

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Expert Assessment of the Revised VCS Methodology *VM0001 Refrigerant Leak Detection, v1.2*

February 20, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Verra is a global leader helping to tackle the world's most intractable environmental and social challenges. As a mission-driven nonprofit organization, Verra is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving livelihoods, and protecting natural resources by working with the private and public sectors. We support climate action and sustainable development with standards programs and tools that credibly, transparently, and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and enable funding for sustaining and scaling up projects that verifiably deliver these benefits.

The [Verified Carbon Standard \(VCS\) Program](#) is our flagship program. It allows vetted projects to turn their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and removals into tradable carbon credits called Verified Carbon Units (VCUs). Since its launch in 2006, the VCS Program has grown into the world's largest voluntary GHG program, with over 2,100 registered projects in 95 countries that have cumulatively generated more than 1 billion VCUs.

An integral component of the VCS Program is the [Methodology Development and Review Process, v4.3](#) (MDRP), which allows stakeholders to develop new methodologies that set out procedures to monitor and quantify the emission reductions and removals of new project activities, thus expanding the eligibility of project activities under the VCS Program. Such new methodologies are submitted to Verra for review before undergoing a technical assessment by an approved, accredited validation/verification body (VVB).

Verra will apply an alternative process for assessing the proposed major methodology revision of [VM0001 Infrared Automatic Refrigerant Leak Detection Efficiency Project Methodology, v1.1](#). The [revised methodology](#) will be renamed to *VM0001 Refrigerant Leak Detection, v1.2*, per Section 2.1.2 of the *MDRP, v4.3*. Instead of a VVB, an expert or group of experts with expertise in retail direct expansion refrigeration equipment systems, hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants, and refrigerant leak detection will conduct the assessment. This approach is proposed given the very technical nature of the revision and the required subject matter expertise. VVBs with relevant expertise are also welcome to submit proposals. Minor revisions not covered by the scope of the

expert assessment, such as editorial changes, clarifications, and additional guidance, will be reviewed by a separate Verra reviewer team.

1. SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for a technical assessment of *VM0001 Refrigerant Leak Detection, v1.2*, developed by Therm Solutions, Inc. and Verra.

The previous version, [*VM0001 Infrared Automatic Refrigerant Leak Detection Efficiency Project Methodology, v1.1*](#), applies to project activities that install infrared, real-time leak detection systems on US retail direct expansion refrigeration equipment systems to reduce leaks of HFC refrigerants.

The proposed revision seeks to expand the list of leak detection technologies to include alternative sensors and software-based leak detection, broaden the scope for global applicability, and simplify the approach for determining the maximum leak rate allowed for crediting (cap baseline leak rates).

The following specific aspects of the major revision must be reviewed:

- Appropriateness and consistency of the methodological approach for the use of alternative sensors and software-based leak detection
- Expansion of the scope to global applicability of the methodology, including appropriateness and stringency of the new proposed regional caps and whether risks related to HFC refrigerant management are sufficiently addressed
- The appropriateness of three years of historical data for baseline assessment and additional rules related to refill cycles to address potential overestimation of baseline emissions
- Whether the developer has taken due account of all stakeholder comments and the consistency of responses to the comments

Minor improvements introduced in this revision, such as editorial changes, general clarifications, and additional guidance, are excluded from the scope of the expert assessment and will be reviewed by a separate Verra reviewer team.

The expert will be responsible for preparing and submitting a review report with their findings. The developer will provide a response and update the methodology accordingly, and the expert will be responsible for reviewing the responses and revisions. This iterative process may include several review rounds and will conclude when all findings have been addressed.

2. QUALIFICATIONS

Verra is seeking an expert or group of experts with subject-matter expertise in retail direct expansion refrigeration equipment systems, HFC refrigerants, and refrigerant leak detection at a global level. The expert(s) should also have a good understanding of GHG accounting principles and methodological concepts in the VCS Program.

Verra will use the following specific criteria for evaluating proposals, listed in descending order of importance:

- Experience and subject-matter expertise required
- Understanding of GHG accounting principles and methodological concepts
- Availability and capacity to perform the assessment as per the timeline indicated below
- Cost, to ensure that the proposed level of effort is consistent with the outcomes

3. MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES, AND TIMELINE

The respondent must outline the assessment's duration and timeline within the proposal.

The duration of this expert review will be approximately nine weeks (depending on the number of review rounds). An indicative timeline for meeting key milestones and deliverables follows:

Initial assessment and preparation of the review report with findings (Verra will share a template of the review report with the expert)	Expert	4 weeks
Preparation of answers to findings and updates to the methodology	Developer	2 weeks
Additional assessment and update of the review report (for each additional round required)	Expert	1 week
Preparation of answers to findings and updates to the methodology (for each additional round required)	Developer	1 week
Preparation of the final assessment report with conclusions	Expert	1 week

4. RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Respondents are requested to submit the following as part of their proposals:

- A brief narrative detailing how the expert(s) will execute the scope of the work and deliverables, including a work plan and estimated timeline for the assessment
- A summary of qualifications of the expert or expert group relevant to the expert assessment and separately appended resumes/CVs
- Cost proposal
- Disclosure statement of services (conflict of interest statement) in undertaking the scope of work

All application materials submitted to Verra must be submitted by email with the subject “Proposal for expert assessment of *VM0001 Refrigerant Leak Detection, v1.2*” by close of business on March 12, 2024, to methodologies@verra.org. We will finalize selection of the expert by March 15, 2024.

Interested respondents should feel free to submit clarifying questions on any of the above information to the same email address with the subject “Clarification: Proposal for expert assessment of *VM0001 Refrigerant Leak Detection, v1.2*.”

LEGAL NATURE OF RFP

This RFP is an invitation for proposals, and Verra is under no legal obligation to accept any proposal nor proceed with the RFP. Verra reserves the right to amend the requirements at any time.