

Request Details

PR No: 10251802

Type: ZDER - Deviation RQ

Cost Centre: 1657 - EngS Electrical Maintenance: RP (LOGISTICAL SERVICES: BUILDING TECHNOLOGY)

Vendor: 617016 - S B M ELECTRO MECHANIC

Description: Emergency Business Case: Backup power sy

Practitioner: 931 - EDITH MAVUNDA

Amount: 5,462,500.00 ZAR

BACKGROUND

Background

On 10 February 2026, the backup generator system at Radio Park failed to take load during a scheduled test. To verify system reliability and operational readiness, a follow-up test was conducted on 20 February 2026 by the Building Technology Team in collaboration with the Project Office Team.

During this test, the generator backup system again failed to take load. Emergency permission was granted to undertake immediate remedial work to restore the changeover system. Upon completion of these initial interventions, additional defects affecting system functionality, reliability, and compliance were identified, as detailed in the Elek-Tek report (June 2025) and the SBM report (March 2026).

Following a Steering Committee (SteerCo) meeting held on 13 March 2026, convened by the CFO to address power supply reliability concerns, approval was granted to proceed with Phase 2 of the emergency remedial works. The GMR office was tasked with identifying items required for remediation on the short term to ensure system reliability and critical load coverage. It is important to note this emergency intervention is not intended for full completion of the generator and UPS systems project i.e. ES20 and LA68 as that project will still need to be completed when there have been funds allocate to complete those projects.

Delay between February and 29 March (RFQ process not followed):

The initial system trip was identified on 14 February 2026 during a generator test conducted by the EPE and Building Technology teams to assess the response of the backup system. The system failed to respond

as expected.

An emergency intervention was immediately requested from SBM, Blessed, and CFO. SBM attended site on 14 February 2026; however, it took approximately two weeks to stabilise the system to a level where it could handle load during power outages.

The formal report from SBM was only received on 17 March 2026, which contributed to the delay in initiating the deviation process. Additionally, there are still outstanding issues identified in the SBM report that SABC needs to address.

REASON

Due to the severity and immediacy of the risk, it is necessary to appoint a service provider on an emergency basis to:

- #Implement corrective actions

- #Restore full generator functionality

The primary objective is to ensure the generator system can automatically take load during municipal power failures without interruption and all the critical areas receives power and cooling

SCOPE OF WORK

Scope of work includes the following critical interventions:

- #Remediation of findings from the Elek-Tek report (June 2025) # Annexure

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- #Remediation of findings from the SBM report (March 2026) # Annexure 2

- #Implementation of additional works to ensure full functionality and reliability of critical systems, including:

 - UPS and Power Distribution Upgrades

 - #Installation of new Piller UPS units (already on site) for critical areas (UPS A and UPS B)

 - #Running Medium Voltage (MV) cables from two 1000kVA generators (K1) to supply new UPS systems

 - #Commissioning of UPS A panel, including updated electrical drawings and load integration

 - #Decommissioning of old Piller UPS units after successful migration Load Reconfiguration

 - #Migration of UPS load from Panel F to new K1 UPS system

 - #Synchronisation of 1000kVA generators

#Reallocation of lift supply to Panel F following UPS load removal

Cooling and Plant Reliability

#Connection of S1 < (> &<)> S2 panels at K4 to two 500kVA generators to ensure uninterrupted cooling supply to all RBF studios

#Inclusion of Ground Floor foyer, Radio 2000, and Metro FM cooling systems under generator backup

#Install soft starter for each plant room to avoid inrush current.

Automation and System Improvement

#Automation of the changeover unit at the HT room to ensure seamless power transfer during outages

#Elimination of manual switching requirements currently affecting high-rise power availability

COST EFFECTIVENESS

As agreed upon in the meeting with the projects team and CFO, The emergency procurement is necessary to prevent a potential national broadcasting disruption and to safeguard critical infrastructure.

Estimated amount R5 000 000,00 excluding VAT

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

RISK & MITIGATIONS

Risk and Operational Impact:

The repeated failure of the generator backup system presents a significant operational risk to SABC Radio Park.

In the event of a municipal power outage, the facility is at immediate risk of going off air due to unreliable backup power. This may result in:

#Interruption of broadcasting services

#Reputational damage to SABC

#Potential revenue losses

#Failure to meet public broadcasting obligations

Given the critical role of Radio Park as a national broadcasting hub, restoring reliable backup power is both urgent and essential.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the motivation provided, the Logistics Services requests that:

#The Head of SCM approves the deviation to appoint SBM Electro Machenic for emergency generator system repairs. At an estimated amount of R4 750 000.00 excluding VAT.

#The Head of SCM Governance signs the letter of intent

#The Legal department draft the agreement to this effect.

NATURE OF DEVIATION
Emergency.

VENDOR SELECTION
SBM ELECTRO MECHAMIC 617016

SBM was selected based on the following:

#They successfully stabilised the generator system during the emergency intervention.

#They have the required proprietary software compatible with SABC generator systems.

#Attempts were made to contact an alternative service provider (Elec-Tek), but no response was received.

#SBM is part of the Barloworld Group, with proven experience and expertise in generator systems.

PERIOD
ONCE OFF

PURPOSE
The purpose of this submission is to request approval to deviate from the normal procurement process and appoint SBM Electro machanic CC for the provision of emergency generator system repairs at radio park. At an estimated amount of R4 750 000 excluding VAT.

APPROVERS AND REVIEWERS

Date Actioned	User Name	Actioned By Full Name
15.05.2026	SHABALALAMG	MSIZI GABRIEL SHABALALA
18.05.2026	NKOSISV	SIFISO VINCENT BRUCE NKOSI
18.05.2026	MTHEMBUMS	MICHAEL SENZOSENKOSI MTHEMBU
20.05.2026	MTHEMBUMS	MICHAEL SENZOSENKOSI MTHEMBU
20.05.2026	NJOKOVP	VALENCIA NJOKO