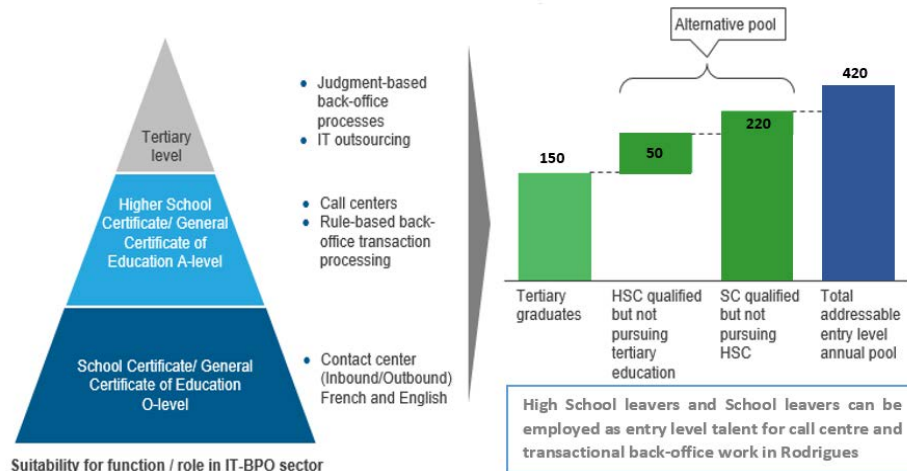
	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues
	RS	RS
Cost of incorporation	3,000	3,000
Licence fees*	9,000 - 12,000	2,500
Average Salary	23,391	15,371
Internet connectivity (512 KB, Business ADSL)	1,250	1,250
Office space per month/ square foot	45	4 - 10
Cost of electricity per KWh(Commercial)**	6.04	6
English proficiency (out of 5)	2.5	2.5
French proficiency (out of 5)	4	4

*Comparison of costs of doing business*

*\* A trade fee is applicable in the island of Mauritius while a trade license is required in Rodrigues*

*\*\* A special tariff(tariff 245) is provided to ICT-BPO companies in Mauritius*

As in Mauritius, the ICT-BPO industry in Rodrigues, can become a net hirer and help alleviate the high unemployment rate prevailing in the island. Currently, there are around 440 School Certificate holders, 200 Higher School Certificate holders and 150 graduates from Rodrigues annually who can be trained for ICT-BPO related activities. The ICT centre of Excellence is already dispensing IT courses to Rodriguans and has the infrastructure to provide more advanced and technical courses.



*ICT BPO Sector Overview*

Moreover, the language proficiency for English and French in Rodrigues is similar to Mauritius which makes the island a suitable location for the implementation of call centre activities. Currently, one floor of 460 m<sup>2</sup> has been identified by the RRA in the ex-DBM building which will be allocated to ICT-BPO companies wishing to set up in Rodrigues.

The investment opportunities identified for Rodrigues in the ICT-BPO industry:

- Call Centre activities
- BPO non-voice – Data Entry
- Limited Software Development, including Mobile Applications Development
- Disaster Recovery Centre