Eskom	Strategy	Generation Engineering

Title:	**Tender Technical Evaluation Strategy – Data Acquisition System Upgrade**	Unique Identifier:	**AECI 0131**
		Alternative Reference Number:	**N/A**
		Area of Applicability:	**Generation Engineering**
		Documentation Type:	**Strategy**
		Revision:	**02**
		Total Pages:	**20**
		Next Review Date:	**N/A**
		Disclosure Classification:	**CONTROLLED DISCLOSURE**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Arnot Power Station is a coal-fired power station located in Mpumalanga Province, comprising six turbine-generator units, each with a generating capacity of 400 MW. The station utilises ABB P13/P14 Distributed Control Systems (DCS) for plant operation, control and protection.

The Vibration Monitoring System (VMS) provides continuous monitoring of critical rotating machinery, including the Main Turbine (MT), Electrical Feed Pumps (EFPs) A and B, and Steam Feed Pump Turbine (SFPT). The system monitors machinery vibration and other relevant parameters and interfaces with the ABB DCS to provide alarms and initiate protective trips in accordance with the station's existing machinery protection philosophy.

The existing SKF M800 Data Acquisition Systems (DAS) on Units 1, 2 and 6 have reached the end of their operational life and require replacement with Parker Meggitt VM600 systems to improve plant reliability, availability and maintainability, while standardising the vibration monitoring technology across the station.

The project entails the complete design, engineering, procurement, supply, installation, integration, testing and commissioning of the VM600 systems, including associated field instrumentation, cabling, electrical equipment, communication interfaces and software. The Contractor is responsible for procuring the VM600 equipment through the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or an OEM-authorised supply channel and obtaining the necessary technical support for successful implementation.

The Works include integration with the existing ABB DCS and machinery condition monitoring systems, including Baker Hughes Orbit 60 and/or Bently Nevada System 1 TDXnet, as applicable. The Contractor coordinates the required DCS modifications with ABB South Africa and obtains the necessary VM600 OEM technical support, while retaining overall responsibility for successful project delivery.

The technical evaluation strategy assesses bidders' engineering competence, relevant industrial automation and system integration experience, technical execution methodology, procurement capability, OEM coordination arrangements and ability to deliver a fully functional vibration monitoring and protection system. Experience with VM600 or equivalent vibration monitoring systems is advantageous; however, competent DCS, PLC and industrial automation system integrators are also considered, provided they demonstrate the technical capability and resources necessary to execute the Works.

The objective of this Tender Technical Evaluation Strategy is to establish a fair, consistent and auditable technical evaluation process that ensures the appointment of a suitably competent Contractor capable of delivering the Works in accordance with the Employer's technical, operational, safety and quality requirements.

2. SUPPORTING CLAUSES

2.1 SCOPE

The scope of the project entails the replacement of the obsolete SKF M800 Vibration Monitoring Data Acquisition Systems with Parker Meggitt VM600 systems on Units 1, 2 and 6 at Arnot Power Station, covering the Main Turbine, Electrical Feed Pumps A and B, and Steam Feed Pump Turbine.

The Contractor is responsible for the complete design, engineering, procurement, supply, delivery, installation, configuration, integration, testing and commissioning of the new VM600 systems, including all associated field instrumentation, cabling, electrical equipment, communication interfaces, accessories and software required to deliver fully functional vibration monitoring and machinery protection systems.

The Contractor procures and supplies the VM600 Data Acquisition Systems through the OEM or an OEM-authorised supply channel and obtains the necessary technical support, configuration information, software licences and engineering assistance required for successful implementation.

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The Works include decommissioning the existing SKF M800 systems, installation of the new VM600 racks and associated field equipment, and integration with the existing ABB DCS and machinery condition monitoring systems, including Baker Hughes Orbit 60 and/or Bently Nevada System 1 TDXnet, as applicable to each unit.

The Contractor coordinates all required ABB DCS modifications with ABB South Africa and obtains the necessary VM600 technical support from the OEM or its authorised representative. The Contractor retains overall responsibility for the successful delivery, integration, testing and commissioning of the complete system.

The Contractor performs the Works during planned maintenance outages or suitable opportunity outages, including advance preparation and off-site configuration to minimise installation and commissioning durations.

The Works include factory acceptance testing, site integration testing, site acceptance testing, functional and protection testing, calibration, training, documentation and final handover in accordance with the Works Information.

This document covers the technical evaluation of tenders for the above scope only. Commercial, SCM and other non-technical evaluation requirements are addressed in the applicable commercial procurement strategy.

2.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this tender technical evaluation strategy is to define the Qualitative Evaluation Criteria, the technical evaluation threshold and TET member responsibilities for tender technical evaluation. No mandatory technical evaluation criteria apply to this tender (refer to Section 3.3). The technical evaluation strategy serves as basis for the tender technical evaluation process.

2.1.2 Applicability

This document applies to the Tender Technical Evaluation Team (TET), Generation Engineering, the Arnot Power Station project team and Supply Chain Management for the VM600 Data Acquisition System Replacement Project on Units 1, 2 and 6 at Arnot Power Station.

2.2 NORMATIVE/INFORMATIVE REFERENCES

Parties using this document shall apply the most recent edition of the documents listed in the following paragraphs.

2.2.1 Normative

[1] 240-168966153: Generation Tender Technical Evaluation Procedure

[2] Commercial procurement strategy for the Arnot Power Station VM600 DAS replacement project

2.2.2 Informative

[3] AECI 0131: Tender Technical Evaluation Strategy – Data Acquisition System Upgrade (Revision 01, superseded)

[4] Works Information for Data Acquisition System Upgrade at Arnot Power Station

2.3 DEFINITIONS

Contractor: The successful bidder responsible for the complete design, procurement, supply, installation, integration, testing and commissioning of the VM600 systems.

Employer: Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, represented by Arnot Power Station.

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OEM-authorised supply channel: The Original Equipment Manufacturer of the VM600 system or a supplier authorised by it to supply genuine, supported VM600 equipment, software and technical support.

System integrator: A contractor with demonstrated capability in the design, engineering, installation, integration, testing and commissioning of industrial DCS, PLC or machinery monitoring systems.

2.3.1 Classification

Controlled Disclosure: Controlled Disclosure to external parties (either enforced by law, or discretionary).

2.4 ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
ABB	ABB South Africa (DCS OEM)
DAS	Data Acquisition System
DCS	Distributed Control System
ECSA	Engineering Council of South Africa
FAT	Factory Acceptance Test
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
PLC	Programmable Logic Controller
QCP	Quality Control Plan
SAT	Site Acceptance Test
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SIT	Site Integration Test
TDXnet	Bently Nevada System 1 transient data interface
TET	Tender Evaluation Team
VM600	Parker Meggitt VM600 machinery protection and monitoring system
VMS	Vibration Monitoring System

2.5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As per 240-168966153: Generation Tender Technical Evaluation Procedure.

2.6 PROCESS FOR MONITORING

N/A

2.7 RELATED/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

This document supersedes the Tender Technical Evaluation Strategy AECI 0131, Revision 01, dated February 2026.

The following related documents must be aligned with this revision before the tender is issued, so that procurement, supply, warranty, interface and commissioning responsibilities are consistent:

- Works Information – remove the Employer free-issue of VM600 racks and include complete Contractor procurement and supply, OEM support, ABB interface coordination, warranty and commissioning responsibilities.
- Pricing schedules – include VM600 equipment, software licences, OEM technical support and ABB DCS modification costs as Contractor items.

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- Procurement responsibilities and associated contract documents – remove all references to Employer-supplied VM600 equipment to avoid contractual inconsistency.
- Tender returnables schedule – include the returnables listed in Table 3.

3. TENDER TECHNICAL EVALUATION STRATEGY

3.1 TECHNICAL EVALUATION THRESHOLD

The minimum weighted final score (threshold) required for a tender to be considered from a technical perspective is 75%.

3.2 TET MEMBERS

Table 1: TET Members

TET number	TET Member Name	Designation
TET 1	Sibusiso Hlatshwayo	C&I Systems Engineer
TET 2	Lawrence Sikhakhane	C&I Senior Technician
TET 3	Thapelo Theledi	C&I Engineering Manager

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3.3 MANDATORY TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

No mandatory technical evaluation criteria apply to this tender. The two mandatory criteria contained in Revision 01 have been removed, and relevant experience is now evaluated qualitatively (refer to Section 3.4).

Table 2: Mandatory Technical Evaluation Criteria

	Mandatory Technical Criteria Description	Reference to Technical Specification / Tender Returnable	Motivation for use of Criteria
1.	Not applicable. Removed: mandatory VMS experience. Removed: mandatory VMS experience in power generation or heavy industry.	N/A	The Revision 01 mandatory criteria excluded all bidders. Previous VM600/M800 experience is now an advantage (Criterion 1, score 5), not a prerequisite, and proven DCS/PLC integration experience provides a realistic route to technical qualification.

3.4 QUALITATIVE TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Table 3 defines the qualitative technical evaluation criteria, the associated tender returnables and weightings. Each criterion is scored 0, 2, 4 or 5 in accordance with the scoring guide in Section 3.7. The weighted score per criterion is (score ÷ 5) × criterion weighting; the sum of the weighted scores is the final technical score.

Table 3: Qualitative Technical Evaluation Criteria

	Qualitative Technical Criteria Description		Tender Returnable	Reference to Scope of Work	Criteria Weighting (%)	Score	Criteria Sub Weighting (%)
1.	**System Integration and Relevant Engineering Experience**				**25**	**0, 2, 4, 5**	
	1.1	System integration capability for similar project work conducted as per the Scope of Work	System Integration Experience Evidence Pack, including documented evidence of completed system integration projects demonstrating integration with the following environments: • Distributed Control Systems (e.g. ABB or equivalent) or PLC systems. • Machinery vibration or condition monitoring systems (e.g. VM600, SKF M800, Bently Nevada System 1, Orbit 60, TDXnet or equivalent), where applicable. • Alarm, interlock, trip or protection functions on large rotating machinery or comparable complex industrial equipment. For each reference project, the bidder shall provide:	Works Information		**5 – Fully Compliant** The bidder provides clear, verifiable and project-relevant evidence demonstrating: • Design, engineering, installation, integration, testing and commissioning of VM600, SKF M800 or equivalent machinery vibration monitoring systems; and • Integration of these systems with DCS/PLC systems and/or machinery condition monitoring systems; and • Testing and commissioning responsibility. **4 – Compliant** The bidder demonstrates: • Verifiable experience in the design, engineering, installation, integration, testing and commissioning of industrial DCS or PLC systems; and • Involvement of field instrumentation, signal processing, alarms, interlocks or protection functions.	100

	Qualitative Technical Criteria Description		Tender Returnable	Reference to Scope of Work	Criteria Weighting (%)	Score	Criteria Sub Weighting (%)
			• Systems integrated (OEM and model). • Scope performed (design, engineering, installation, integration, testing and commissioning). • Industry and equipment monitored or controlled. • Testing and commissioning responsibilities. • Completion evidence (e.g. client sign-off or completion certificate). • Contactable client reference.			• Previous VMS experience is not required. **2 – Partially Compliant** The bidder provides: • Experience in industrial automation or control systems; but • Limited evidence of end-to-end system integration, commissioning or protection-related functionality. **0 – Non-Responsive** • No verifiable experience in industrial control system integration, installation, testing or commissioning; or • Experience limited to equipment supply without engineering or integration responsibility.	
2.	**Replacement, Installation, Testing and Commissioning Methodology**				**20**	**0, 2, 4, 5**	
	2.1	Replacement, installation, testing and commissioning methodology as per the Scope of Work	Method statement covering: • Decommissioning and removal of the existing SKF M800 systems. • Installation of the VM600 racks and associated field equipment. • Integration with the ABB DCS and Orbit 60 / System 1 TDXnet. • FAT, SIT and SAT. • Functional and protection testing, including validation of	Works Information		**5 – Fully Compliant** The methodology is comprehensive and project-specific, and: • Covers all phases listed in the tender returnable; and • Is aligned with the outage windows; and • Clearly demonstrates how the machinery protection functions will be tested and validated. **4 – Compliant** The methodology is credible and project-specific, and:	100

	Qualitative Technical Criteria Description		Tender Returnable	Reference to Scope of Work	Criteria Weighting (%)	Score	Criteria Sub Weighting (%)
			the machinery protection functions. • Calibration, training, documentation and handover. • Execution within planned or opportunity outages, including advance preparation and off-site configuration.			• Covers all key phases, including protection testing and outage alignment; • Has minor gaps in detail. **2 – Partially Compliant** The methodology: • Is generic; or • Omits or inadequately addresses key phases (such as integration testing, protection testing or outage alignment). **0 – Non-Responsive** • No methodology submitted; or • The methodology is not relevant to the scope of work.	
3.	**Conceptual Interface and Installation Design**				**15**	**0, 2, 4, 5**	
	3.1	Conceptual interface and installation design as per the Scope of Work	Conceptual interface and installation design, including: • VM600 rack layout and installation arrangement for each unit. • Signal and interface architecture with the ABB DCS. • Interfaces with Baker Hughes Orbit 60 and/or Bently Nevada System 1 TDXnet, as applicable. • Field cabling, power supply and communication interfaces (protocols). • Hardwired protection and trip interfaces.	Works Information		**5 – Fully Compliant** The conceptual design is comprehensive and shows: • The VM600 rack layout and installation arrangement for each unit; and • The signal and interface architecture with the ABB DCS and condition monitoring systems; and • The cabling, power, communication and trip interfaces. **4 – Compliant** The conceptual design is credible and: • Addresses all main interfaces; • Has minor gaps in detail. **2 – Partially Compliant** The conceptual design:	100

	Qualitative Technical Criteria Description		Tender Returnable	Reference to Scope of Work	Criteria Weighting (%)	Score	Criteria Sub Weighting (%)
						• Is incomplete; and/or • Does not address one or more key interfaces. **0 – Non-Responsive** • No conceptual design submitted; or • The design is not relevant to the scope of work.	
4.	**VM600 Procurement and OEM Coordination Capability**				**10**	**0, 2, 4, 5**	
	4.1	VM600 procurement and OEM coordination capability as per the Scope of Work	Procurement and OEM Support Plan, identifying: • The proposed VM600 supply channel (OEM or OEM-authorised). • Required equipment and accessories. • Indicative lead times. • Software, licence and configuration requirements. • OEM technical support arrangements. • ABB DCS coordination. • Responsibilities for FAT, integration, commissioning and warranty support.	Works Information		**5 – Fully Compliant** A comprehensive procurement and coordination plan, supported by: • Verifiable OEM or OEM-authorized channel supply arrangements for the VM600 racks; and • Equipment availability information; and • OEM technical support arrangements; and • A clear ABB interface management approach. **4 – Compliant** A credible procurement and OEM coordination plan: • Identifying the appropriate OEM-authorised supply channel for the VM600 racks and ABB involvement; • With some supporting arrangements still to be finalised. **2 – Partially Compliant** A preliminary plan: • Acknowledging OEM / authorized-channel and ABB involvement; but	100

	Qualitative Technical Criteria Description		Tender Returnable	Reference to Scope of Work	Criteria Weighting (%)	Score	Criteria Sub Weighting (%)
						• Lacking sufficient evidence of supply feasibility, support arrangements or execution responsibilities. **0 – Non-Responsive** • No credible procurement or OEM support approach; or • A proposal that does not demonstrate a feasible route to obtaining the required VM600 equipment.	
5.	**Resource Plan and ECSA-Registered Engineering Capability**				**10**	**0, 2, 4, 5**	
	5.1	Resource plan and engineering capability as per the Scope of Work	Resource plan, including: • Organogram of the project team. • CVs of key personnel. • Proof of ECSA registration of key engineering personnel. • Identified specialist VM600 (OEM) support.	Works Information		**5 – Fully Compliant** A complete resource plan with: • ECSA-registered engineering personnel in key roles; and • CVs demonstrating relevant integration and commissioning experience; and • Identified specialist VM600 (OEM) support. **4 – Compliant** An adequate resource plan with: • ECSA-registered key personnel and relevant CVs; and • Identified specialist vibration monitoring / data acquisition support (non-OEM), or OEM support not fully detailed. **2 – Partially Compliant** The resource plan: • Is incomplete; or	100

	Qualitative Technical Criteria Description		Tender Returnable	Reference to Scope of Work	Criteria Weighting (%)	Score	Criteria Sub Weighting (%)
						• Includes key personnel without ECSA registration or relevant experience. **0 – Non-Responsive** • No resource plan submitted.	
6.	**Quality Management and Quality Control Plan**				**5**	**0, 2, 4, 5**	
	6.1	Quality management system and project-specific quality control plan	Quality documentation, including: • Evidence of an implemented quality management system (e.g. ISO 9001 certificate or QMS manual). • Project-specific QCP with inspection and test hold points.	Works Information		**5 – Fully Compliant** The bidder provides: • Evidence of an implemented quality management system; and • A project-specific QCP with hold points for FAT, SIT, SAT and protection testing. **4 – Compliant** The bidder provides: • Quality management system evidence; and • A project-specific QCP addressing the main activities, with minor gaps. **2 – Partially Compliant** The bidder provides: • Quality management system evidence only; or • A generic QCP that is not project-specific. **0 – Non-Responsive** • No quality management system evidence or QCP submitted.	100
7.	**Project Plan, Execution Programme and Mobilisation Readiness**				**10**	**0, 2, 4, 5**	

	Qualitative Technical Criteria Description		Tender Returnable	Reference to Scope of Work	Criteria Weighting (%)	Score	Criteria Sub Weighting (%)
	7.1	Project plan, execution programme and mobilisation readiness for planned and opportunity outages	The bidder shall submit a preliminary project execution programme and mobilisation readiness plan indicating the proposed engineering, procurement, equipment delivery, installation, testing and commissioning activities, including associated lead times and dependencies. The submission shall demonstrate the bidder's ability to respond to planned and short-notice opportunity outages and execute the Works in independent work packages, including replacement of the Data Acquisition System only, replacement of field instrumentation only, or simultaneous replacement of both. The bidder shall propose its availability arrangements, notification acknowledgement times, mobilisation periods, personnel and equipment availability, specialist OEM support arrangements, and estimated execution durations for each work package. The bidder shall identify any limitations, dependencies or conditions that may affect mobilisation and execution during opportunity outages.	Works Information		**5 – Fully Compliant** Comprehensive and realistic project programme and mobilisation plan demonstrating excellent readiness for short-notice opportunity outages, with clearly defined and competitive response times, adequate resources, equipment availability, OEM support arrangements and practical execution durations for independent work packages. **4 – Compliant** Credible project programme and mobilisation plan demonstrating good readiness for planned and opportunity outages, with defined response times, resources, equipment and OEM support arrangements, and minor limitations or dependencies. **2 – Partially Compliant** Basic project programme and mobilisation proposal with limited detail, uncertain response times, inadequate demonstration of resource availability or significant dependencies affecting execution during opportunity outages. **0 – Non-Responsive** No meaningful project programme or mobilisation plan, or failure to demonstrate the ability to execute the Works during opportunity outages.	100
8.	**Field Instrumentation, Spares and Lifecycle Support**				**3**	**0, 2, 4, 5**	

	Qualitative Technical Criteria Description		Tender Returnable	Reference to Scope of Work	Criteria Weighting (%)	Score	Criteria Sub Weighting (%)
	8.1	Field instrumentation, spares and lifecycle support	Submission including: • Field instrumentation proposal compatible with the VM600. • Recommended spares list. • Lifecycle, warranty and OEM support arrangements.	Works Information		**5 – Fully Compliant** The bidder provides: • A comprehensive field instrumentation proposal compatible with the VM600; and • A recommended spares list; and • Defined lifecycle, warranty and OEM support arrangements. **4 – Compliant** A credible proposal that: • Addresses field instrumentation, spares and lifecycle support; • Has minor gaps. **2 – Partially Compliant** A partial proposal in which: • Field instrumentation, spares or lifecycle support is not addressed. **0 – Non-Responsive** • No proposal submitted.	100
9.	**List of Exclusions**				**2**	**0, 2, 4, 5**	
	9.1	Exclusions and their impact on delivery of the complete system	List of exclusions (the bidder shall state "no exclusions" where applicable).	Works Information		**5 – Fully Compliant** • No exclusions that affect delivery of a complete, fully commissioned system. **4 – Compliant** • Minor exclusions with no material impact on delivery of the complete system. **2 – Partially Compliant** • Exclusions with a material impact on delivery, requiring the Employer to provide or procure part of the scope. **0 – Non-Responsive**	100

	Qualitative Technical Criteria Description		Tender Returnable	Reference to Scope of Work	Criteria Weighting (%)	Score	Criteria Sub Weighting (%)
						• No list of exclusions submitted; or • Exclusion of core scope (such as VM600 supply, OEM support or protection testing) that renders the offer incomplete.	
				TOTAL	**100**		

3.5 TET MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Table 4 identifies the TET members allocated to evaluate each qualitative criterion. A minimum of two evaluators shall be allocated per criterion. Allocations (X) are to be confirmed once TET members are appointed in Table 1.

Table 4: TET Member Responsibilities

Mandatory Criteria Number	TET 1	TET 2	TET 3	TET 4	TET 5	TET 6	TET 7	TET n
N/A								
1	**X**	**X**	**X**					
2	**X**	**X**	**X**					
3	**X**	**X**	**X**					
4	**X**	**X**	**X**					
5	**X**	**X**	**X**					
6	**X**	**X**	**X**					
7	**X**	**X**	**X**					
8	**X**	**X**	**X**					
9	**X**	**X**	**X**					

3.6 FORESEEN ACCEPTABLE / UNACCEPTABLE QUALIFICATIONS

3.6.1 Risks

Table 5: Acceptable Technical Risks

Risk	Description
1.	A competent industrial DCS/PLC system integrator without previous VMS experience, provided its technical solution includes credible OEM-supported VM600 procurement, configuration, integration, testing and commissioning arrangements.
2.	A bidder without previous VM600 or SKF M800 experience. Such experience earns additional points but is not a prerequisite.
3.	A bidder without an existing relationship with Tandm Technologies, provided it demonstrates its ability to establish and manage the required VM600 supply and technical support arrangements.
4.	Procurement and OEM support arrangements that are credible and identify the authorised supply channel and ABB involvement, with some supporting arrangements still to be finalised at tender stage.
5.	Reliance on ABB South Africa for ABB DCS modifications, coordinated by the Contractor, with the Contractor retaining overall responsibility for the complete system.

Table 6: Unacceptable Technical Risks

Risk	Description
1.	Absence of proven integration competence: no verifiable experience in industrial control system integration, installation, testing or commissioning, or experience limited to equipment supply without engineering or integration responsibility.
2.	An unworkable VM600 procurement route, or a proposal that does not demonstrate a feasible route to obtaining genuine VM600 equipment.
3.	Inability to secure the necessary OEM technical support, configuration information, software access or licences.
4.	Failure to demonstrate how the machinery protection functions will be tested and validated.
5.	Supply feasibility (availability, compatibility, software access, technical support and lead times) supported only by a declared intention to procure, without supporting evidence.

3.6.2 Exceptions / Conditions

Table 7: Acceptable Technical Exceptions / Conditions

Risk	Description
1.	Sourcing of VM600 equipment from any OEM-authorised channel capable of supplying genuine, supported VM600 equipment compatible with the required configuration, subject to the Works Information.
2.	ABB DCS modifications performed by ABB South Africa under the Contractor's coordination.
3.	Specialist VM600 configuration and commissioning support provided by the OEM or its authorised representative under the Contractor's management.
4.	Advance preparation and off-site configuration to minimise installation and commissioning durations during outages.

Table 8: Unacceptable Technical Exceptions / Conditions

Risk	Description
1.	Any proposal that relies on Employer free-issue of VM600 racks or other VM600 equipment.
2.	Any proposal offering a technology other than the specified Parker Meggitt VM600 system.
3.	Exclusion of OEM technical support, configuration information, software licences or tools required for a fully functional system.
4.	Exclusion of ABB DCS modification coordination, or of integration with Baker Hughes Orbit 60 and/or Bently Nevada System 1 TDXnet where applicable.
5.	Exclusion of FAT, SIT, SAT, functional and protection testing, calibration, training, documentation or handover.
6.	Limitation of the Contractor's responsibility to equipment supply, or exclusion of overall responsibility for a fully commissioned and operational system.
7.	Supply of non-genuine or unsupported VM600 equipment.