Digital medium-voltage switchgear

Benefits, offering and references
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Digital switchgear for medium-voltage applications

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IEC 61850
Digital medium-voltage switchgear
Definition
As a part of the ABB Ability™ portfolio of connected solutions, digital switchgear enables smart electrical networks that deliver power reliably and efficiently.

Digital switchgear combines the latest digital technologies within ABB’s well-known and established medium-voltage switchgear and brings increased flexibility, reliability and safety, and additionally reduces switchgear weight, footprint and delivery time.

ABB’s digital switchgear solutions integrate innovative protection, control and sensing devices, where all measures, statuses and commands are reliably transferred on a real-time Ethernet communication bus over the IEC 61850 protocol.

Digital switchgear enables pro-active management of the medium-voltage equipment throughout their entire life cycle. It enables easy integration to increase smart functionality, such as power management, real-time diagnostics and remote monitoring.
Benefits of digital switchgear
Benefits of digital medium-voltage switchgear

Overview

Main benefits

- Increased safety
- Energy-efficient and climate-friendly
- Increased flexibility
- Reduced footprint: 10% less space needed
- Optimized weight: up to 15% weight reduction
- Faster delivery time: up to 30% faster delivery
- Faster installation and commissioning: 25% reduction
- Increased switchgear reliability
- Increased system reliability
Benefits of digital medium-voltage switchgear

Increased safety

**Safer switchgear operation**

Sensor technology for current and voltage measurement ensures a safer working environment for personnel

- When testing current and voltage signal secondary circuits, personnel is not exposed to high-voltage
- Sensors are easier to work with compared to conventional metering transformers, minimizing risk of human errors
- Less material exposed to high-voltage electrical stress, decreasing risk of failure
Benefits of digital medium-voltage switchgear
Energy-efficient and climate-friendly

**Reduced environmental impact**

- Energy loss is minimized with the use of sensors
- Reduced resource consumption in manufacturing
- During 30 years of operation, 14 panels of digital switchgear (incl. 42 sensors, 1250 A)
  - Lowers energy consumption up to 250 MWh
  - 1 MW is equivalent to the power produced by 10 car engines, so the energy saved can power 8,900 Formula-E race cars from start to finish in one race
  - Saves up to 150 tons of CO\(_2\)
    - the same amount as the emissions from a mid-size car driven for 1,250,000 km
    - It takes 8,200 trees one whole year to absorb that amount of CO\(_2\)
  - Cost savings: 51,380 EUR (with price of energy 20 cent EUR/kWh)
Benefits of digital medium-voltage switchgear

Increased flexibility

Adapt easily when requirements change

You can adapt the switchgear as the requirements in your network change, e.g. feeder current

- Digital switchgear can be adapted even at the final stage of the manufacturing process
- Changes can be applied via updating parameters or logics in a protection relay, no need to replace components
- IEC 61850 is future-proof standard, which ensures efficient future updates
Benefits of digital medium-voltage switchgear

Reduced footprint

**Reduced space requirement**

- Up to 10% reduced switchgear footprint
  - Minimized switchgear footprint as generally the busbar metering cubicle(s) can be omitted, because voltage sensors are more compact and fit to be placed in another panel
  - New generation of sensors are a perfect fit in switchgear, requiring less space and they weigh less

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conventional switchgear</th>
<th>Digital switchgear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Conventional switchgear" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Digital switchgear" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10% less space needed
Benefits of digital medium-voltage switchgear

Optimized weight

**Reduced switchgear weight**

Lowered impact on site

- Metering cubicle is not needed
- Sensors are small and weigh less than current instrument transformers (CT) and voltage transformers (VT)
- CTs and VTs weigh 18-27 kg and sensors only 0.5-2 kg
- Weight reduction is up to 130 kg per bay
- Support structures and room layout can be adapted to lower weight

Up to 15% weight reduction
Benefits of digital medium-voltage switchgear

Faster delivery time

30% faster delivery

Shorter time from ordering to operation

- Digital switchgear can be delivered faster thanks to
  - One size fits all with sensor technology and is faster than engineering CT/VTs
  - Range is wider and the same sensor can work for many different needs
  - Sensors available on stock
  - Need for configuration in hardware wiring is minimized, as changes can be made using the software logic in the protection relays

*30% faster delivery has been calculated for air-insulated switchgear, UniGear Digital*
Benefits of digital medium-voltage switchgear
Faster installation and commissioning

### Reduced time spent on installation and commissioning

Reduced time spent on installation and commissioning activities on site, thanks to:

- Fewer panels to be installed
- Less inter-panel cabling
- Fewer components to test in the low-voltage compartment
  - The switchgear is delivered pre-tested, which minimizes amount of time needed for commissioning
  - For example, with a 30 panel switchgear line-up, the time saved on installation is up to two working days
- If the customer requires modifications in the commissioning phase, they can be done quickly in the protection relays, generally not requiring hardware changes

25% reduction
Benefits of digital medium-voltage switchgear

Increased switchgear reliability

**Increased reliability**

Digital switchgear is based on ABB’s well-known and established switchgear hardware platforms, but uses sensors

- With sensors less human interaction is required, which leads to decreased risk of malfunction
- Sensors are smaller, reduce risk of isolation degradation in the switchgear
- Sensors are immune against grid disturbances, such as ferro-resonance phenomena

**Digital communication**

- Permanent active supervision of wiring and signal transfer with IEC 61850 digital communication to enable fast and precise actions in case of failures
Benefits of digital medium-voltage switchgear

Increased system reliability

Benefits of IEC 61850 communication

Fast and reliable communication with IEC 61850, the global standard for communication in substations

– In conventional switchgear, a complex scheme requires large amounts of wires to be connected between the cubicles; with digital switchgear a self-supervised communication cable passes that information from cubicle to cubicle

– Flexibility to adapt and change the switchgear, without costly and time-consuming physical re-wiring and changing panel hardware

– Using the programmable logic in the protection relays changes are done easily and faster

– GOOSE (Generic Object Oriented Substation Event) communication between the station equipment for improved speed and reduced switchgear cabling

– Fewer wires reduces risk of failures

Digital
IEC 61850
communication

90%
fewer wires
for panel interconnection
Digital switchgear
Instrument transformers versus sensor technology
Conventional versus digital switchgear
Sensors require less space

Conventional UniGear with instrument transformers
1. Current transformer
2. Voltage transformer

UniGear Digital with sensors
1. Relion® protection relay with IEC 61850
2. Current sensor
3. Voltage sensor
Digital switchgear offering
ABB offering for digital medium-voltage switchgear
Air-insulated switchgear (AIS)

**UniGear Digital**

Covering ratings up to 24kV; 50kA; 4000A

- Proven safety: all designs internal arc tested
- Motor control center (MCC) feeder with contactor
- IEC standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Current Ratings</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UniGear ZS1</td>
<td>up to 50kA / 4000A</td>
<td>Widest coverage of technical requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UniGear 550</td>
<td>up to 31.5kA / 1250A</td>
<td>Smaller switchgear footprint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UniGear MCC</td>
<td>up to 50kA / 400A</td>
<td>Contactor panel to feed electrical motors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UniGear 500R</td>
<td>up to 31.5kA / 2000A</td>
<td>Very small footprint, removable circuit breaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZS8.4*</td>
<td>up to 25kA / 1250A</td>
<td>Compact and cost-effective design</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UniGear product family**

Physical connection possible

12 kV | 17 kV | 24 kV

*available in select markets
ABB offering for digital medium-voltage switchgear
Air-insulated switchgear (AIS) for primary power distribution

UniGear Digital

Same design platform as conventional UniGear panels
- Same robustness, safety and level of experience as conventional UniGear
- Simplified arrangement for current and voltage measurement, using sensors instead of conventional instrument transformers
- Conventional current and voltage transformers can be added for specific metering and protection requirements
- UniGear Digital features Relion 615 and 620 series protection and control relays
- Horizontal exchange of GOOSE and IEC 61850-9-2 sampled analog values reduces wiring and accelerates testing and commissioning time
- Easy integration to increase smart functionality, such as remote condition monitoring and asset health for electrical systems as part of ABB Ability offering

1. Relion protection relay with IEC 61850
2. Current sensor
3. Voltage sensor
4. MySiteCare for predictive maintenance (option)
ABB offering for digital medium-voltage switchgear
Gas-insulated switchgear (GIS) for primary power distribution

ZX Digital
Covering ratings up to 42kV; 40kA; 4000A
- Non-conventional current and voltage sensors increase safety and reduce footprint
- Horizontal exchange of GOOSE and IEC 61850-9-2 sampled analog values reduces wiring and accelerates testing and commissioning time
- ZX Digital features Relion 615 and 620 series protection and control relays
- ZX Digital is available for
  • ZX0.2 (IEC standard)
  • ZX2 (available for pilot installations)

1. Voltage sensor for busbar voltage measurement
2. Test adapter box
3. Relion protection relay with IEC 61850
4. Current sensor
5. Voltage sensor for cable voltage measurement

Learn more: ABB Ability™ GIS for MV - ZX Digital
ABB offering for digital medium-voltage switchgear

Air-insulated switchgear (AIS) for secondary power distribution

**UniSec Digital**

Same design platform as conventional UniSec panels offering the same robustness, safety and user experience

- Suitable for applications up to 24kV
- UniSec Digital is available for all UniSec platform switchgear
- Low energy output of the sensors without saturation effect
- Continuously self-supervised with GOOSE messaging over the IEC 61850 protocol
- UniSec Digital features Relion 615 and 620 series protection and control relays
- Easy integration to increase smart functionality, such as remote condition monitoring and asset health for electrical systems as part of ABB Ability offering

1. Relion protection relay with IEC 61850
2. Current sensors
3. Voltage sensors
4. QR code to easily access digital documentation
5. MySiteCare for predictive maintenance (option)
By 2017, we have delivered about 1,200 UniGear Digital panels
UniGear Digital to Helsinki’s smart city district
Case: Helen Electricity Network, Finland

Customer challenge
In city networks it is crucial that faults are located quickly and accurately to avoid costly power outages. In a smart city, the importance of electricity is further amplified and constantly increasing, and even short power cuts are more damaging. For Helen, the new smart city district, Kalasatama, brings about the need to introduce smart and reliability-improving solutions.

ABB solution
UniGear Digital solution with more complex protection schemes, achieved with Relion® protection relays with IEC 61850 digital communication and GOOSE (Generic Object Oriented Substation Events) messaging; and with the use of sensor technology, the continuity of service is maximized.

Customer benefits
- Fast and precise actions in case of network failures possible with the permanent active supervision feature of IEC 61850
- Minimized inventory with sensor technology-based solutions, all application needs covered with only a few current/combi sensors
- Accurate measurements and easy data management
- Considerable energy savings and higher safety level for operators
- Reduced cost and minimized switchgear footprint
- Switchgear is easily adapted when network requirements change

End customer: Helen Electricity Network Ltd.
Country: Finland
Segment: Utility
Products delivered: UniGear ZS1 digital switchgear, Relion 615 series protection relays, indoor current sensor KECA, indoor voltage sensor KEVA, vacuum circuit breaker VD4, Remote Terminal Unit RTU560
Key result: Secure, efficient power supply. Power failures can be completely avoided or the duration massively reduced.
UniGear Digital to Siberian Coal Energy Company
Case: Vanino bulk terminal, Russia

Customer challenge
A secure and reliable power distribution solution to ensure minimized maintenance needs and downtime. A flexible and compact switchgear installation, which would allow them to make fast load changes and also allow remote operation. A compact and robust eHouse construction that would withstand harsh weather conditions.

ABB solution
Energy-efficient and compact eHouse with UniGear Digital. To ensure fast and reliable communication, the solution uses IEC 61850 and GOOSE communication between the equipment. IEC 61850 communication is also used for remote monitoring and control of the substation from the main control room.

Customer benefits
- Minimized switchgear footprint, as the metering cubicle(s) can be omitted and spare panels can easily be configured for future applications
- A compact and robust switchgear design, and reduced time needed for commissioning and installation with sensor technology
- Supply of a completely integrated and pre-tested eHouse that reduced energization and commissioning time on site

End customer: Siberian Coal Energy Company (SUEK)
Country: Russia
Segment: Mining and minerals
Products delivered: UniGear ZS1 digital switchgear, Relion® 615 series protection relays, Vacuum circuit breaker VD4, indoor current sensors KECA, indoor voltage sensors KEVA, all mounted in an eHouse
Key result: Reliable power supply and power outage prevention
UniGear Digital to a petrochemical plant
Case: Sasol, South Africa

Customer challenge
Ensured plant and process continuity when complete substations needed to be replaced within a limited time frame. An alternative substation solution to ensure personnel safety and avoid damage to equipment.

ABB solution
Flexible power supply solution: a mobile substation, built on UniGear switchgear with Relion relays and ABB's advanced sensor technology. To allow for easy relocation, this equipment was placed in an E-house and installed on a mobile truck trailer.

Customer benefits
A robust and flexible solution to meet customer's need. Reduced engineering time for cost-efficiency.

End customer: Sasol
Country: South Africa
Segment: Oil, gas and chemicals
Products delivered: UniGear ZS1, Relion 615 series protection relays, Remote I/O unit RIO600, Vacuum circuit breaker VD4, Indoor current sensors KECA C, Indoor voltage sensors KEVA B, Arc fault detection system REA, truck trailer mounted E-house
Key result: Reliable power supply and power outage prevention
UniSec Digital to Switzerland’s largest data center
Case: Safe Host 2, Switzerland

Customer challenge

A flexible and energy-efficient medium-voltage solution to ensure continued operation at the data center. The solution was also to meet the stringent requirements set for safety and internal arc protection, and offer optimized total cost of ownership (TCO). The customer also has a firm commitment to making environmentally sound choices.

ABB solution

Energy-efficient and modular UniSec switchgear for scalability, and sensor technology to maximize the continuity of service. Reliable communication with IEC 61850. To ensure safety, the switchgear meets the IAC AFLR internal arc classification.

Customer benefits

- Flexibility to expand the power system and seamlessly add more switchgear panels
- Accurate measurements and easy data management in the power system with sensor technology
- Native IEC 61850 communication between the station equipment for improved speed and reliability of the power system and reduced switchgear cabling
- Energy savings with sensors instead of conventional metering transformers

End customer: Safe Host
Country: Switzerland
Segment: Data center

Products delivered: Air-insulated switchgear UniSec, Relion® 615 and 620 series protection and control relays, indoor vacuum circuit breaker VD4, KEVCD combisensors, Remote Terminal Unit RTU 540, Vacuum cast coil transformers

Key result: Reliable power supply and power outage prevention