

# Interference Testing and Consultancy Services (Pty) Ltd

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# **REPORT ADDRESSING ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE (EMI), PATH LOSS AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR POFADDER WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1**



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# **Abbreviations and Acronyms**



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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

An area about 140 km North-West from the SKA radio telescope project in the Northern Cape Province, has been identified for the Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1.

The Karoo area is ideally suited for the installation and commissioning of renewable energy projects, but it is also host to the Department of Science and Technology's SKA radio telescope project. Due to the sensitivity of the telescope receivers, there is a risk that unintentional emissions from the systems associated with renewable energy projects will desensitise the SKA receivers resulting in interference to celestial observations and/or data loss. Such interference is typically referred to as 'Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)'. RFI is part of the EMC engineering discipline that includes electromagnetic emissions and electromagnetic immunity.

This report forms part of three separate reports, that focuses on the RFI that the Pofadder Wind Energy Facility cluster presents on the SKA radio telescope project. A pathloss study between the Pofadder Wind Energy Facility cluster and the SKA radio telescope project was conducted, and the results identify any mitigation that should be implemented.

No AMA permits will be required as the WEFs are located further than 50km away from the closest SKA infrastructure.

# **2. SCOPE**

This assessment is a high-level desktop study and can be updated based on additional measurement results and design information as it becomes available. This specific report will focus on the Path-Loss results between Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1 and the SKA telescope project. Each report will discuss two separate scenarios:

- Scenario 1 considers the maximum parameters being proposed for the environmental impact assessment (EIA), being Hub Height (HH) of 200 m and Rotor Diameter (RD) of 200 m; and
- Scenario 2 considers the turbine model N163/6.X anticipated for the earliest date when the projects will be bid ready. Therefore 120 m HH and 163 m RD.

### **2.1 INTENT**

The intent of this evaluation is to ensure that the Pofadder Wind Energy Facility cluster poses a low risk of detrimental impact on the SKA by comparing the anticipated emissions from equipment complying to the CISPR 11/32 class B limits minus the path loss due to distance and terrain to the protection levels required by SARAO to ensure interference free operations. Should additional mitigation (shielding and filtering) be required it will be quantified in this report.

### **3. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

- i. Confirm Pofadder WEF location with POFADDER WIND FACILITY 1 (PTY) LIMITED.
- ii. Confirm nearest SKA dish installation area with AMA.
- iii. Assume equipment compliance with CISPR limits
- iv. Plot line of sight graphs using the 200m hub height and 10m for the SKA dish between the SKA dish and nearest wind turbine generator (WTG).
- v. Plot line of sight graphs using the 120m hub height and 10m for the SKA dish between the SKA dish and nearest wind turbine generator (WTG).
- vi. Perform path loss calculations using the Irregular Terrain Model between the turbine and SKA dish.
- vii. Use the CISPR 11/32 Class B radiated emission limits and subtract the total path loss to confirm the result is less than the protection level at the SKA dish installation location.
- viii. If the result from vii exceeds the SARAS level, additional mitigation is required.

# **4. REFERENCES**

### **4.1 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**



### **4.2 GENERAL REFERENCE MATERIAL**

- a. EMC Analysis Methods and Computational Models, Frederick M. Tesche, Michel V. Ianoz, Torbjörn Karlson, Wiley Interscience, 1997
- b. Noise reduction techniques in electronic systems, Second edition, Henry W. Ott, Wiley Interscience Publications, 1998
- c. Electromagnetic Compatibility Principles and Applications, Second Edition, David A. Weston, Marcel Dekker Inc, 2000

# **5. TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION**

A typical wind turbine system has the following building blocks elements:

- Rotor (Blades, hub, and pitch system).
- Nacelle housing the generator, gearbox if not direct drive, yaw system, monitoring/ control systems, power convertor, transformer.
- Tower (concrete or steel).

Some manufacturers choose to remove the power convertors and transformers from the nacelle and place it in the tower or separate facility next to the tower.



<span id="page-6-0"></span>**Figure 1: Generic wind turbine block diagram**

# **6. RISK IDENTIFICATION**

### **6.1 TECHNOLOGY RISKS**

The following building blocks are viewed as potential interference sources:

- Control/ monitoring systems specially nacelle mounted systems.
- Power conversion equipment (rectifier/ invertor systems).
- Control and operations centre (computer equipment).

#### **6.1.1 Control/ monitoring systems**

- Environmental sensors.
- Warning lights.
- Cabinets housing PLC equipment.
- Variable speed drives (yaw and pitch control system).

#### **6.1.2 Control and operations centre**

Equipment installed in the control and operations centre should comply with CISPR 32 Class B. No mitigation requirement for equipment installed in the control and operations centre.

#### **6.1.3 Power Convertor**

- Thyristor/ IGBT switching rectification and invertor circuits
- UPS for control circuits

#### **6.2 SITE WIDE COMMUNICATIONS**

The communication among the wind turbines, the MET masts and wind turbines and the substation should be through an Ethernet optical fibre network to reduce radiated emissions from the site wide communications.

#### **6.3 GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE**

Based on the study supported by Eskom under the research programme: EMC and EMI (N.R100017.R.01.009 [3] the grid connection infrastructure interference is not viewed as problematic given that no arcing or sparking occurs due to voltage gradients or substandard installation practices. The principle of no wireless reporting communication and wireless control of systems (e.g. Bluetooth, wi-fi, Zigbee etc) as applicable to the turbine installation should be maintained.

### **7. EMC ANALYSIS**

### **7.1 SITE LOCATION**

### **7.1.1 Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1 Map**



**Figure 2 - Area Map with SKA and Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1 Visible**

<span id="page-8-1"></span>Four separate wind turbines in Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1 were identified for this study. The closest turbine, the turbine with the highest elevation above sea level, the turbine with the lowest pathloss to the SKA infrastructure in the spiral and the turbine with the lowest pathloss to a core SKA telescope. Each of these four points were subjected to two scenarios for the risk analysis desktop study. Scenario 1 where a Hub Heigh (HH) of 200m was used and Scenario 2 where a HH of 120m was used. The pathloss between the points for each scenario are tabulated in the result sections for each scenario.

# **8. POFADDER WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 SCENARIO 1 RESULTS**



<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Table 1: Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1 Layout distance from SKA infrastructure**

### **8.1 ELEVATION MAPS**





<span id="page-9-0"></span>

<span id="page-9-1"></span>**Figure 4 – Elevation map Between SKA008 and P 9**







<span id="page-10-0"></span>

<span id="page-10-1"></span>**Figure 6 – Elevation Map Between M049 and P 55**

# **8.2 PATH LOSS CALCULATIONS**

The path loss was calculated using the parameters as specified in Table 2: Path loss input data.



<span id="page-11-0"></span>**Table 2: Path loss input data**

### **8.3 PATH LOSS RESULTS**



<span id="page-12-0"></span>**Figure 7 – Path Loss Calculation Results from Pofadder 55 to SKA008**



<span id="page-12-1"></span>**Figure 8 – Path Loss Calculation Results from Pofadder 9 to SKA008**



**Figure 9 – Path Loss Calculation Results from Pofadder 53 to SKA008**

<span id="page-13-0"></span>

**Figure 10 – Path Loss Calculation Results from Pofadder 55 to M049**

<span id="page-13-1"></span>Figures 7 to 10 show the path loss result calculated for Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1 Scenario 1 equipment emissions at 200m HH.

SPLAT! (Signal Propagation, Loss And Terrain) analysis is based on the Longley –Rice Irregular Terrain Model. The digital elevation model resolution data used was 3-arc –seconds.

### **8.4 CUMULATIVE EFFECT**

A standard factor of 10  $log_{10}$  N, where N = the number of turbines for each Pofadder Wind Energy Facility separately, to account for cumulative emissions has been applied.

### **8.5 MITIGATION REQUIRED**

#### **8.5.1 Case 1: SKA008 to Pofadder 55 Mitigation requirement**



#### **Table 3: Case 1: SKA008 to Pofadder 55 mitigation requirement**

#### *\* CISPR 32 levels*

<span id="page-14-0"></span>Due to the cumulative effect of 30 Units in the facility, mitigation of 21dB at 1GHz would be required. The implication is that the radiated emission in the 100MHz to 1GHz band should be 21dB less than the CISPR 11/32 Class B radiated emission limit.

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#### **8.5.2 Case 2 SKA008 to Pofadder 9 requirement**



**Table 4: Case 2: SKA008 to Pofadder 9 mitigation requirement**

#### *\* CISPR 32 levels*

<span id="page-15-0"></span>Due to the cumulative effect of 30 Units in the facility, mitigation of 21dB at 1GHz would be required. The implication is that the radiated emission in the 100MHz to 1GHz band should be 21dB less than the CISPR 11/32 Class B radiated emission limit.

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#### **8.5.3 Case 3: SKA008 to Pofadder 53 Requirements**



**Table 5: Case 3: SKA008 to Pofadder 53 mitigation requirement**

#### *\* CISPR 32 levels*

<span id="page-16-0"></span>Due to the cumulative effect of 30 Units in the facility, mitigation of 21dB at 1GHz would be required. The implication is that the radiated emission in the 100MHz to 1GHz band should be 21dB less than the CISPR 11/32 Class B radiated emission limit.

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#### **8.5.4 Case 4: M049 to Pofadder 55 Requirements**



**Table 6: Case 4: M049 to Pofadder 55 mitigation requirement**

#### *\* CISPR 32 levels*

<span id="page-17-0"></span>Due to the cumulative effect of 30 Units in the facility, mitigation of 7dB at 1GHz would be required. The implication is that the radiated emission in the 100MHz to 1GHz band should be 7dB less than the CISPR 11/32 Class B radiated emission limit.

### **8.6 CONCLUSION FOR SCENARIO 1**

Due to the pathloss between Pofadder 53 and SKA008, the two points with the lowest pathloss between SKA and Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1, a degradation of performance is expected unless the radiated emissions from each turbine installation can be reduced to 21dB below the CISPR 11/32 Class B limit across the 100MHz to 6GHz band.

# **8.7 TESTS AT THE NEW SITE**

To verify overall WEF emissions, ambient measurements should be done at the new site before construction starts. Tests points should be carefully selected based on test equipment sensitivity with the objective to observe the increase in ambient emissions as construction progresses and completion of the project.

### **8.8 FINAL SITE TESTS**

Final site tests should be done on completion of the project to confirm the radiated emission levels.

<b>SKA ID</b>	<b>Turbine ID</b>	<b>Description</b>	Distance (km)
<b>SKA008</b>	P 55	Closest point	141.38
<b>SKA008</b>	P 9	Turbine with the highest elevation	146.80
<b>SKA008</b>	P 53	Turbine with the lowest pathloss to the SKA site	141.85
M049 (Core)	P 55	Turbine with the lowest pathloss to the SKA core site	223.79

**9. POFADDER WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 SCENARIO 2 RESULTS**

**Table 7 – Pofadder Layout distance from SKA infrastructure**

### <span id="page-19-0"></span>**9.1 ELEVATION MAPS**



**Figure 11 – Elevation map Between SKA008 and P 55**

<span id="page-19-1"></span>

SPLAT! Height Profile Between SKA008 and 1<sub>9</sub> (322.53° azimuth)

<span id="page-19-2"></span>**Figure 12 – Elevation map Between SKA008 and P 9**



**Figure 13 – Elevation map Between SKA008 and P 53**

<span id="page-20-0"></span>

<span id="page-20-1"></span>**Figure 14 – Elevation map Between M049 and P 55**

### **9.2 PATH LOSS CALCULATIONS**

The path loss was calculated using the parameters as specified in Table 8: Path loss input data.



<span id="page-21-0"></span>**Table 8 – Path Loss Input Data**

### **9.3 PATH LOSS RESULTS**



<span id="page-22-0"></span>**Figure 15 – Path Loss Calculation Results from Pofadder 55 to SKA008**



<span id="page-22-1"></span>**Figure 16 – Path Loss Calculation Results from Pofadder 9 to SKA008**



**Figure 17 – Path Loss Calculation Results from Pofadder 53 to SKA008**

<span id="page-23-0"></span>

**Figure 18 – Path Loss Calculation Results from Pofadder 55 to M049**

<span id="page-23-1"></span>Figures 15 to 18 show the path loss result calculated for Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1 Scenario 2 equipment emissions at 120m HH.

SPLAT! (Signal Propagation, Loss And Terrain) analysis is based on the Longley –Rice Irregular Terrain Model. The digital elevation model resolution data used was 3-arc –seconds.

### **9.4 CUMULATIVE EFFECT**

A standard factor of 10  $log_{10}$  N, where N = the number of turbines for each Pofadder Wind Energy Facility separately, to account for cumulative emissions has been applied.

### **9.5 MITIGATION REQUIRED**

#### **9.5.1 Case1: SKA008 to Pofadder 55 Mitigation requirement**



**Table 9 – Case 1: Mitigation Requirements between SKA008 and Pofadder 55**

#### *\* CISPR 32 levels*

Due to the cumulative effect of 30 Units in the facility, mitigation of 20dB at 1GHz would be required. The implication is that the radiated emission in the 100MHz to 1GHz band should be 20dB less than the CISPR 11/32 Class B radiated emission limit.

<span id="page-24-0"></span>

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#### **9.5.2 Case 2: SKA008 to Pofadder 9 Mitigation requirement**



**Table 10 – Case 2: Mitigation Requirements between SKA008 and Pofadder 9**

#### *\* CISPR 32 levels*

<span id="page-25-0"></span>Due to the cumulative effect of 30 Units in the facility, mitigation of 20dB at 1GHz would be required. The implication is that the radiated emission in the 100MHz to 1GHz band should be 20dB less than the CISPR 11/32 Class B radiated emission limit.

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#### **9.5.3 Case 3: SKA008 to Pofadder 53 Mitigation requirement**



**Table 11 – Case 3: Mitigation Requirements between SKA008 and Pofadder 53**

#### *\* CISPR 32 levels*

<span id="page-26-0"></span>Due to the cumulative effect of 30 Units in the facility, mitigation of 20dB at 1GHz would be required. The implication is that the radiated emission in the 100MHz to 1GHz band should be 20dB less than the CISPR 11/32 Class B radiated emission limit.

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#### **9.5.4 Case 4: M049 to Pofadder 55 Mitigation Requirement**



**Table 12 – Case 4: Mitigation Requirements between M049 and Pofadder 55**

#### *\* CISPR 32 levels*

<span id="page-27-0"></span>Due to the cumulative effect of 30 Units in the facility, mitigation of 6dB at 1GHz would be required. The implication is that the radiated emission in the 100MHz to 1GHz band should be 6dB less than the CISPR 11/32 Class B radiated emission limit.

### **9.6 CONCLUSION FOR SCENARIO 2**

Due to the pathloss between Pofadder 53 and SKA008, the two points with the lowest pathloss between SKA and Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1, a degradation of performance is expected unless the radiated emissions from each turbine installation can be reduced to 20dB below the CISPR 11/32 Class B limit across the 100MHz to 6GHz band.

### **9.7 TESTS AT THE NEW SITE**

To verify overall WEF emissions, ambient measurements should be done at the new site before construction starts. Tests points should be carefully selected based on test equipment sensitivity with the objective to observe the increase in ambient emissions as construction progresses and completion of the project.

### **9.8 FINAL SITE TESTS**

Final site tests should be done on completion of the project to confirm the radiated emission levels.

# **10. RESULT COMPARISON BETWEEN SCENARIO 1 AND SCENARIO 2**

Table 13 below lists the mitigation results obtained for the two different scenarios in Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1. The mitigation requirement difference between the two scenarios is minimal. In Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1 the change in HH from 200m to 120m decreases the amount of mitigation required by 1 dB.

<span id="page-28-0"></span>

#### **Table 13 - Summary of Results**

**- END OF REPORT -**