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Publisher

ABB Review is published by ABB Group R&D and
Technology.

ABB Technology Ltd.

ABB Review

Affolternstrasse 44

CH-8050 Zurich

Switzerland

abb.review@ch.abb.com

ABB Review is published four times a year in
English, French, German, Spanish, Chinese and
Russian. *ABB Review* is free of charge to those with
an interest in ABB's technology and objectives.
For a subscription, please contact your nearest
ABB representative or subscribe online at
www.abb.com/abbreview

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ABB Technology Ltd.

Zurich/Switzerland

Printer

Vorarlberger Verlagsanstalt GmbH

AT-6850 Dornbirn/Austria

Layout

DAVILLA AG

Zurich/Switzerland

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ISSN: 1013-3119

www.abb.com/abbreview



Preview 1113

Innovation

Technology and its applications are in a state of continuous evolution. Much that seemed utopic some decades ago is now not only possible, but has become an integral part of daily life. Investments in R&D do not merely push for the incremental streamlining of products and businesses, but can also contribute to more far reaching and disruptive changes, the scale of which may not always initially be obvious.

Of course not every innovation sets out to change the world. Their immediate effect may concern only a particular industry or process, but resulting efficiencies or technologies may find unforeseen applications elsewhere. Research is thus very much an exploration of uncharted waters, and one in which relatively small changes can have far-reaching effects.

Every year, *ABB Review* dedicates its first edition to the celebration of innovation, and presents a selection of the company's recent and upcoming achievements. After this issue of *ABB Review* went to press, ABB announced a historical breakthrough in electric power transmission – the world's first hybrid HVDC circuit breaker. This achievement paves the way for HVDC grid evolution and will be highlighted in issue 1/2013.