



UniGear switchgear platform is at home, everywhere

ABB has developed the world's first "one size fits all" platform for medium-voltage switchgear in the 12-24 kilovolt (kV) rating. The new panel is unique, because UniGear ZS1 satisfies detailed specifications of individual local markets, as well as the global customer's demand for standardization.

The market for primary air-insulated switchgear (AIS) in medium-voltage ratings is extremely diverse and highly fragmented, as each country traditionally has unique specifications for this product.

To meet the specific requirements of switchgear customers in their individual markets, ABB previously offered 18 product platforms for medium-voltage AIS in the 12-24 kV rating. The platforms were manufactured in numerous versions in no less than 32 countries.

Those days are now over. ABB has replaced this cumbersome array of products and programs with one single platform that meets the individual specifications of each market, while at the same time giving global operators a standardized product of consistent quality in all regions – something they have long been searching for.

Tried and true technology

Called UniGear ZS1, the new switchgear platform is based on ABB's market-leading ZS1 family, which was first launched in 1986 and is the world's best-selling switchgear panel in the 12-24 kV rating.

ABB assembled a team of specialists from around the world to develop the UniGear ZS1 platform and ensure all relevant, market-specific features were incorporated into the design.

The result of that collaboration is a unique, modular design that allows for more than 150 local switchgear requirements, all of which can be added to the basic UniGear platform. This modularity contributes to a lean switchgear manufacturing process, offers customers a wider choice, and allows ABB to meet the requirements of most customers.

The modular platform also means ABB can now manage a product range that formerly needed 47 production lines with just nine production lines, each of which serves a major market or region. And the number of switchgear parts has been cut by almost 95 percent to ensure consistent quality and shorter lead times.

To top it off, ABB has succeeded in reducing the width of the panel from 26 inches (650 mm) to 22 inches (550 mm), making UniGear ZS1 the most compact AIS 12-24 kV switchgear available on the market today.