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Green perspectives

ABB has numerous technologies that enable production and processes to become more efficient, both in terms of energy usage and of productivity. The company's variable-speed drives, for example, permit huge energy savings to be made in comparison to the more traditional method of using throttling elements to control speed. Not only is less energy input required to do the same work (environmental benefits) but costs are also saved thanks to short pay-back times. Typical applications for such variable-speed drives include fans, pumps, belts and conveyors. They can also be found in more unorthodox situations: for example powering the retractable roof of the Dallas Cowboy's football stadium.

Variable speed drives are just one application of ABB's expertise in power electronics. Power electronics permit current and voltage to be modified to virtually any desired waveform and frequency. Issue 3/2010 of *ABB Review* will look at some of these applications, and also the components at the heart of power electronics: solid state switching devices.

Continuing with the topic of saving energy and boosting productivity, the journal will also look at a building of the future, the latest developments in wind energy and a way to reduce emissions from ship's engines.