Press Release

ABB expands its AutoLink Electronic Sectionalizer portfolio to protect three-phase overhead line systems

New three-phase mechanical AutoLink, rated for up to 150 kV BIL, provides electronic sectionalizing capabilities for three-phase systems in medium voltage overhead distribution networks

January 2011 – ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, has launched a new three-phase AutoLink electronic sectionalizer that enhances the reliability and availability of overhead lines in three-phase medium voltage (MV) distribution networks that require fault protection.

The three-phase AutoLink, rated for up to 150 kV BIL (Basic Impulse Level), builds on the success of ABB’s single-phase AutoLink launched in 2008 for 15, 27 and 38 kV applications. The new device consists of a gang-mount design that allows three single-phase AutoLink sectionalizers to be interconnected mechanically to provide a three-phase sectionalizing operation. The three-phase AutoLink enhances reliability on overhead lines where three-phase systems need to be isolated from permanent faults, reducing unnecessary power outages and increasing network reliability and operator safety.

In common with the single-phase AutoLink, both the actuating current and the number of counts (the number of times that the actuating current can be exceeded before the device trips) can be configured and reconfigured, to obtain the ideal combination for the protection of each specific system. In addition, the three-phase opening prevents network unbalance.

The three-phase AutoLink is intended for installation in circuit branches, downstream of a recloser. When the value of a fault current reaches a level that is at least 10 percent above the preset actuating current (from 6 A to 215 A), the AutoLink starts counting the opening operations of the recloser. Once the preset count level is reached (from 1 to 4 counts) the AutoLink opens, cutting the circuit in the branch, while the recloser remains open. The circuit is restored by resetting the AutoLink on the phase or phases on which the fault occurred and then manually closing each AutoLink while the circuit is open.

The three-phase AutoLink can be installed in lines where single-phase opening is not desired and in systems with various grounding systems. It offers a simple and economic solution for three-phase sectionalizing, based on the field-proven capability of the AutoLink concept along with all type tests required by the ANSI/IEEE C37.63 standards.
ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 117,000 people.

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