	Request for Information (RFI)	Document Identifier	240-72663051	Rev	1
		Effective Date	October 2022		
		Review Date	October 2027		
		RFI Number	E2935NTCSAWG		

PART A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)			
Description of the works/goods/services	<i>Proposed technical scope, estimated cost and implementation duration required to refurbish Control and Protection systems on an existing 275 kV / 11 kV ±50 MVAR STATCOM at Garona substation</i>		
Deadline for submission		At (South African Standard Time)	10H00
Tender Office address	<p><i>Companies that wish to participate in this RFI are required to forward their submissions through the following online link:</i></p> <p>https://etendering.eskom.co.za/</p>		

NTCSA SOC Ltd (“NTCSA”) invites you to submit an:


- Request for information (RFI) to submit information for the works/goods/services as stated in the table. This RFI is a stand-alone information-gathering and market-testing exercise, intended only to inform and assist NTCSA’s further deliberation and development of a strategy for the ***Proposal of technical scope, estimated cost and indicative implementation schedule duration required to refurbish Control and Protection systems on an existing 275 kV / 11 kV ±50 MVAR STATCOM at Garona substation.***

Background to the STATCOM refurbishment required

- NTCSA SOC Ltd (hereinafter referred to as NTCSA) is undertaking market research to assess the availability, capability, and capacity of potential suppliers for the refurbishment of an existing 275 kV/11 kV Static Synchronous Compensator (STATCOM) installed at Garona substation on the NTCSA Western Grid in the Northern Cape Province.
- The nearest town to the substation is Groblershoop which is around 30 km. The GPS location co-ordinates for Garona substation is 28°44'21.19"S 21°59'42.75"E.
- The objective is to evaluate proposed methodologies, technical scope, indicative project costs, and expected implementation timeframes.
- The STATCOM operates under extreme environmental conditions, with ambient temperatures ranging from –10°C to +50°C, relative humidity up to 95%, and solar radiation of approximately 1.2 kW/m².

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- Figure 1 below shows the aerial view of the STATCOM installation at Garona substation.




Figure 1: Aerial view of the 11 kV STATCOM equipment at Garona Substation

- This Request for Information (RFI) seeks to gauge market interest and capability in providing the required works or services. The outcomes of this process will support NTCSA in defining an appropriate commercial strategy, identifying suitable suppliers, establishing market-related cost benchmarks, and selecting the optimal procurement mechanism for the subsequent request for quotation (RFQ) or request for proposal (RFP) stage.

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- The information gathered through this RFI will also inform the refinement of technical specifications and design requirements for the refurbishment of the 275 kV/11 kV STATCOM control system at Garona Substation.

Garona 275 kV STATCOM Control & Protection refurbishment RFI

- The existing ± 50 MVAR STATCOM operates at 11 kV and regulates the 275 kV bus voltage at Garona Substation as part of the NTCSA Transmission Grid. The 11 kV side of the STATCOM transformer, rated at 3411 A with an equivalent short-circuit capacity of 362 MVA, connects to a delta-configured voltage source converter (VSC).
- The STATCOM transformer is rated 65 MVA, 275/11 kV, with current ratings of 137 A on the high-voltage (HV) side and 3411 A on the medium-voltage (MV) side.
- The installation comprises a chained STATCOM arrangement, consisting of the 11 kV delta VSC ($\frac{1}{2}$ H-bridge configuration), saturated dry-air core reactors, and a step-up transformer.
- The system was designed, manufactured, installed, and commissioned by Ronxin Power Electronics (RXPE) under Contract 4600043383 (Order 4501615517). RXPE is the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).
- The STATCOM has been in service at Garona Substation, Northern Cape, South Africa, since the 2012/2013 financial year.
- Over time, the STATCOM's Control and Protection systems, Human-machine interface (HMI), and VSC power modules have become obsolete, with several critical spare components no longer available or supported by the OEM.
- Garona Substation forms part of the Western Grid network, contributing to regional voltage stability and supplying rail and distribution loads, as well as integrating nearby photovoltaic (PV) renewable energy sources from independent power producers (IPP).

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Scope of Market Research and Analysis using Request for Information (RFI)

- The supplier is requested to complete the table below and submit high-level details to supplement their response to allow NTCSA to make informed decision.

No.	Question	Please indicate your response in this column
1.	<i>Is it feasible to refurbish only the STATCOM Control and Protection systems while retaining the existing RXPE VSC IGBT (IEGT) valves? If yes, indicate the challenges to be anticipated when using this proposal. If it is not feasible, please indicate the reasons why this cannot be done and give the cost for the complete refurbishment of the STATCOM including the replacement of SVC valves but re-using Transformer and Reactor.</i>	Yes/No – Provide details
2.	<i>Where refurbishment of Control and Protection systems alone is not feasible, you are requested to provide a high-level scope, indicative cost, and implementation schedule for full replacement, including: VSC valves and valve branch electronics, Fibre optic cables, Control and Protection systems, HMI and any associated interfaces.</i>	Provide details with your RFI response if applicable.
3.	<i>Indicate a high level pricing schedule for a refurbishment project entailing design, manufacturing, procurement, construction, installation, testing and commissioning of Control and Protection system on an old ± 50MVAR STATCOM, re-using the initial OEM's VSC and High voltage equipment.</i>	Schedule to indicate major project milestones.
4.	<i>Indicate the proposed project timeframe from design through commissioning and final handover of the complete refurbishment of Control and Protection on a STATCOM.</i>	Provide a programme for implementation and indicate months.
5.	<i>Do you confirm if your proposed STATCOM Control System incorporates Grid Forming (GFM) functionality? Yes/No</i>	Yes/No – Submit more details.
6.	<i>Have you completed any similar refurbishment work on a STATCOM successfully over the last 5 years? If yes, please provide references for completed projects on similar STATCOM refurbishment projects rated ± 30 MVA or higher, for Transmission utility applications (≥ 220 kV on the HV side of the STATCOM transformer).</i>	If yes, supply a list of projects with dates.
7.	<i>Do you have capacity to provide support services on a medium to long term contract basis, including Supply of spares and maintenance support to NTCSA, Fault diagnostics, investigation, Technical training and repair services after handover?</i>	Yes/No – List services offered.
8.	<i>Does your proposed STATCOM Control system include online diagnostics, Asset performance management and condition monitoring services as part of the installation? If yes, include details of these services on your response.</i>	If yes, provide high level summary of Diagnostics and condition monitoring.
9.	<i>How long on average is your project implementation timeframe for the scope stated above or your proposal. Please indicate this proposed timeframe from Design to Commissioning and handover of the final project/asset for the proposed refurbishment scope.</i>	Give estimated period in months after contract award.

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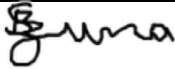
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NTCSA has delegated the responsibility for this RFI to the signatory of this document, whose details can be found below.

We look forward to receipt of your response.


Yours faithfully

Name	Designation	Signature	Date
Basil Zuma	Senior Advisor Procurement		2026/05/19
Telephone number	011 800 2171	Fax and/or e-mail address	zumasp@ntcsa.co.za

PART B RESPONSE SHEET IN TERMS OF A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION To be completed by the supplier			
To	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Date	
Attention	Basil Zuma		
Tel no (Tenderer)		Fax no and /or e-mail address	
From <i>registered full legal name of the company</i>		Address	
Address <i>insert the physical address of the company</i>			
Sender <i>[insert the full name of the sender at the company]</i>			
Description of the works/goods/services	Proposed technical scope, estimated cost and implementation duration required to refurbish Control and Protection systems on an existing 275 kV / 11 kV ±50 MVAR STATCOM at Garona substation		

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Please find below our response to Eskom's questions:


No.	Question	Please indicate your response in this column
1.	Supplier: [your contact name and contact details]	
2.	[Company registration number]	
3.	[brief description of previous experience and Description of the solution that you can offer]	
4.	Indicative prices (optional and only for use of RFI's)	

Yours faithfully

Name	Designation	Signature	Date
<i>Supplier representative</i>			
Telephone number		Fax and/or e-mail address	

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Request for Information documentation

The Employer has furnished the following information with this RFI:

- Technical documentation

The Supplier is required to review the technical documentation for the project and to provide NTCSA with a view on the following:

- Proposed technical scope
- Estimated cost
- Implementation duration required to refurbish Control and Protection systems on an existing 275 kV / 11 kV \pm 50 MVAR STATCOM at Garona substation.

NTCSA intends to engage with Suppliers that want to make submissions on this RFI to better understand their views/opinions around NTCSA scope and RFI Requirements. NTCSA may subsequent to the engagement prepare tender documents which will formally be issued to the market requesting the suppliers to submit formal bids.

The engagement with Suppliers will be through MS Teams as follows:

Date: 02 June 2026

Time: 14h00 – 15h00 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams meeting:

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/321014624786345?p=qDRm8iPDMDbucu101Q>

Meeting ID: 321 014 624 786 345

Passcode: G5Ax69q5

NTCSA may require suppliers to give presentations on the scope in connection with the works for the Proposed technical scope, estimated cost and implementation duration required to refurbish Control and Protection systems on an existing 275 kV / 11 kV \pm 50 MVAR STATCOM at Garona substation.

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