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The Expected life of a transformer is three to four decades, and some transformers have lasted longer than that. At the same time, the technology around the ancillary components, like tap changers and bushings, keeps on changing due to the needs of better performance, efficiency, safety, and environmental requirements. Not only that, but the companies producing these components may stop the production of certain product, either by technology or rating. This will compel end user to review their requirements. Transformer users, especially power utilities, will keep on revising their requirements to ensure they harvest the benefits of modern technologies.

To manage these technology evolutions and items becoming obsolete, Eskom, as a power utility of South Africa, put together critical documents, which is the Technology Management Strategy (TMS) and the Technology Roadmap (TRM). The TMS provide the technology requirements, stipulating how the technology is developed, assessed, piloted, and considered acceptable in the organization. It also addresses the matters of when to retire the technology. These requirements are mainly guided by the matters of reliability, maintenance regime, spares availability, legislation, and safety, just to mention some. On the other hand, the TRM provides an overview of what technologies are employed, the associated gaps, and the plan of implementing and managing the same.

The specification documents will therefore be guided by these two documents as they get revised from time to time. They are the documents that the transformer suppliers will look at and will be referenced by those involved in the relevant procurement activities.