ABB drives for water
Medium voltage drives for energy savings and life-cycle improvements
ABB drives for water
Water – Increasing demand for a limited resource

Freshwater is one of the world’s most important resources. But it is limited. Only three percent of the water on Earth is fresh water, and over two thirds of it is frozen in glaciers and polar ice caps. Water demand already exceeds supply in many parts of the world. The sustainable management of freshwater is one of the most important global issues.

Water is not only crucial to health but also to economic development. It is estimated that 15 percent of worldwide water use is industrial. All major industries rely on the unlimited availability of water as it is required by many processes and even forms a significant proportion of the final product.

As water demand continually rises, water is becoming increasingly vulnerable as a resource.

It is estimated that by 2025
– the population will increase by 1.5 – 2 billion,
– 2 billion people will move to cities,
– 1 billion people will not have access to clean drinking water,
– 2.4 billion people will not have adequate sanitation.

The rising demand for water coupled with its limited availability imposes severe challenges on water utilities and consumers.

Challenges
Water utilities and consumers are faced with the following challenges:

– Limited availability of freshwater coupled with a rising demand
– Rising cost of energy
– Stricter anti-pollution laws and water quality standards

With hundreds of installations in the water industry worldwide, ABB has the experience and expertise that bring considerable benefits to companies in today’s competitive water industry. ABB helps them to meet the challenges they face today by providing environmentally friendly solutions for efficient water conservation, such as:

– state-of-the-art electrical systems
– SCADA for plant automation and water leakage management
– high efficiency motors
– Variable Speed Drives (VSDs) and soft starters for improved controllability and energy savings

Variable speed drives
ABB supplies variable speed drives and systems for various kinds of processes and applications in the water cycle:

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Benefits of variable speed drives

The use of variable speed drives for flow and pressure control of electric motors results in significant energy savings and a reduction of life-cycle costs. In addition, variable speed drives provide soft starting/stopping features, which improve system reliability and extend the lifetime of motors.

Flow and pressure control
Water consumption varies greatly during a day. Consequently, the flow and pressure of pumps need to be controlled. The flow and pressure can be adjusted either electrically with variable speed drives, or mechanically with fixed-speed solutions, such as inlet guide vanes, throttling valves or hydraulic couplings.

Pump affinity laws
- Flow is proportional to speed
- Pressure is proportional to the square of speed
- Power is proportional to the cube of speed

Fixed vs. variable speed control
The most common flow control method is by means of a fixed speed motor regulated with a valve. This method can be compared to adjusting the speed of a car by braking while keeping the foot on the gas. This technique does not only waste a tremendous amount of energy, it also wears out the equipment.

With electric variable speed drives, changing the flow is simply achieved by changing the motor speed, which can be compared to reducing the speed by taking the foot off the gas and switching to a lower gear. The pumps will be operated at the BEP (Best Efficiency Point) under all operating conditions. Electric variable speed drives are the most efficient control method - they save energy, decrease CO₂ emissions and minimize total operating costs.

Benefits of variable speed drives

- Energy savings
  Typical payback on investment time: less than two years
- Improvement of system efficiency
- Longer lifetime of equipment
- Reduced operating costs
- Fast and precise process control

Power consumption for various pump control methods
Energy savings and reduced emissions

Energy saving has never been higher on the agenda than today. People have become increasingly aware of the correlation between wasting energy and environmental damage, and acknowledge the benefits of conserving energy by technical means.

Since pumps typically run at partial load, huge energy savings can be achieved by controlling their speed with variable speed drives. The power required to run a pump is roughly proportional to the cube of the speed, i.e. a small reduction in speed can make a big reduction in the energy consumption. A pump running at half speed consumes as little as one eighth of the energy compared to one running at full speed.

By employing variable speed drives on pumps instead of throttling, the energy bill can be reduced by as much as 60 percent (please refer to the picture “Power consumption for various control methods” on page 4). Consequently, electric variable speed drives also help to reduce CO₂ emissions.

Reduced maintenance costs and longer lifetime of equipment

Variable speed drives also act as soft starters reducing the stress on network, motors and pumps. During the starting process, the variable speed drive progressively increases the motor speed and smoothly accelerates the load to its rated speed. One variable speed drive can start several pumps in sequence.

Soft starting eliminates high starting currents and voltage dips which can cause process trips. By soft starting, maintenance costs will be reduced and the lifetime of the equipment extended.

If pumps are turned off or water demand is reduced, variable speed drives slowly reduce the speed of the pumps, avoiding water hammering. The stress on the pumps is reduced resulting in a longer lifetime of the pumps.

Summary of variable speed drive benefits for pumping applications
Variable speed drives in the water cycle

Various processes and applications in the water cycle benefit from:

**Sewage**
- Influent and effluent pumps
- Treatment pumps and fans

**Industrial use**
- Process feed-water pumps
- District heating pumps
- Cooling water pumps
- Slurry pumps

**Water treatment**
- Treatment pumps

**Effluent water**
- Effluent pumps
the implementation of variable speed drives.
Medium voltage drives

For more than 100 years ABB has provided drive products and systems to customers in different industries. ABB’s extensive experience in variable speed drive technology, combined with its long experience with water applications, results in innovative drive solutions with unsurpassed performance and reliability.

**ACS 1000 (315 kW – 5 MW, up to 4.16 kV)**
The ACS 1000 is suitable for retrofit applications and new standard induction motors. Due to its unique output sine filter, bearing currents and voltage reflections at the motor are eliminated. The ACS 1000 is available with an integrated transformer or for connection to an external transformer.

**ACS 2000 (250 kW – 2.6 MW, 4.0 – 6.9 kV)**
The ACS 2000 is suitable for retrofit applications and new standard induction motors. It can be used without an input isolation transformer, thereby allowing a direct connection to the line supply (direct-to-line), with an integrated transformer, or for connection to an external input isolation transformer. The ACS 2000 is also available for four-quadrant operation for energy regeneration and reactive power compensation.

**ACS 5000 (2 – 32 MW, 6.0 – 6.9 kV)**
The ACS 5000 can be applied to standard industrial motors (induction, synchronous and permanent magnet). It is available with an integrated transformer or for connection to an external transformer.

**ACS 6000 (3 – 27 MW, up to 3.3 kV)**
ABB’s ACS 6000 is a modular high-performance drive designed for single or multi-motor applications for synchronous, permanent magnet and induction motors. It can be equipped with an Active Front End which enables four-quadrant operation for energy regeneration and reactive power compensation.

**MEGADRIVE-LCI (2 – 100 MW)**
ABB’s MEGADRIVE-LCI is an optimal solution for high voltage and high power applications. Standard designs are available for ratings up to 72 MW; engineered designs for more than 100 MW. The MEGADRIVE-LCI is available as a variable speed drive or soft starter.
Technology highlights

Reliability is the main guiding principle of the research and development activities for medium voltage drives.

Direct Torque Control (DTC)
The ACS drive control platform is based on ABB’s award winning Direct Torque Control (DTC), resulting in the highest torque and speed performance ever achieved in medium voltage drives. Control of the drive is immediate and smooth under all conditions.

Power Loss RideThrough
Due to its RideThrough function, the drive system is able to withstand disturbances of the power supply. The drive will continue to operate in an active but non-torque producing mode if the incoming supply voltage is cut off. The drive will be active as long as the motor rotates and generates energy to the drive. It will resume normal operation immediately upon return of power supply.

Low parts count
The fewer the parts the higher the reliability. ABB uses high power semiconductor switching devices and a topology that brings down the part count to a minimum.

Fuseless design
All ABB medium voltage drives are designed to operate safely without fuses. This results in less spare parts and fast re-starting after an overcurrent trip.

Encoderless
Encoders are known to cause failures. They have an exposed position on the motor. ABB’s medium voltage drives can operate without encoder.

Remote monitoring and diagnostics
DriveMonitor™ allows secure real-time access to the drive. It supports monitoring and diagnostics of ABB drives independent of the implemented control method, thus also enabling the connection of existent installations.

The optional tool consists of a hardware module, as well as a software layer that automatically collects and analyzes selected drive signals and parameters.

Long-term monitoring functions deliver important information on equipment status, tasks needed and possible performance improvements. Diagnostic procedures and trending can cover not only the converter itself but other parts of the drive system as well.
Components of variable speed drive systems

An electric variable speed drive system consists of input transformer, variable speed drive and electric motor. Transformerless variable speed drives are also available.

ABB can offer the complete variable speed drive system or assist in selecting components that match the process requirements. ABB’s equipment is known for its state-of-the-art technology, high efficiency and reliability and worldwide support.

Input transformers
An input transformer has two functions: it adjusts the network supply voltage to match the variable speed drive and it protects the motor from common-mode voltages. ABB input transformers are specifically designed for operation with variable speed drives.

ABB’s input transformers are available for all ratings and primary voltages. Oil or dry type transformers are available for outdoor or indoor mounting.

High voltage motors
ABB’s high voltage motors have earned an excellent reputation for performance and reliability. The product range consists of both induction and synchronous motors.

Induction motors are the workhorses of the industry due to their versatility, reliability and simplicity. In the power range up to 10 MW, a squirrel cage induction motor is usually the first choice. They are available up to 18 MW.

Synchronous motors are typically considered for higher power ratings. In addition to their high power capabilities, synchronous motors offer the benefits of high efficiency, high performance and a unity power factor. Permanent magnet motors are synchronous motors that do not need separate excitation. These motors are required for slow speed applications.
Applications and references

To date, ABB has installed medium voltage drives with a total rated power in excess of 3,000 MW for applications in the water industry. Below are some examples.

**Changi, Singapore**
ABB supplied medium voltage drives for Singapore’s water reclamation project, which is designed to meet Singapore’s waste water treatment needs through the 21st century. 18 medium voltage drives with a total pumping power of 50 MW pump 3,200,000 m³ of waste water/day through an 80 km long tunnel system. The new water reclamation plant will treat 528 million gallons of used water/day.

**Metropolitan Waterworks Authority, Thailand**
ABB supplied medium voltage drives to MWA (Metropolitan Waterworks Authority) in Bangkok, which provides tap water to 11 million people. MWA owns and operates one of the world’s biggest water treatment plants and more than 30 pumping stations. Electricity cost amounted to almost 50 percent of MWA’s production cost. The equipment supplied by ABB helps MWA to achieve energy savings of more than $10,000/month for one pumping station.

**Ras Laffan, Qatar**
ABB supplied medium voltage drives for the Ras Laffan Common Cooling Water Project, which supplies vital cooling water to Ras Laffan Industrial City, one of the world’s fastest growing industrial export locations. The cooling water system pumps 833,000 m³ of cooling water an hour to the power plant, LNG trains and petrochemical facilities.

Service - global network, local presence

Wherever you are, ABB is there for you.

After sales service is an integral part of providing the customer with a reliable and efficient drive system.

The ABB Group of companies operates in more than 100 countries and has a worldwide network of service operations.

**Services for ABB’s medium voltage drives**
- Supervision of installation and commissioning
- Training
- Remote diagnostics
- Customized maintenance contracts
- Local support
- 24 x 365 support line
- Spare parts and logistics network
- Worldwide service network