

TENDER NUMBER: TRIM/2026/05/1059/5954/RFP:

DESIGN, SUPPLY, REPAIRS, MODIFICATION, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF TRACTION (3KV DC, 25 & 50 KV AC) AND DISTRIBUTION (11 KV & 6.6 KV AC) SUBSTATIONS ON AN AS AND WHEN REQUIRED BASIS FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS, CAPE & ORE CORRIDORS

RESPONSE TO BIDDERS

Date of the Meeting: Wednesday, 30 September 2026

BIDDER QUERIES AND RESPONSES FROM TRANSNET:

Clarification 1: Commercial

1.1 The tender title description refers to 6.6kV switchgear, however pricing BOQ does not reflect the 6.6kV switchgear as a BOQ or scope requirement.

Response:

It should be noted that the standard voltage level predominantly utilised within the TRIM distribution network is 11kV, which is typically stepped down to 380V/400V for electrical power and lighting loads. Consequently, 11kV remains the preferred voltage level and is expected to constitute the majority of the requirements under this tender.

In the event that 6.6kV switchgear is required for specific applications, such occurrences are expected to be limited. Tenderers are therefore requested to base their pricing on the BOQ as issued. Where 6.6kV switchgear may be required, it is anticipated that the pricing would be comparable to that of equivalent 11kV switchgear equipment.

1.2 Considering the outstanding technical details from the tender document (listed below under technical sub-heading) – we please require the tender submission date to be extended to the 6 November 2026.

Response:

Transnet is satisfied that the time provided for tender preparation is adequate. Consequently, the tender closing date remains unchanged, and no extension will be granted. All bidders are required to submit their bids by the prescribed closing date and time.

Clarification 2: Technical

2.1 TRANSNET TECHNICAL was to specify the switchgear requirements in Annexure 1 of the specification number BBB4182 VERSION 5 titled *“Indoor, Medium Voltage Metal Enclosed Switchgear and Control Gear in accordance with IEC 62271-200”*. They are concerning the atmospheric conditions of the switchgear:

2.1.1 [5.1] Altitude: 1.8m is specified as the altitude. Is this correct?

Response:

This is not correct. Clause 5.1 provides the range for the Altitude from 0 – 1.8m. Within Western Region, we have substations almost at sea level, (e.g. Some East London, Port Elizabeth, Bellville, etc. substations); we also have substations miles away from the sea at higher altitudes (e.g. Kimberley North, Bloemfontein, etc.)

2.1.2 [5.1] The pollution level is indicated as heavily salt laden. What type of material is the switchgear to be manufactured of (ALUZINC or STAINLESS STEEL)? If the pollution level is classified as heavily salt laden. Must the protection relays be conformal coated?

Response:

Atmospheric data is provided so that the supplier or OEM would incorporate these conditions into their design requirements. More technical details are provided in the spec and cited SANS.

2.1.3 [10.23] The specification states that TRANSNET is to be consulted on the compatibility of protocol offered with the existing telecontrol system in the substation. Please advise what is the existing protocol and please specify the protocol in Appendix 1 for the new switchgear?

Response:

Appendices will be completed by Transnet for each site during the project execution. Our Technology Management department will work closely with the successful bidder in this regard.

Clarification 3: Technical

Missing Technical Specification from the tender document:

The following documents are referred to in specification number BBB4182 VERSION 5, but these specifications were not part of the RFQ pack:

- a) BBD7524 version 1 (surge protection for meters)
- b) CEE-PA-13 (test block wiring requirements)
- c) CEE-PA-56 (relay & CT wiring requirements)

Response:

It should be noted that Specification BBB4182 Version 5 also references various IEC and SANS standards, which are similarly not included in the RFQ pack. Transnet has provided all the applicable and necessary parent/mother-body technical specifications required for the scope of supply. Tenderers are expected to comply with the referenced requirements and applicable industry standards where relevant.

Clarification 4: Technical

Contradictory number of panels required:

The tender Pricing Data BOQ (Section B11) refers to a quantity of 1 incomer and 2 feeder panels.

Specification number BBD6774 titled “*Design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of a new 88kV to 11kV Intake Distribution Substation and network changes at Ermelo*” advises that there is a total of 7 panels.

Response:

It should be noted that the quantities reflected in the BOQs are provided primarily for tender pricing and evaluation purposes. The BOQ quantities should not be construed as the definitive or final quantities required for execution of the Works. Tenderers are required to price the BOQs as provided, while the actual scope, equipment quantities, and configuration shall be as defined by the applicable technical specifications, drawings, and final approved design (during project execution).

Clarification 5:

With reference to the above tender, kindly assist with clarification on the following BOQ items:

- Item 9.13 – Transformer Mineral Insulating Oil
 - Please confirm the required quantity of transformer mineral insulating oil in litres.

Response:

Assume 13000L (i.e. item 9.15)

- Item 9.14 – Pump Transformer with Supplied Mineral Insulating Oil
 - Please confirm the required quantity of transformer mineral insulating oil in litres to be pumped into the transformer.

Response:

The Bidder shall provide a unit rate for pumping, expressed in **Rands per litre (R/L)**, in the Pricing Schedule.

- Item 40 – Foundations
 - Design, supply and installation of concrete plinths for portal and support structures in the traction substation HV outdoor yard.
 - Please confirm whether the scope includes:
 - Anchor/holding-down bolts.
 - Reinforcement steel/rebar.
 - Formwork.
 - All associated foundation materials.
 - Please provide the applicable foundation drawings, dimensions and quantities.

Response:

The Contractor shall be responsible for the complete design, supply, and installation of the foundations, including all materials and components necessary to achieve a fully functional and

compliant installation. This includes, but is not limited to, anchor/holding-down bolts, reinforcement steel, formwork, concrete, and all associated foundation materials.

The foundation design shall be undertaken in accordance with the applicable standards, site conditions, and equipment loading requirements. Bidders are required to allow for all foundation-related works within their pricing. For pricing purposes, the applicable **SI units of measurement** shall be used as indicated in the Bill of Quantities.

Where detailed foundation dimensions are not provided, bidders shall base their pricing on a compliant design that satisfies the specified functional and performance requirements.

- Item 52.1 – Substation Lighting
 - Design, supply and installation of indoor light fittings and 220V AC fluorescent light tubes.
 - Please confirm:
 - Number of light fittings/tubes required.
 - Building/room dimensions.
 - Applicable drawings, if available.

Response:

The BOQ is asking for the price per pair

- Item 52.2 – Outdoor Substation Lighting
 - Design, supply and installation of 400W High Pressure Sodium floodlights, including fittings and day/night switch.
 - Please confirm whether the scope includes:
 - Power cables/wiring.
 - Conduits.
 - Cable trays.
 - Supports/brackets.
 - Associated installation materials.
 - Please provide the required cable lengths and outdoor yard/building dimensions.

Response:

The BOQ is asking for the installation price per light

- Item 16 – Cable Fault Location
 - Trace a fault on an underground cable.
 - Please provide:
 - Cable length.
 - System voltage.
 - Cable type.
 - Cable size.
 - Number of cores.
 - Approximate cable route length.
 - Please also confirm the expected number of fault-location activities.

Response:

The Bidder shall make provision for locating and identifying faults on underground cables using suitable fault location equipment and methodologies.

The exact cable length, route length, cable type, cable size, number of cores, and system voltage cannot be confirmed and shall be determined by the Contractor during the site investigation and fault-finding process.

Bidders are therefore required to submit a unit rate for cable fault location services, inclusive of all labour, equipment, testing instruments, transport, excavation requirements (where applicable), reporting, and any associated activities necessary to accurately locate the fault on the underground cable.

- Item 1.3 – 145kV Bushing
 - System voltage: 132kV.
 - Please confirm the required BIL (Basic Insulation Level) rating.
 - Kindly provide the applicable bushing specification/datasheet, if available.

Response:

The required bushing rating, including the **Basic Insulation Level (BIL)**, shall be in accordance with the requirements of **Specification BBB5019** and the applicable **SANS standards**.

Bidders are required to consult **BBB5019** and the relevant **SANS specifications** to determine the applicable insulation coordination and bushing performance requirements. The proposed bushing shall be fully compliant with the requirements stipulated in the referenced specifications and standards.

- Item 5.1 – Breaker Mechanism / HSCB
 - The BOQ refers to a breaker mechanism for a High-Speed Circuit Breaker (HSCB).
 - Please clarify this item, as an HSCB does not normally have a separate operating mechanism in the same manner as an SF₆ circuit breaker.
 - If a breaker mechanism is required, please confirm:
 - Breaker make.
 - Breaker model.
 - Breaker type.
 - Applicable manufacturer (e.g. ABB, Siemens, Areva/Schneider).
 - Relevant equipment nameplate/specification.

Response:

This item refers to the operating mechanism assembly associated with the High-Speed Circuit Breaker (HSCB).

The make, model, and manufacturer of the existing breaker may vary across installations and cannot be confirmed at this stage. Bidders are therefore required to provide any assumptions made as well as the OEM

The supplied equipment shall be equivalent to or fully compatible with the existing installation and shall meet all functional, performance, safety, and operational requirements of the 3kV DC Traction system.

Clarification 6:

Item 9 – Secondary Vacuum Circuit Breakers

Description: Design, Supply and Install 44 kV, 1200 A Vacuum Circuit Breakers in accordance with CEE.011.99.

Quantity: 1 Each

The tender specification states under the Requirements for Alternating Current Circuit Breakers that:

- The AC circuit breakers shall comply with SANS 62271-100 and SANS 60694.
- The insulating medium shall be SF₆ gas or vacuum, depending on the supply voltage, as specified in Appendix 1.
- Specifically, the specification states that “Vacuum circuit breakers may be used for voltages ranging from 22 kV up to 33 kV.”

However, Item 9 requires a 44 kV, 1200 A Vacuum Circuit Breaker.

This appears to create a technical discrepancy, as the specified voltage of 44 kV exceeds the 22–33 kV range stated for vacuum circuit breakers in the specification.

Response:

Consult CEE.0111.2019, clause 22.

We therefore kindly request clarification on the following:

1. Please confirm whether a 44 kV Vacuum Circuit Breaker is indeed required for Item 9.

Response:

YES

2. If 44 kV is correct, please confirm whether the requirement is intended to be SF₆ or another insulating medium, rather than vacuum.

Response:

Consult CEE.0111.2019, clause 22.

3. Alternatively, please confirm whether the required voltage rating should be 33 kV or within the 22–33 kV range specified for vacuum circuit breakers.

Response:

Consult CEE.0111.2019, clause 22.

4. The tender refers to CEE.011.99; however, the referenced CEE.011.99 specification has not been provided with the tender documentation.

Response:

The reference to CEE.011.99 in the tender documentation is a typographical error.

The correct specification is CEE.0111.2019. Bidders shall use CEE.0111.2019

Any references within the tender documentation to CEE.011.99 shall be deemed to refer to CEE.0111.2019. No separate specification titled CEE.011.99 is applicable to this tender.

Please provide a copy of CEE.011.99, including the applicable Appendix 1 / Schedule of Requirements and any relevant technical requirements, to enable us to submit a compliant offer.

Response:

Consult CEE.0111.2019. Appendix 1 will only be completed during project execution.

5. Please also confirm the required short-circuit breaking capacity, insulation level/BIL, operating mechanism and control voltage applicable to the 44 kV, 1200 A circuit breaker.

Response:

Consult CEE.0111.2019, and applicable SANS.