FACTS

Simply the FACTS

ABB FACTS set a new record with 17 commissioned installations around the world in 6 months.



This SVC in Viklandet, Norway, was installed and commissioned by ABB in 2009. The customer was the Norwegian utility StatNett.

Given the global economic slowdown, many utilities, especially in North and South America have been actively working to strengthen grid reliability and enhance power capacity without resorting to high infrastructure spending. Their focus has been modernizing or upgrading the existing grid to increase capacity, improve stability and integrate renewable energy sources like wind power. Some of these efforts have also received an extra push from the stimulus spending plans of various governments across the world.

Smooth project execution

ABB commissioned 17 FACTS installations during the first half of 2009. Successful and timely commissioning of projects not only helps FACTS to build customer satisfaction but also helps to ensure a healthy margin. ABB is a global leader in the growing field of FACTS (flexible AC transmission systems) technologies, and has more than 700 such installations in operation or under construction across the world. ABB's family of FACTS help enhance the capacity, security and flexibility of power transmission systems, making an important contribution to the development of more reliable and smarter grids.

Resilient, higher capacity grids

ABB's FACTS devices optimize power flow to maximize the capacity of power lines and improve voltage stability by compensating for reactive power. In some cases, network capacity can be more than doubled. The equipment also makes the system more resilient to 'system swings' and other disturbances. Based on the order intake in 2009, the expected help from stimulus packages and the anticipated market potential, this business is expected to grow further in the foreseeable future. To meet this growth, the lead centre team in Sweden and the local FACTS units around the world have been strengthened and around 50 specialized engineers have recently been inducted into the PS Engineering Centre in Chennai, India.

FACTS technologies allow more power to reach consumers with minimal environmental impact, lower investment costs and shorter implementation times than the traditional alternative of building new transmission lines or power plants. FACTS technologies also address voltage and stability issues and enable the transmission system to run more efficiently.

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1 TCSC in Raipur, India. 2 SVC Valve 3 Valve Hall 4 Cooling system

FACTS (Flexible Alternating Current Transmission Systems)

FACTS refers to a group of technologies that enhance the security, capacity and flexibility of power transmission systems. The technologies can be installed in new or existing power transmission lines.

Examples of FACTS products are:

- SVC (Static Var compensation)
- SVC Light
- Series Capacitor
- TCSC (Thyristor Controlled Series Capacitor)
- Dynamic Energy Storage

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